

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom thanks to Covid
April 19, 2022

Present: Michael Schroeder, Karen Feather, Kent Crawford, Russ Collins, Joseph Connor

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

- 1. Meeting Minutes.** The minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting were approved by consensus.
- 2. Countywide Action Plan.** Russ reported that the funds available in the CAP for Lebanon County are down to around \$27,000 from a high of nearly \$600,000 earlier in the year. He further reported that he is working on several projects in the Hammer Creek watershed (which lies outside the Quittapahilla watershed). He further reported that Energy Transfer is poised to grant an unspecified sum to Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited as part of a larger settlement being negotiated between the Attorney General's Office and Energy Transfer relating to the latter's systematic violations of the Clean Streams Law and other environmental laws over the past years.
- 3. Growing Greener Plus Projects.** Russ reported on Growing Greener Plus project proposals being developed in South Londonderry and North Cornwall townships and that more information will be forthcoming soon.
- 4. Website.** Mike reported that updates on ongoing projects, including Snitz Creek Project 2, have been made on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website, and encouraged members to review the webpage and offer any feedback or corrections.
- 5. Other Pending Grants.** Kent reported on a proposal for monitoring equipment that he is developing for the Keep PA Beautiful grant funding sponsored by Giant Food Co. (see their Healing the Planet 2022 Grant page at <https://www.keppabeautiful.org/grants-awards/grants/healing-the-planet-grant/healing-the-planet-2022/>).
- 6. Letter of Support.** Mike reported that he has provided a letter of support for the Community Watershed Restoration Traveling Toolbox for the Pennsylvania Sea Grant at Penn State University for the same Healing the Planet 2022 grant noted above (see <https://seagrant.psu.edu/>). The letter is included in Appendix 1, below.
- 7. Public Outreach.** Mike reported that he will be staffing the QWA table on Historic Old Annville Day, Sat June 11, 9 am--2 pm, and invited other QWA members to join him.
- 8. Upcoming Volunteer Workdays.** Mike reported on an upcoming volunteer workday in Quittie Creek Nature Park on Saturday, April 23, from 9 am to 12 noon, and a Plastic Garbage Artifact Hunt Extravaganza on the Quittie's banks behind Yogey's Putt-Putt on W.

Cumberland St. on Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 2 pm, organized by the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum.

9. **Russ Collins's Activities.** Russ reported that he has been named to the National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that he is also a member of TU's Climate Change Work Group. Russ was commended for his continuing excellent work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1. Letter of Support from the QWA for Penn State University's Community Watershed Restoration Traveling Toolbox Proposal

Ms. Heidi Pedicone
Director of Programs
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

April 13, 2022



Dear Ms. Pedicone,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support on behalf of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association of Lebanon County PA for Penn State University's *Community Watershed Restoration Traveling Toolbox* proposal for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the GIANT Company's 2022 Healing the Planet Grant Program. Our organization strongly supports this application because it builds communities' capacity to improve water quality by providing access to tools and technical assistance to covert lawns and streamside areas to meadows, forests, and riparian buffers.

For this project, we understand that the Pennsylvania Sea Grant team envisions community groups that are informed and engaged in making watershed-smart land-use decisions. This project solves local water quality issues and a lack of community awareness in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by establishing a watershed restoration project pipeline and connecting community volunteer groups with everything they need to make a positive impact.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant staff will work toward this vision using grant and match funds to:

- Build an open-access and equitable "community watershed restoration toolbox" for volunteer groups in York, Lancaster, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Perry, Franklin, and Adams counties
- Coordinate watershed restoration project logistics: pre-planting site visit, site preparation, planting plan, signed landowner agreement (project support, acknowledgment of public benefit, intent to maintain as green space, permission to enter with volunteers), procurement of planting materials (trees through Keystone Ten Million Trees, meadows through grant funds), and post-planting establishment care
- Connect civic-minded community groups with watershed restoration projects for volunteer opportunities to assist in site preparation, planting, and post-planting establishment care

- Organize 10–15 initial watershed restoration planting projects, engage 30–50 community group volunteers over two planting seasons (Fall 2022 & Spring 2023), and build momentum for future planting seasons beyond the scope of this grant
- Improve water quality and increase infiltration by removing turfgrass and establishing meadows, forests, and riparian buffers in at least 10 watersheds

Our organization’s mission is “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.” We believe that this grant application aligns with current work in the region and supports the critical need for additional capacity to implement watershed restoration projects and engage community groups in meadow, forest, and riparian buffer plantings.

We fully support the vital work that Penn State University’s Pennsylvania Sea Grant team proposes, and we look forward to working on this collaborative project.

Respectfully,

/s/

Michael Schroeder
President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association
<http://www.quittiecreek.org>