

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Virtually via Zoom
October 18, 2022

Present: Michael Schroeder, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

- 1. Project Updates.** The following project updates were offered (more detailed information on all these projects is housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website, at <http://www.quittiecreek.org/documents.html>).
 - A. Snitz Creek Project 2.** Mike reported that the design & permitting phase of the project is nearing completion, as can be seen in the most recent Quarterly Work Progress Report covering the period from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2022, housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting reports that deliverables for design & permitting are 83% complete, with Task 5, Final Design Report 100% complete.
 - B. Snitz Creek Project 3.** Russ Collins and Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) report that "After receiving notice of the grant award, work has begun on this project's design and permitting phase. Invoicing has started through the grant applicant DFTU. A walk-through along the property was done by the chapter's Executive Committee."
 - C. Snitz Creek Project 4.** Russ Collins and DFTU report that "A Growing Greener Grant application was submitted [in June 2022] for design and permitting in the amount of \$171,512. Expected award to come in late winter or early spring."
 - D. Bachman Run.** Russ Collins and DFTU report: "Surveying and wetland delineation have been completed. Stream assessment will wait for winter to be completed due to the heavy overgrowth of wetland grasses."
 - E. Killinger Creek.** Russ Collins and DFTU report: "Funding for planning, design, and permitting awarded and check received for \$129,084. Assessment has begun, wetlands delineation and surveying the reach have all been completed."
 - F. Beck Creek Project 6.** Russ Collins and DFTU report: "A construction phase grant application has been submitted. We applied for \$795,506, which was the low bid from our four solicited contractors. Awaiting spring 2023 announcement of the award."
 - G. Quittapahilla Mainstem at the Spruce St. Bridge in Anville.** Kent reported that DFTU is almost ready to submit a proposal to the PA Fish & Boat Commission's program targeting the Quittapahilla and Tulpehocken watersheds; the proposal is due in three days, on Oct. 21 (see <https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/Grants/Pages/TulpehockenQuittapahillaWatershedGrantProgram.aspx>). The proposal is to restore some 834 linear feet of stream and streambank downstream of the Spruce St. Bridge in Anville, at an estimated cost of nearly \$100,000, including some \$71,000 from the Fish & Boat Commission and

some \$27,000 from Countywide Action Plan (CAP) funds administered through the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD).

- 2. Strategic Planning.** Discussion was held on the prospect of the QWA undertaking a strategic planning process in the coming year. The main focus of the discussion was on identifying an individual or organization that would be able to facilitate such a strategic planning process, especially in light of our all-volunteer, non-profit status and paltry funds. Joseph suggested inquiring with the national office of Trout Unlimited. Karen asked whether the EPA might be willing to pay for it. Mike suggested that we inquire with the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association. It was agreed that we would continue to search for a suitable party to facilitate a strategic planning process in the coming year.
- 3. Monitoring Program Updates.** Kent reported that the QWA's Monitoring Program continues moving forward at full speed, with two main components at present (more information on the QWA's monitoring program is housed under the Monitoring tab on the QWA website, at <http://www.quittiecreek.org/monitoring.html>):
 - A. Temperature Monitoring.** Kent reported on an informal agreement with Lebanon Valley College Prof. of Biology Becky Urban for her students to undertake temperature monitoring of the mainstem of Quittapahilla Creek to identify the principal warm water and cold-water inputs. He characterized this as a "big project" that is likely to yield important data. Dates for the training sessions for this temperature monitoring program are forthcoming.
 - B. Biological Monitoring.** Kent noted that for the past two years, the QWA and DFTU have undertaken the collection of macroinvertebrate samples in the Quittapahilla watershed that have been (and continue to be) analyzed by Prof. Urban and her students at LVC. He further reported that volunteers will be needed over the next two weeks at all six monitoring stations, and that he will be sending emails to our list of monitoring volunteers for several half-days in the field, most likely on the following dates:
 - Sat. Oct. 22
 - Tues. Oct. 25
 - Thurs. Oct. 27
 - Sat. Oct. 29

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem