

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall
February 19, 2019

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Kent Crawford, Russ Collins, Alicia Norris, Bryan Hoffman, Joseph Connor

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Russ reported that the construction phase of the Lower Snitz Creek Project undertaken by Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DTFU) is complete, and crews are now installing fencing. Everything should be completed by next week; photos have been circulated; and the Fish & Boat Commission bills will be paid next month.
2. Russ reported on his efforts to secure landowner permissions for Beck Creek Project 6. Some resistance from property owners has been encountered; Russ is having a meeting with Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting later in the week and it is hoped that landowner permissions for the work will be secured soon. Rocky hopes to get the design completed by the end of March. Russ is talking to township officials regarding storing rocks for the projects.
3. Russ reported that he is still working on securing landowner permissions for Snitz Creek Project 2. He further reported on the evolving partnership between DFTU and the Hammer Creek Watershed Association and the effort to secure \$5,000 in seed money for various projects.
4. Russ offered the reminder that the DFTU Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.
5. Russ further reported that the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day "Project Tour" by bus of the streambank restoration work in Quittie Creek Nature Park and on Lower Snitz Creek.
6. Russ further reported that he will be attending and representing DFTU and the QWA a statewide watershed conference sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) at Penn State in State College on Feb. 24-25.
7. Kent reported on his efforts to research grant opportunities for funding future projects. He has developed a spreadsheet listing the opportunities and deadlines; the good news is there are lots of possibilities for funding; the daunting news is that undertaking the grant applications will involve a great deal of work.
8. Kent reported on his discussions with Mike and Rocky regarding the QWA's Summer 2019 Internship Program; a proposal for \$1,500 has been submitted to the Forever Wild program of PA Trout Unlimited, which will decide on the proposal by the end of March. It was noted that if summer interns are paid \$12 per hour for 120 hours each, a total of \$2,880 will be needed – meaning a shortfall of \$1,380 if the Forever Wild grant is secured.
9. Mike agreed to ask the South Annville Township Board of Supervisors if they would be willing to contribute \$1,380 to make up for this shortfall. The interns will be assessing Bachman Run in South Annville Township, so the Township should be able to receive MS4 credits for any contributions to the geomorphic assessments of Bachman Run.

10. Kent reported that the effort now is to work with Rocky to develop a strategy to secure grant funding for our various projects. He suggested that PA Act 13/Marcellus Shale funds might offer another funding possibility.
11. Kent reported ongoing discussions with Rocky regarding the QWA's water quality monitoring obligations as part of the PA-DEP grants. Discussion ensued regarding monitoring equipment needed. Consensus was reached to authorize Kent to pursue grant funding opportunities for the needed monitoring equipment. Kent further recommended the organization C-SAW (Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds) for technical help (see <https://www.c-saw.info/>).
12. Karen reported that The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC) will be hosting a community dialogue at the downtown Lebanon campus of Harrisburg Area Community College on Tuesday, February 26 from 6-8 p.m., focusing on the question, "What does the community want for public spaces in Lebanon County"?
13. Bryan offered an update on the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium. He noted that a dispute has arisen between the Consortium and PA-DEP regarding how to measure stormwater runoff and whether to include non-point sources as well as point sources. He noted that in essence PA-DEP changed the rules in the middle of the game and is now requiring non-point sources to be included in stormwater runoff totals – which would mean a substantial increase in the stormwater management fees just imposed by the municipalities comprising the Consortium, which he described as politically impossible at this point. The dispute is ongoing.
14. Alicia reported \$2,214.56 in the QWA's bank account.
15. Kent reported that PA-DEP's comments on the QWA's August 2018 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) are expected within two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem