

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Virtually via Zoom
November 15, 2022

Present: Michael Schroeder, Bethany Canner, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Kara Lubold

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

- 1. Strategic Planning.** Discussion continued from last month's meeting on the prospect of undertaking a strategic planning process in the coming year, in order to identify the QWA's principal Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) and create a roadmap for our work in the coming years. It was agreed that the main thing is to identify a suitable facilitator for the process that will not cost much, since we are an all-volunteer non-profit organization with limited funds. Mike noted that he has donated a one-year institutional membership for QWA with the Lower Susquehanna Watershed Association, at a cost of \$100, in the effort to broaden our networks of allies and supporters. Bethany suggested contacting Jim Lewis, Penn State Master Watershed Coordinator for Lebanon, Lancaster & Dauphin counties. Mike said he would follow up.

- 2. Project Updates.**
 - A. Quittapahilla Creek Restoration Project Downstream of the Spruce St. Bridge, in Annville Township.** The main update atop last month's list of project updates concerns the proposed project along the Quittapahilla mainstem just downstream of the Spruce St. Bridge in Annville Township. The project proposal was submitted by Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) to the PA Fish & Boat Commission just in time to meet the Oct. 21 deadline. Proposal materials are housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website at <http://www.quittiecreek.org/documents.html>.
 - B. Native Plantings at New DES Facility in North Cornwall Twp.** Joseph reported that DFTU volunteers helped to plant some 269 native plants in the open spaces and around the retention ponds in the area of the new Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services (DES) facility at 1821 Cornwall Road in North Cornwall Township, which lays just east of Snitz Creek in the Snitz Creek watershed. He also noted that plans are afoot to create an educational and recreational component to these open spaces around the new DES facility, spotlighting the enhanced filtration provided by these native plants.

- 3. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium Updates.** Bryan reported that a contract has been awarded for Phase I of the planned streambank reconstruction along some 1,800 feet of the Quittapahilla mainstem from the end of the Hazel Dike to the 22nd Street Bridge, as detailed in the PDF file housed on the QWA's Studies & Documents webpage under the date September 2021 (<http://www.quittiecreek.org/documents.html>). Construction is expected

to begin in late summer or early fall 2023. Bryan further reported that the next phase of the project is expected to be along the Quittapahilla mainstem from Dairy Road downstream to Mill Street in Cleona.

- 4. Monitoring Program Updates.** Kent submitted the following written report before the meeting:
- A.** For the past two years, during the COVID pandemic, QWA and DFTU have supported the invertebrate collections traditionally done by Lebanon Valley College (LVC). Our role has been to collect the inverts, then LVC would do the identifications, analyze the data, and write the report. Again this year, QWA is participating in the invertebrate collections. So far, two monitoring stations (Q1 and Q2) have been sampled. Katie Hollen, Johnna Willieme, Stephen Vegoe, and Kent Crawford assisted in the collections. Four stations remain to be done and will be sampled within the next two weeks.
 - B.** Ms. Megan Bisco and Dr. Rebecca Urban of Lebanon Valley College have completed a draft report detailing the results of the macroinvertebrate sampling for the years 2020 and 2021. The report is still in draft, but preliminary results suggest that the Killinger Creek is the most impaired stream in the watershed. This points to stream improvement projects for the Killinger Creek as a priority for QWA. More from this report when the final version is available.
 - C.** Jessica Koch and Evelyn Dyer, two seniors at Lebanon Valley College, have undertaken a special project to define a temperature profile for the Quittapahilla Creek. Their work involves taking right bank, left bank, and mid-stream measurements of temperature throughout the length of the stream. Their work started in September when water temperatures were still warm, but they were unable to complete the entire survey prior to the onset of cool nights. Nonetheless, their data will be useful. For example, they have already documented that the water flowing into the City of Lebanon is somewhat cooler than the water flowing out of Lebanon. Part of the project included training for the students on the use of a multi-parameter water-quality monitoring device. The students will prepare a report that is due at the end of the academic semester.
 - D.** The Quittapahilla Watershed Water-Quality Monitoring Program has never really taken off. Much preparation is complete and the real sampling is ready to begin. Our plans called for samples from all six monitoring locations once every two months. None have been collected. Also, data from our pressure transducers need to be downloaded and the transducers need new batteries. There is no firm date set for these activities to be conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem