

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)**  
**October 17, 2023**

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Bryan Hoffman, Bob Connell, Cheryl Hemperly (TLVC), Kent Crawford, Courtney Reimann (TLVC), Kara Lubold, Carl Rohr, Lauren Rius, with special guests Ilyssa McLaughlin and Hannah Horengic

The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m. A round of self-introductions followed.

- 1. Special Guest Presentation by Summer 2023 Student Interns.** Lebanon Valley College student interns Hannah Horengic and Ilyssa McLaughlin offered a 20-minute presentation via Zoom summarizing the highlights of their work on Gingrich Run, Killinger Creek, and Snitz Creek in summer 2023. A recording of their presentation is housed on YouTube, here: <https://youtu.be/J64I3nzFAwM>. Additional materials on the Summer 2023 Internship Program are housed on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website under October 2023.
- 2. Super Gage Event.** Katie Hollen reported on the Super Gage event at Boathouse Park in Hershey earlier in the day (Tues. Oct. 17) organized by the PA office of the US Geological Survey (USGS) in collaboration with local partners in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, part of the US Dept. of Agriculture); the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP); and the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD). Mike circulated the handouts and information sheets he collected at the event, which he reported was well attended and very informative. For more information on the USGS Super Gage Network, see <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ohio-kentucky-indiana-water-science-center/science/super-gage-network>.
- 3. Monitoring Program.** Kent reported on the current status of our Monitoring Program, from which he has stepped down as the chief organizer. On Oct. 3, Kent sent an email to our cadre of volunteers with the subject line, "Leadership Opportunities for Monitoring Program." The attachment to that email is included in these minutes as Appendix 1, below. The four leadership positions identified to date to make our Monitoring Program viable are listed below.
  - 1) Data Manager** (to manage and store the mountains of data we expect to be collecting). On Sept. 25, in response to an earlier call for help emailed by Kent, Hershey resident Alyssa Bellucci responded and expressed interest in this position. After a series of emails between Kent and Alyssa, she agreed to fill this position, for which she has substantial experience.
  - 2) Communications Manager** (to communicate among fellow volunteers and with the wider public). QWA President Michael Schroeder has agreed to fill this position.

- 3) **Fieldwork Coordinator** (to coordinate our fieldwork efforts, as Kent has been doing till now). Katie Hollen of the LCCD has graciously agreed to fill this position.
- 4) **Equipment Manager** (to coordinate with LVC and others to manage the needed monitoring equipment). Kara Lubold expressed interest in serving in this position, having substantial experience in managing laboratory and other equipment. She also lives close to LVC, where much of our equipment is stored.

Delight was expressed that all four positions are now filled. Mike suggested a Zoom meeting with these four managers/coordinators, Kent, and Dr. Becky Urban at LVC sometime in the first two weeks of December so we can all get on the same page.

4. **Project Updates.** The following updates were taken from the minutes of the Oct. 11 meeting of the Lebanon Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Watershed Action Team led by Johanna Willieme of the LCCD; only those projects in the Quittapahilla watershed are included here.
  - A. **Quittapahilla Creek at Spruce St., Annville Twp.** Russ reported one change of structure; PFBC signed off, but it needs to be run by DEP. After that is settled the project will move forward. Russ noted project needs to be completed by PFBC closing period.
  - B. **Beck Creek Project 6, Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project.** On June 16, 2023 the QWA submitted on behalf of Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited a grant proposal written by Rocky Powell to PA-DEP's Growing Greener Plus program for \$494,449.00; On June 15, 2023 the Lebanon County Conservation District Board voted to approve an Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) grant for \$173,100 to support this \$934,146 project. A PDF file of the application is housed on the Studies & Documents page of their website. Assuming project is funded, implementation is planned for 2024.
  - C. **Snitz Creek Project 2.** All permits and approvals have been obtained. Will be applying for construction funding in 2024 with implementation planned for 2025.
  - D. **Snitz Creek Project 3.** All permits and approvals have been obtained. Will be applying for construction funding in 2024 with implementation planned for 2025.
  - E. **Snitz Creek Project 4.** DFTU received its contract with PADEP on October 10, 2023. It is anticipated that work on this project will get underway the beginning of November.
  - F. **Killinger Creek Project.** The Pre-Application Site Visit with PADEP, USACOE and LCCD was completed. Final Design and preparation of permit applications in progress with a planned submission date of November 1, 2023.
  - G. **Bachman Run Project.** After the new landowner, Gary Horst agreed to a 15-foot buffer, he signed the Landowner-Grantee Agreement. Finalization of the Preliminary Design is in progress.
5. **Grant Opportunities.** Kent noted that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has announced a grant program with \$150K available, with a \$5K cap on individual proposals, with a deadline of Nov. 30. At the Sept. 17 meeting, Mike had suggested a grant proposal

