

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)**  
**December 19, 2023**

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Bob Connell, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Josh Kuhn

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m.

**1. Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting of Nov. 21 were approved by consensus.

**2. Monitoring Program Updates.**

**A. Equipment.**

- 1)** Kent dropped off two items for Equipment Manager Kara Lubold, which Mike agreed to hand over to Kara: (1) a new staff plate to affix to a bridge abutment to measure the water height, to be used where needed, and (2) an NIST thermometer, to be used to calibrate the sondes and field thermometers. Kara will store both items with our other equipment at LVC.
- 2)** Bob reported that he sent the Beck Creek transducer to the manufacturer to replace a broken part, and that the cost for fixing it will be a little over \$100. Mike reported that the QWA has sufficient funds to cover the cost.
- 3)** Beck Creek transducer housing. It was noted that North Cornwall Township has undertaken some work at the base the Bricker Lane bridge, including piling rocks at the base of the PVC pipe that houses the transducer. Discussion was held on how to make sure the sensor remains immersed in the stream and not covered by accumulated debris. It was agreed that the simplest solution would be to manually nudge the rocks away from the bottom of the PVC pipe and keep that small area free of debris.
- 4)** Bob reported that the transducers at Bachman Run (BM1) and Garfield St. (Q1) are working fine and recording data.

**B. Upcoming Fieldwork.** Katie reported that she will be emailing our team of volunteer monitors with an invitation to help with water quality sampling and streamflow measurement on two consecutive days in February, the exact dates to be determined.

**C. Data Management.** Kent noted the need to correlate data on stream height with data on streamflow to make sure they correspond. He also agreed to contact Mark Hoyer to see if DEP can offer suggestions for safely collecting high-flow samples and high-flow discharge measurements.

**D. Letter of Commendation.** It was agreed that the QWA would send a letter to LCCD District Manager Katie Doster commending LCCD Watershed Specialist Katie Hollen for her excellent work as Field Coordinator of our Monitoring Program. Kent agreed to draft the letter and send it to Mike, who will send it to District Manager Doster.

- 3. Conversation with Tali MacArthur at POWR re Climate Change & Resiliency.** Mike reported on a half-hour Zoom conversation with Tali MacArthur at the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers (POWR) and a colleague on Mon. Dec. 18 regarding climate change and resiliency issues as these are perceived by local public officials here in Lebanon County. This is part of a larger project being undertaken by POWR, which is asking local watershed associations to convey their perceptions of how local public officials understand and deal with issues of climate change and resiliency, as the first step in improving messaging on these critically important issues. Mike conveyed to POWR his view that these concerns are not on the radar screen of local public officials here in Lebanon County, and that “climate change and resiliency” are not among the top 10 issues of concern to local public officials here.

Here is POWR’s call for help, in an email sent Wed. Nov. 29: *“Subject: POWR Needs Your Help for a New Project.” Body of email: “Help POWR develop compelling, effective climate resiliency communication tools that resonate with your audiences. Earlier this year POWR sent a Climate Resilience Communication Survey to community watershed organizations in PA. It had the best response rate of any survey POWR has sent. Click here to see Results. The information you and other respondents provided was critical to our success securing a grant to help develop climate resiliency messaging that more of YOU can use to promote your work and gain more support. THANK YOU! We need your help again. If you are willing to participate in a short interview to help us learn how you use (or would like to use) messaging about climate adaptation, mitigation, & resilience to promote your organization’s work, please use the button below to schedule a 30 minute conversation with Tali MacArthur, Program Manager. The outcome of these conversations will help us develop valuable communication resources, such as an interactive workshop and best practices tip sheet, for watershed organization volunteers and leaders.”*

- 4. Stormwater Management in New Housing Developments in South Annsville Twp.** Discussion was held on stormwater management in the forthcoming “Southgate” housing development in South Annsville Township, between Quittie Creek and Royal Road and between Bachman Run and Spruce Street. Josh, whose family owns the limestone house at the end of Locust Rd. on the north bank floodplain, summarized his convoluted dealings with township officials and the developers regarding their stormwater management plans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem