

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom in consequence of the global pandemic
May 18, 2021

Present: Michael Schroeder, Joseph Connor, Bethany Canner, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Mary Kate Gallagher, Sophia Rosenberg

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

1. Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Updates.

A. Watershed Action Team. Mike and Mary Kate reported on the meeting of the Watershed Action Team on Thursday, May 6, attended by Laurie Crawford, Bethany Canner, Mary Kate Gallagher, and Mike Schroeder. It was noted that PA-DEP has authorized \$100,000 for projects in Lebanon County intended to reduce the flows of sediment and agricultural runoff to the Chesapeake Bay. The money must be spent by the end of the calendar year, with preference given to “shovel-ready” projects. It was noted that Russ Collins has a number of projects in mind in the Hammer Creek watershed, including one at an estimated cost of \$70,000. Laurie brought to the table on behalf of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC) a “turf to meadow” project in the City of Lebanon along the path of the Hazel Dike at an estimated cost of \$10,000. Mary Kate noted that the CAP leadership team is working to develop an application form and set of criteria for prioritizing projects following accepted BMP guidelines, so that the grant money is spent as wisely as possible. It is hoped that these guidelines and application templates will be ready by the next Watershed Action Plan meeting. She further noted that the CAP leadership team holds biweekly meetings with PA-DEP, and that the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD) must approve projects for funding. She further noted that another round of funding is likely to become available in the fall, after the September deadline for counties to submit requests for funding, and award announcements likely by Thanksgiving. Kent suggested a number of potential projects on Killinger Creek, Snitz Creek, and Bachman Run, as well as the wetland on the east side of Lebanon adjacent to the Career & Technology Center.

B. Additional Updates. Mary Kate reported that the CAP team met with representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey to discuss the installation of two or three water quality monitoring stations that would provide real-time data to the County Planning Department’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) unit. A related issue under consideration concerns the development of a data management system, to keep track of all the various data on projects and water quality across the watershed. Kent noted that this would be a great idea, especially since the water quality monitoring program initiated by the Watershed Association in partnership with Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited has been largely brought to a standstill in consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Project Updates. Russ Collins provided brief updates on the main projects taking place across the watershed, to wit:

- A. Beck Creek Project 6: Getting ready for bids for contractors; need to apply for construction grant.
 - B. Killinger Creek Project 5: Waiting for Conservation Fund to release funds.
 - C. Snitz Creek Project 4: Russ has been contacting property owners in the project area in an effort to get this project moving forward; he suggests calling a community meeting to address any questions property owners might have.
 - D. Snitz Creek Project 3: has been surveyed.
 - E. Snitz Creek Project 2: no updates, lawyers are talking back & forth.
- 3. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium Updates.** Bryan Hoffman provided an update on today's Consortium meeting, focusing mainly on the project being planned for the area just downstream of the Hazel Dike to the 22nd Street bridge – what Bryan characterized as a “poster project” or “showcase project” for the Consortium and the recently imposed MS4 stormwater management fee. Possibilities under discussion include creating a kind of “educational wetlands” with interpretive signage for visitors, and integrating the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail into the project. Bryan also asked Mike about the map and spreadsheet he put together several ago on the section of the Quittapahilla mainstem from Dairy Road to Mill Street. Mike said he'd email these materials to Bryan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem