

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
January 16, 2024

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Alyssa Bellucci, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Kara Lubold, Paul Pyle

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of Dec. 19 were approved by consensus.

2. Monitoring Program Updates.

A. Upcoming PA-DEP Audit. A reminder was issued about our upcoming audit with Mark Hoger of PA-DEP, scheduled for the week of Feb 19, the exact date and time TBD. Pasted below is an email from Katie Hollen to the monitoring team dated Jan 12:

Hi all, DEP will be doing an audit of the Quittie Monitoring Program the next time we go out to sample. This is from Mark Hoger: "It is important that we ensure all of the samples are being collected according to our protocols, which means anyone collecting the chemistry samples needs to be audited. If volunteers can't arrange to be audited, they cannot be collecting chemistry samples. Perhaps tasks can be reassigned to make sure those that are audited are the ones collecting the samples and non-audited volunteers assist in other ways. How many volunteers do you plan to collect chemistry samples? Limiting those that are responsible for chemistry sampling to a few volunteers will allow them to 'specialize' in that task and also make auditing easier." So, with that in mind, the 4 folks in this email (copying Kent for any input or guidance) are the ones who have done chemistry sampling recently, so are the ones that can hopefully pass the audit Also, the only 4 four that indicated availability to volunteer in February and recent months. ...

Katie offered to hold a training session before the audit, preferably in the lab at LVC, date & time TBD. Katie will coordinate with LVC Prof Becky Urban about gaining access to the lab. Another reminder was issued about the water quality sampling training video by Mark Hoger housed on YouTube and linked from the Monitoring page of our QWA website. The YouTube link is here: <https://youtu.be/mun7-laYZss> It was recommended that those being audited carefully review the training video.

B. Beck Creek (BK1) Monitoring Station. Bob reported that the pressure transducer at the Beck Creek Monitoring Station appears to have malfunctioned. He has been in touch with the manufacturer and is getting replacement parts to fix it. He

submitted to Mike a receipt from Onset Computer Corporation in Baltimore for a HOBO MX Water Level, Top End, which he paid for at a cost of \$168.54, and said it will be fine if he is reimbursed at the next QWA meeting.

- 3. 2023 Student Intern Assessment Report.** Mike reported that he has received a thumb drive from our student interns with the 2,289 photographs they took of Gingrich Run, Killinger Creek, and Snitz Creek this past summer, which are now housed in this Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gdm9cydCi8WjCa-N7X-ijT8Kk_C1MAv97?usp=sharing Mike noted that, taken together, these photos and the accompanying report make for a pretty grim picture of the watershed. The full report and related materials are currently the top item listed on the Studies & Documents page of our QWA website, at <http://www.quittiecreek.org/documents.html> Discussion was held on the best way to make publicly available and tell the story of these findings. Kara suggested a GIS-based story-map might be a compelling way to present this material.
- 4. Project updates.** The only project update of note was on the ongoing work on the Quittie mainstem in Annville just downstream of the Spruce St bridge. Mike reported that he took a 7-minute video of the heavy equipment at work earlier today. which is now housed on his YouTube channel, here: <https://youtu.be/l05cdypTow4> He is happy to report that they are making good progress. For documents on this project, see the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem