

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom in consequence of the global pandemic
April 20, 2021

Present: Michael Schroeder, Karen Feather, Russ Collins, Kent Crawford, Mary Kate Gallagher, Laurel Etter

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

- 1. Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Updates.** Mary Kate reported that a virtual Lebanon County stakeholders meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thurs. April 29, in an effort to get more involvement in the CAP process by various stakeholders. She further reported that the CAP team will be submitting a Small Watershed Grant application to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation by the deadline of April 22 for stream restoration projects in the Hammer Creek watershed. She also summarized the recent activities of the CAP's five committees or Action Teams: (1) Agriculture; (2) Watershed; (3) Education & Outreach; (4) Legislative & Programmatic Changes; and (5) Data Management & Monitoring.
- 2. Project Updates.** Russ provided brief updates on various stream restoration projects currently underway in the watershed, including:
 - A. Beck Creek Project 6 Design & Permitting.** On April 15, the First Quarterly Report for 2021 for Beck Creek Project 6 was submitted to PA-DEP by Ned Gible, President of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy. Included in the report was a Status Report on the project dated April 11 by Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting. A screenshot of Rocky's report is appended to these minutes. The full report is housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website.
 - B. Hammer Creek.** Russ reported that he is developing good working relationships with the property owners in the area and that the Doc Fritchey and Donegal chapters of Trout Unlimited are working on a long-term plan to restore large segments of the creek. (Post-meeting note: on May 2, LancasterOnline published the article, "Conservationists hope to boost Hammer Creek's wild trout potential with \$5.2 million pollution mitigation plan" by Outdoors Columnist Ad Crable, linked here: https://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/conservationists-hope-to-boost-hammer-creeks-wild-trout-potential-with-5-2-million-pollution-mitigation/article_47d7abd0-a914-11eb-8aac-233b6803aa1a.html)
 - C. Snitz Creek Project 2.** On April 15, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC) submitted its quarterly report for the first quarter of 2021 to PA-DEP, a report now housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website. The relevant paragraph states: "The Kralls have agreed to accept Cornwall Borough's offer to acquire the land necessary to implement the project. The Kralls have signed the Landowner Agreement last summer and have been negotiating with the Borough to work out the transaction. To be conservative, Clear Creeks our contractor has stopped work until the Borough acquires the land."
 - D. Snitz Creek Project 3.** Russ reported that surveying has been completed and the project is moving forward.

- E. Killinger Creek Project 5.** Russ reported that an application is being prepared to PA-DECD for approximately \$300,000 in Act 13 funds to supplement the \$130,000 being held for the project by The Conservation Fund (funds that originated in a lawsuit against Williams Pipeline Co. by Delaware Riverkeeper Network). The application deadline is May 31.
- F. TLVC and DFTU.** Discussion was held on which of these entities would be applying for and administering grants moving forward. TLVC President Ned Gobble has indicated that TLVC is now in a position to begin doing more administering of grants, and is in conversations with Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited about which organization will apply for and administer which grant opportunities moving forward.
- G. Floodplain Downstream of the Hazel Dike in Lebanon & North Cornwall Twp.** Russ reported that Bryan Hoffman of the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium was setting up a meeting with all interested parties, including Steckbeck Engineering and LandStudies, Inc., regarding an envisioned floodplain restoration project from the end of the Hazel Dike downstream to the 22nd Street bridge.
- 3. Summer 2021 Internship Program Update.** Kent reported that hopes are dimming for interns for summer 2021. Two funding proposals have been submitted. One, to the PA Coldwater Heritage Partnership for approximately \$3,800, was rejected (see <https://coldwaterheritage.org/>). A second grant proposal for approximately \$20,000 to the Foundation for PA Watersheds was submitted on Feb. 15 and a decision is expected shortly (see <http://pennsylvaniawatersheds.org/>).
- 4. Monitoring Program Update.** Kent reported that the monitoring program is still on hold in consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1: Beck Creek 6 Status Report, April 11, 2021



CLEAR CREEKS CONSULTING

1317 Knopp Road, Jarrettsville, Maryland 21084

(410) 692-2164

April 11, 2021

Mr. Ned Gibble
Lebanon Valley Conservancy
752 Willow Street, Suite E
Lebanon, PA 17046

Re: Beck Creek 6 Stream Restoration Project Status Report

Dear Mr. Gibble:

This Status Report will update you on the work completed for the period including, December 31, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Task 2.0 – Hydrology and Hydraulic Analysis

1. EPR finalized the HEC-RAS model for the proposed design and prepared the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analyses Report. The Report will be forwarded to the West Cornwall Township to obtain a Letter of Consistency with their Zoning regulations. The letter is a requirement for the PADEP permit.