focusing on signage for both sides of every bridge in the watershed under which a waterway flows (e.g., "Beck Creek," "Bachman Run," etc.). It was agreed that this would be an excellent proposal. Link to the grant application materials: <https://www.srbc.net/our-work/grants/stream-watershed-enhancement-grant.html> and <https://www.srbc.net/our-work/grants/docs/stream-watershed-enhancement-grant-guidelines.pdf>

- 6. Special Events.** Kent reported that he has been invited by the Palmyra Garden Club to give a talk on the QWA's Monitoring Program and other initiatives around mid-January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

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## **Appendix 1. "Leadership Opportunities for Monitoring Program," email to volunteers from Kent Crawford, Oct. 3, 2023**

### **Kent Crawford for the Quittapahilla Watershed Association Document attached to email of October 3, 2023**

The monitoring program for the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed is going well. We have staff plates and water-level recorders at five locations and data from a sixth location that is a USGS gaging station. We have water-quality monitoring equipment on hand for our use in point sampling and/or long-term deployments. We are getting water chemistry data back from the DEP laboratory and it is showing some interesting results. All good.

But, we need help.

This note is reaching out to our cadre of volunteers to ask you to step up to support our monitoring efforts. We need to spread the workload around, so we envision four support positions that will be staffed by our volunteers:

**Equipment Manager** – We have purchased and/or borrowed a lot of equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars. We need someone to protect these items and have them available and in working condition for our monitoring activities. The Equipment Manager will work closely with the Pennsylvania DEP to make sure we have adequate supplies of pH buffers, specific conductance standards, sample bottles, filters, distilled water, ultrapure water, and preservatives. He/She will maintain a supply of batteries for our data loggers and our field

instruments. Routine maintenance of our equipment (velocity meters, water-quality instruments, transducers, data loggers, etc.) is also the responsibility of the person in this position. Basically, the Equipment Manager is responsible for having everything ready to go for our sampling activities.

**Field Coordinator** – This position will have the pulse of our entire monitoring operation. He/She will plan, organize, and schedule the sampling events, participate in and oversee our field sampling, and coordinate delivery of the samples to the DEP laboratory. Quality-assurance and quality-control issues will also be the responsibility of the Field Coordinator. He/She will work closely with the Communications Director to announce sampling dates and recruit volunteers to assist in the field activities.

**Data Manager** – We collect field water-quality data during every sampling event and we receive water-chemistry data from the Pennsylvania DEP laboratory. In addition, we get continuous gage-height data and water temperature data from our five gauging stations. Eventually, we will get data from any special studies we undertake. In sum, we generate a large amount of data. The data manager is responsible for housing and preserving these data in a safe repository that is accessible to all our volunteers. In addition, he/she will prepare graphics showing important results from our monitoring activities. Working in concert with the Communications Director, these graphics can be used in reports that inform our volunteers, our partners, our cooperating land owners, DEP, and the public of our findings.

**Communications Director** – The Communications Director will be responsible for keeping everyone informed of our activities. He/She will maintain a list of email addresses and phone numbers for our volunteers, our cooperating land owners, and the leaders of our partner organizations (DFTU, QWA, LCCD, TLVC, LVC and PaDEP). He/She will send notifications relating to our sampling and maintenance schedules, prepare summaries of our activities for public distribution, and submit news articles to the local media and social media. He/She will work closely with the Data Manager to prepare reports of our water-quality findings and communicate those findings to interested parties.

**Mike Schroeder** has already volunteered to serve as our Communications Director.  
THANK YOU, MIKE!

So, if you have some time to devote to a worthwhile effort, step up to the plate and offer your services. I am sure that the efforts of QWA, DFTU, LCCD, TLVC, and LVC have made a positive difference in the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed. But, our work is not done. Will you contribute your talents to our cause?

Please “Respond to All” so that everyone will know about your willingness to assume a leadership role. Let us know of your participation no later than October 13.

Thank you,  
Kent