

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall
July 16, 2019

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Alicia Norris, Bryan Hoffman, Stephan Vegoe, Joseph Connor

The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m.

1. Mike reported that he and Karen met with Laurie Crawford and Ned Gible of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC) immediately before the meeting to develop a plan for moving forward, specifically revising the 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the QWA and TLVC for future grant proposals. The revised MOU is appended to these minutes.
2. Mike provided an update on Snitz Creek Project 2. The key landowner for the project is now expressing misgivings about moving forward with the project; Mike and Rocky Powell hope to meet with the landowner by the end of the week to develop a workplan that will be acceptable to the landowner.
3. Mike provided an update on Beck Creek Project 6, located in the area of the legacy contamination from the Cornwall Pump Station on Rt. 322, and encompassing the easement for Sunoco/Energy Transfer Partners' Mariner East pipeline projects. Mike expressed concern that work on the project might have the potential to expose the QWA and TLVC to liability in the future should Sunoco/ETP seek to blame them and the project for spreading the legacy contamination in the area. It was agreed by consensus that the QWA and TLVC should solicit a letter from PA-DEP indicating that the stream restoration work in the area will in no way affect the larger legacy contamination issue – and, that if the QWA does not receive such a letter relieving it of any future liability associated with this site, that this project should not move forward. Mike agreed to draft a letter to PA-DEP, and to include a draft letter from PA-DEP to the QWA and TLVC relieving both entities of any potential liability from the project.
4. Mike reported that we are still awaiting word from the Conservation Fund on Killinger Creek Project 5.
5. Mike reported that Rocky Powell is moving forward on Snitz Creek Projects 3 and 4 for Growing Greener and/or EPA 319 funding. The deadline for the next round of EPA 319 is August 9, and for Growing Greener it will be September or October, according to Jineen Boyle at PA-DEP.
6. Mike provided an update on the work of the QWA's summer interns Sara Burke and Michael Yanchuck assessing Bachman Run. Sara and Michael have now completed and been paid for 40 hours each (\$480 each) by TLVC, which is administering the funds.
7. Mike reported on a public meeting this past Friday, July 12 at the Lebanon County Agricultural Center, hosted by Mike Snyder of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), regarding an initiative funded by the 2018 Farm Bill called the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). Here in Lebanon County the focus will be on protection of source water (drinking water) from the Swatara Creek watershed. At the meeting were representatives of the NRCS, PA-DEP, the EPA, Pennsylvania-American Water, the Swatara

Creek Watershed Association, Fort Indiantown Gap, and Bell & Evans. Discussion centered mainly on the principal sources of source water contamination and the development of a Watershed Assessment Plan to address those problems. The initiative is currently in its “readiness phase,” to be followed by the “implementation phase.” Mike is on the NWQI—Swatara Creek Watershed Steering Committee and will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward.

8. Bryan provided an update on the ongoing work of the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium, focusing in particular on an ongoing project just to the east of the Valspar plant on Hanford Drive on the north side of the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks in North Lebanon Township and Cleona Borough. It is anticipated that the buildings comprising this project will eventually be around 800,000 square feet, creating significant stormwater management issues. Plans are underway to build a large 22-acre bioretention pond to capture the stormwater draining from these newly created impervious surfaces. An injection well in this area has already widened and deepened an existing sinkhole. Lengthy discussion followed, one upshot of which is that Quittapahilla Creek essentially has another, unidentified tributary to its north, consisting of the stormwater that drains into the creek from roughly North 25th Street in the east to Center Road in the west, and including the Union Canal Tunnel Park. The hydrology and stormwater drainage in this area are exceptionally complex, have not been fully studied, and are not fully understood. A great deal of stormwater management work remains to be done in this area.
9. Stephan encouraged members spread the word about the Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited picnic from 5:30 p.m. to sunset on Tuesday, July 23 in Quittie Creek Nature Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc. & the Quittapahilla Watershed Association

Whereas, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC) holds as its mission the preservation of the unique cultural, historical and environmental heritage of our region for the benefit of present and future generations; and

Whereas, the Quittapahilla Watershed Association (QWA) holds as its mission to improve the water quality of Quittapahilla Creek & its tributaries; to raise public awareness about the watershed's importance to the local quality of life and to the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and to encourage citizens, organizations & businesses in Lebanon County to help maintain the health & viability of the watershed's streams & ecosystems; and

Whereas, the cooperation of these two organization will provide mutual benefits derived from the different strengths each group brings to facilitate the enhancement of the Quittapahilla watershed;

Therefore, TLVC does hereby agree to embrace the **QWA** as a working partner and to provide administrative assistance where plausible. It is the desire of both organizations that **TLVC** will be the financial conduit for funds that will be maintained for the joint watershed projects entered into by the aforementioned two parties. The mailing address of the **QWA** is 189 School House Lane, Annville, PA 17003 and the watershed association files will be maintained at this location.

And further, the QWA shall provide monthly reports that reflect the activities of any grants or other joint activities of the two groups to **TLVC** Board of Directors, and present project proposals for the review and approval of **TLVC** Board of Directors.

Proposed grants where **TLVC** will be asked to be the sponsoring partner shall be coordinated by the following procedure and guidelines.

1. In most cases, the **TLVC** will be given the first right of refusal for anticipated **QWA** projects. If **TLVC** does not have the capacity to sponsor the grant, the **QWA** will ask another partner to sponsor.
2. In advance of **TLVC**'s monthly meeting, the **QWA** will provide the proposed grant details including:
 - a. Dollar amount of the grant and whether administrative cost can be included;
 - b. Matching fund requirements, both cash and in-kind;
 - c. Application due date and start and finish dates for the grant period;
 - d. Work required, copy of grant proposal and who will be responsible for the tasks.
3. Once reviewed and voted on by **TLVC** Board of Directors, the Conservancy will notify the **QWA** in writing of its decision.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2019.

Edward Gibble, President
The Lebanon Valley Conservancy

Michael Schroeder
Quittapahilla Watershed Association