Task 5.0 – Final Design

1. On January 22, 2021, I received a phone call from Jomarie Jenkins, Right-of-Ways Coordinator, Energy Transfer regarding my discussions with Chris Embry about Energy Transfer conducting the stabilization work along Beck Creek over their pipelines. I answered her questions about our permitting and construction schedule and emailed a copy of our Final Design Plans as she had requested.
2. On February 24, 2021, I received an email from John Ruskay, Senior Engineer, Energy Transfer regarding the Final Design plans showing proposed work along their pipeline easement. He wanted to know if the pipelines shown on the plans had been field verified for the depths by their pipeliners. And if so, who did the verification and when. I contacted him by phone explaining that I had coordinated with Don Handley, Field Supervisor, Energy Transfer in June 2019 to provide field testing and flagging that provided the location and depth of each pipeline so our surveyors could pick up those shots while conducting the topographic survey of the site. He indicated that given the amount of time that had passed he was going to have their field crews resurvey the locations and depths and get back to us if they found any difference in what we had shown. He also indicated that they may want to eliminate the rip-rap shown along the channel bottom over the pipes. I have not heard back from him.

Task 6 – Local, State and Federal Permitting

1. Follow-up on fees – As indicated in my last Quarterly Status Report, QWA approached West Cornwall Township about serving as applicant for State and Federal applications, which would eliminate the permit fee. On December 14, 2020, Mike Schroeder and I participated in a Zoom meeting with the Township Supervisors to discuss the possibility of them functioning as applicant. A follow-up Zoom meeting was held on December 29, 2020 to present the design plans to the Public Information Committee. They indicated they would discuss the proposal and get

back to us after their January meeting. When they contacted Mike Schroeder they expressed concerns about the liability associated with the existing groundwater contamination and requested a letter be obtained from PADEP releasing them of any liability. Russ Collins contacted Benjamin Thonus, Program Manager, Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields, PADEP, inquiring about the letter. He indicated he would follow-up with his supervisor. Unfortunately, not only was he unable to obtain the letter, but followed-up with an email indicating our construction contractor would be required to implement the following procedures during construction:

- A standard spill prevention plan when using construction vehicles in a floodplain.
- To compensate for the historic petroleum impacts, 2 downstream booming locations should be installed on the stream and monitored during construction activities.
- In addition, excavated soil should be screened with a photo ionization detector (PID) for signs of petroleum contamination.
- In the event the PID detects a strong presence of petroleum or obvious contamination is otherwise noted, construction activities must cease until the contamination is appropriately addressed.
- DEP should be contacted immediately (1-800-541-2050) in this unlikely scenario.
- Evergreen Resources Management or their agent should be contacted immediately after contacting the Department.

After coordinating with Martin Liebhardt, Evergreen Management, I sent the attached email to PADEP. This resolved the construction requirements issue. However, it didn't help on the permit applicant and fee issue.

2. Shortly after the construction requirements issue was resolved; Russ Collins indicated that he would speak with his Board about DFTU acting as the permit applicant.
3. On March 6, 2021, I spoke with Gardell Weaver who had requested an update on our progress in getting the Township to act as permit applicant so the permit application fee would be waived. I explained the Townships concerns regarding the liability issue. I told him that Russ had confirmed that DFTU would be the applicant, but the permit fee was still an issue. He indicated that he and Gary Brummel were willing to pay the fee if it kept the project moving forward.
4. I am currently working on preparing the Permit Application Package with the intention of submitting it no later than mid-April.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rocky O. Powell

Rocky Powell