

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom due to Covid
June 21, 2022

Present: Michael Schroeder, Bob Connell, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Rocky Powell, Courtney Reimann

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes. The draft minutes of the April 19 and May 17, 2022 meetings were approved by consensus.

2. Grant & Project Updates.

A. Snitz Creek Project 18-19. Rocky reported that the Growing Greener Plus proposal Snitz Creek Project 18-19 (around 2,000 linear feet of stream in the section flowing behind Lowe's and Target on Quentin Rd in N. Cornwall Twp.) was not submitted to PA-DEP because one of the landowners – the property management company for Lowe's – refused to sign onto the landowner agreements. Rocky provided a detailed summary of the sequence of events that led to this unfortunate outcome. Vigorous discussion ensued. Consensus was reached that, in preparation for the next round of Growing Greener grants, the QWA should do its utmost to persuade the property management company that manages the property on which Lowe's sits to change its corporate mind. A multi-tiered strategy was discussed that would involve the other landowners along this section of the creek, who are in favor of the project; public officials from the PA State House & Senate to N. Cornwall Twp. supervisors; the QWA and its allies, especially Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited; and the media. It was agreed that we should inform Lowe's and its property management company of our intention to fight back against this decision, and that this is a temporary setback.

B. Snitz Creek Project 4. Rocky reported that the Growing Greener Plus proposal to PA-DEP for Snitz Creek Project 4, the deadline for which is this Fri. June 24, is ready to be submitted, and that Mike will submit it via the online portal. This is the third time we have submitted a Growing Greener proposal for this project, and Rocky is hopeful that it will be approved this time, especially in light of improvements made thanks to the very helpful assistance of Stephen Chervenyak, the Watershed Manager of the South-Central Regional Office of PA-DEP. The draft description for the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website reads as follows:

“June 2022. Snitz Creek Project No. 4: Proposed Stream Restoration & Stormwater Retrofit, Cornwall Borough. This proposal submitted to PA-DEP's Growing Greener Plus program in June 2022 proposes the restoration of 1,845 linear feet of Snitz Creek and an existing dry detention pond serving Cornwall Hills Subdivision in Cornwall Borough, retrofitted to provide water quality management of runoff from the subdivision that discharges into the project

reaches. The proposal was prepared by Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting in collaboration with Rich Starr of Ecosystem Planning & Restoration and was submitted by QWA President Michael Schroeder on behalf of the QWA and Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited. The proposal was submitted in several parts as seen in the PDF files below: . . .”

Kent noted that PA-DEP is flush with funds for the Chesapeake Bay thanks to the recent budget agreement in Harrisburg.

- C. Spruce St. Bridge Area Project, Annville.** Mike reported that the Growing Greener Plus grant proposal by ARM Group for the section of the Quittapahilla mainstem around Spruce St. in Annville will not be submitted in this round of funding. This was mainly because the Annville Township commissioners did not have sufficient time to review the proposal, and ARM Group was therefore unable to secure the Township’s approval. Hope was expressed that the proposal will be submitted for the next round of Growing Greener.
- 3. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium Update.** Bryan reported the Quittapahilla Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, which extends from the end of the Hazel Dike to the 22nd Street Bridge in North Cornwall Township, is moving forward. It is expected that contractors will submit formal bids soon and that a contractor for the work will be selected by early August. Looking ahead, it is expected that the Consortium will develop plans for the section from the 22nd St. bridge to Dairy Rd. in the coming year, with work to be undertaken in 2024; that the section from Dairy Rd. to Mill St. will be worked on in 2025; and that the section from Mill St. to Spruce St. is provisionally targeted for work in 2025 or 2026.
- 4. Monitoring Program Update.** Kent reported that he is in the final stages of preparing a letter to our Monitoring Program volunteers announcing the restart of our Monitoring Program, starting with streamflow monitoring. Volunteers will check the pressure transducers installed at our six monitoring stations, change the batteries, and extract any data they have collected over the past year-plus since they were last checked. Kent also reported that a decision is expected soon on his grant proposal of \$10,000 to Giant Food Company’s “Keep PA Beautiful Program’s Healing the Planet Grant” for multi-parameter sondes for continuous measurement of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other factors.
- 5. Countywide Action Plan (CAP).** No report received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem