

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall
August 20, 2019

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Kent Crawford, Alicia Norris, Russ Collins, Dave Lasky, Ann Lasky, Joseph Connor

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mike and Russ provided an update on Snitz Creek Project 2; Russ met with the affected landowner twice in the past couple of days and will be returning; Rocky Powell is still developing a plan for three alternatives for stream restoration. Mike Snider of NRCS has been kept in the loop.
2. Mike provided an update on Beck Creek Project 6. The design phase has been completed; concern with moving to the construction phase is that it might provide Sunoco / Energy Transfer Partners with an opportunity to cast blame on the Watershed Association for any spread of the legacy contamination in the area. Russ indicated that Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) is not so concerned about potential litigation and might be willing to serve as applicant for construction.
3. Mike and Russ provided an update on Snitz Creek Projects 3 and 4. The application for Snitz 3 was submitted for EPA 319 funding in early August in the amount of \$196,041, prepared by Rocky Powell, with DFTU serving as the applicant. Landowner Letters of Commitment are still being gathered for Snitz 4.
4. Mike reported that he has not yet heard back from the Conservation Fund regarding its decision to fund Killinger Creek Project 5 in the full amount of \$130,000, which was first submitted to the DEP's Sunoco Penalty Grant opportunity in 2018 and did not receive funding.
5. Mike reported that our two summer interns, Sara Burke and Michael Yanchuck, have completed their work on Bachman Run and that their final report is due by Oct. 31.
6. Mike and Kent reported that Bryan Hoffman of the Lebanon Count Stormwater Consortium reports that the Consortium has approved the Association's request for \$5,531 for monitoring equipment, which was received as very good news. Kent discussed issues relating to installation of devices at specific monitoring stations and recommended professional assistance to ensure that such installations are done properly.
7. Kent reported that a proposal for \$1,500 for water quality monitoring equipment has been submitted to Trout Unlimited's Forever Wild Grant Program. Discussion ensued on the two initial steps necessary for monitoring: (1) identifying the specific locations of the six monitoring stations and taking photographs of them for easy reference; and (2) identifying specific individuals who will agree to serve as volunteer monitors by "adopting" one of the six monitoring stations. Mike and Stephan Vegoe have volunteered to adopt one monitoring station each, leaving four monitoring stations remaining. Russ agreed to speak with DFTU members in the effort to solicit volunteers. Kent and Joseph agreed to undertake field reconnaissance and take photos of the six monitoring stations.

8. Kent noted that he had hoped for a more robust and ambitious monitoring program but that funding constraints have proved prohibitive. He further noted that monitoring entails three principal components (1) biological, (2) water quality, and (3) geomorphology. Mike agreed to ask LVC Biology Professor Becky Urban about the biological component and whether she and her students would be up to the task of collecting and doing the initial (family-level) assessment once per year at all six sites.
9. Kent indicated that he would speak to DEP about certain technical details relating to the water quality monitoring.
10. Regarding geomorphological monitoring, Kent suggested that the Association's summer interns might play a substantially larger role in the future. He noted that the EPA's Environmental Education Program has funds for such work. He also noted that funding decisions for Trout Unlimited's Forever Wild Grant will not be made until summer 2020, which will be too late for summer internships. Discussion ensued regarding the prospect of seeking significantly more funding for summer interns from other sources and turning the positions into full-time employment for two college students. General consensus was reached that the Association should actively seek summer 2020 intern funding in the range of \$10,000-\$15,000. Russ indicated that he would look into TU's Coldwater Heritage Program, which Kent suggested tends to prioritize the actual construction of stream projects rather than studies and plans for such projects.
11. Mike noted that the PA Fish & Boat Commission has announced a "grant funding opportunity to support fisheries, aquatic habitat enhancement, recreational access and water quality in the Tulpehocken Creek and Quittapahilla Creek watersheds in Berks and Lebanon counties," with an application deadline of Fri. Oct. 18. The link to this Fish & Boat Commission targeted grant program is here: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/fish-and-Boat-Commission-Details.aspx?newsid=281>.
12. Mike reported that he has been in communication with Tali MacArthur, Program Manager for Watershed Outreach for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) regarding funding opportunities. He noted that she is impressed with the QWA's past and ongoing work and will likely be a valuable resource as we move forward with various projects.
13. Ann reported that she is stepping down from the Board of Directors of the Swatara Creek Watershed Association, which is therefore looking for someone to replace her, ideally someone on the QWA Board. The SCWA meets monthly on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in West Lebanon. No volunteers were immediately forthcoming.
14. Russ reported on his work with the Hammer Creek Watershed Group and their receipt of a \$5,000 grant for surveying and initial assessment of the watershed.
15. Russ reported that he is working with the Palmyra Sportsmen Association on a tree planting and stream restoration project on property it owns along roughly three linear miles of the Lower Quittapahilla mainstem.
16. Karen raised the issue of liability insurance for volunteer monitors and for summer interns. Russ noted that DFTU has liability insurance for its members. It was determined that the issue of liability insurance for summer interns remains unresolved, and agreed that such insurance should be procured and be included in future summer intern funding requests.
17. Kent noted that the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the QWA and TLVC has not yet been voted on. He further expressed concerns about the provision in the MOU that requires the QWA to grant TLVC the "right of first refusal" for sponsorship of future

grant opportunities. Kent shared his view that this language is too restrictive and that he cannot support the revised MOU as written. After a general discussion, Mike agreed to contact Laurie Crawford at TLVC to ask that this provision be stricken from the revised MOU (the revised MOU draft is appended to these minutes, with the clause in question highlighted in yellow).

18. Mike reported on a number of upcoming special events:
 - a. New Student Volunteer Day in Quittie Creek Nature Park on Sat. Aug. 24 from 10 am to 12 noon, mainly spreading mulch along the main trail.
 - b. The International Coastal Cleanup in the City of Lebanon, organized by the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum, on Sat. Sept. 21 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, with the staging area the NE corner of the parking lot of the Lebanon Valley Family YMCA on N. 7th St.
 - c. The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's Tower to Town race on Sun. Oct. 6; registration is here: <http://communityhealthcouncil.com/tower-to-town-race/>
 - d. The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's tree planting events schedule for Sept. 29 and Oct. 2 and 5; details can be found on TLVC's website, at <http://www.lebanonvalleyconservancy.org/index.php>
19. Alicia reported no change in our bank account, with a balance of \$1,786.73. A check was hand-delivered to Alicia for \$1,500 from PA Trout Unlimited to deposit and earmark for monitoring equipment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 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