

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Alyssa Bellucci, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman (Leb Co Stormwater Consortium), Katie Hollen (LCCD), Kara Lubold (LCCD), Carl Rohr

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

- 1. Minutes.** With one small correction offered by Katie Hollen, the minutes of April 16 were approved by consensus.

- 2. Monitoring Program Updates**
 - A. Meeting with ALLARM.** On April 23, QWA members Bob Connell, Alyssa Bellucci, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, and Michael Schroeder met remotely with ALLARM Executive Director Julie (Jules) Vastine and ALLARM Volunteer Monitoring Specialist Isabel Ruff. Notes from that meeting appear below in **Appendix 1**.
 - B. GIS Story Map.** Alyssa reported that she and Bob are making progress integrating our collected data into this story-map-in-progress: <http://147.185.239.141/qwa/> She and Bob expect to build out the map in the coming weeks, adding dissolved oxygen and other data, and to get back in touch with Isabel Ruff at ALLARM. Alyssa and Bob agreed to offer an introduction and tutorial to this story-map-in-progress at our next QWA meeting on Tues June 18.
 - C. Meeting with Lebanon County Planning Dept.** Consensus was reached that after our June QWA meeting, we should reach out to and meet with Julie Cheyney and her GIS team in the Lebanon County Planning Dept in an effort to integrate our efforts with theirs, with the goal of housing our data on the county website so it can be more widely accessible to the general public and made useful for county-wide and municipal planning.
 - D. ISCO Automatic Sampling Units.** Discussion was held on transporting the two used ISCO automatic sampling units from the Poconos to Lebanon County. Carl generously agreed to pick them up, with temporary storage in Kara's garage, to be followed by evaluation of their condition.
 - E. Upcoming Fieldwork.** Katie announced that streamflow measurement and water sampling fieldwork will take place on Wed June 5 and Tues June 11, weather permitting.

- 3. Summer 2024 Student Internship Program Update.** Mike reported that our student internship program is on-track, with classroom training of our two interns, Ben Mitchell and Hannah Horengic, set to commence on the morning of Tues May 28 at the Leb Co Conservation District office, and field training later that week. Bob & Alyssa suggested that the interns be asked to embed GPS latitude & longitude data in the photos they take so that we know exactly where each photo was taken, because doing so will facilitate production of our GPS story-map-in-progress.
- 4. Online Resources.** On May 7, Katie Hollen emailed that Kara Lubold had discovered this helpful resource by the EPA on volunteer monitoring programs such as ours:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/epaandvolunteermonitoringseries_2024flyer.pdf
- 5. Stream Restoration Project Updates.** Before the meeting Rocky Powell kindly provided the following summary of the status of our ongoing restoration projects in the watershed:

 - A. Beck Creek Project 6.** Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project. Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited was approached by PA-DEP regarding rolling the \$271,572 requested from the PA Dept of Community & Economic Development into the 319 grant because more funding is available in that program. That would increase the 319 grant request to \$766,021. Received verbal confirmation that the project will be funded through 319. However, the money will not be distributed until Winter 2024 or Spring 2025. Therefore construction will likely begin in summer 2025.
 - B. Snitz Creek Project 2.** All permits and approvals have been obtained. Site showing for Construction Contractors was conducted on March 27, 2024. Final bid proposals were received on May 6, 2024. The low bid was submitted by Aquatic Resource Restoration Company. DFTU and QWA will be applying for \$964,849 in construction funding in May and June 2024 with implementation planned for late 2025 or early 2026.
 - C. Snitz Creek Project 3.** All permits and approvals have been obtained. Site showing for Construction Contractors was conducted on March 27, 2024. Final bid proposals were received on May 6, 2024. The low bid was submitted by Aquatic Resource Restoration Company. DFTU and QWA will be applying for \$712,174 in construction funding in May 2024 with implementation planned for late 2025 or early 2026.
 - D. Snitz Creek Project 4.** Work on this project got underway on Monday December 4, 2023 with the site walk with our survey crew and representatives of the pipeline companies. Topographic survey and base maps are complete. Stream assessment, environmental inventories in progress.
 - E. Killinger Creek Project.** LCCD Erosion and Sediment Control approval received December 29, 2023, US Army Corps 404 permit received February 16, 2024 and PADEP

Chapter 105 permit received April 26, 2024. Clear Creeks Consulting is preparing Construction Specifications and Construction Materials Quantity Estimates in anticipation of seeking construction funding in 2025.

F. Bachman Run Project. Preliminary Design was completed May 7, 2024. Landowners reviewed and approved the plans during a meeting held on May 9, 2024. A Pre-Application Meeting with permitting agencies is scheduled for June 20, 2024. The Budget Proposal from Steckbeck Engineering for geotechnical investigations, design and permitting for replacement of the existing bridge on Bender Lane (\$23,600) was approved by Lebanon County Conservation District Board on April 17, 2024.

6. Grants Update. Mike reported that Rocky is preparing two grant applications to be submitted by Mike and the QWA before the June 21 deadline: for Snitz Creek Project 2 (to be submitted to PA-DEP's Growing Greener Plus Program), and for Snitz Creek Project 3 (to be submitted for EPA 319 funding).

7. Leb Co Stormwater Consortium Update. Bryan reported that the Consortium is struggling with legacy sediment removal project upstream of the 22nd St bridge in Lebanon, especially with tree and vegetative plantings, because the geese are eating and disturbing everything soon after it's planted. Many complaints have been received from local residents about what an eyesore the project area is. Bryan also reported that PA-DEP has not yet released the technical requirements for the next MS4 NPDES permitting cycle, which begins in January 2025, making planning all but impossible. (Note: this "FAQ" document on the next MS4 NPDES permitting cycle was revised and released by PA-DEP on May 20, 2024, the day before this meeting:
https://files.dep.state.pa.us/water/bpnpsm/StormwaterManagement/MunicipalStormwater/MS4_FAQ.pdf). Bryan further reported that he expects that gaining landowner permissions for restoration work in the reaches downstream of the 22nd Street bridge, especially in Cleona, will be challenging.

8. QWA Brochure. Bob distributed hard-copies of a draft trifold color brochure on the QWA for the general public and asked for suggestions on content and design. He agreed to circulate the draft brochure via email and was thanked for his excellent work.

9. Special events upcoming. The following upcoming special events were noted:

A. Sat June 8, 9 am—2 pm, Historic Old Anville Day. Mike reported that the QWA has the same space as last year next to St Anthony's Coptic Church and the Nature Park space. Bob and Katie have agreed to help staff the table; Katie agreed to bring the LCCD's model watershed, which serves as a kind of kid-magnet at the event.

B. Thurs Sept. 12, 9—11 am. Kara reported that the Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council (<https://www.capitalrcd.org/>), which meets every other month on Zoom, would be interested in a short presentation on our Summer Internship Program at the date & time noted above. Mike responded that the QWA will be happy to offer such a presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1: Meeting notes with ALLARM folks at Dickinson College via Zoom (Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring)

Quittapahilla Watershed Association
April 23, 2024

Present: Bob Connell, Alyssa Bellucci, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Michael Schroeder, Julie (Jules) Vastine, ALLARM Executive Director, and Isabel Ruff ALLARM Volunteer Monitoring Specialist

The purpose of the meeting was to begin a conversation with the folks at ALLARM regarding the QWA's Monitoring Program. Both Julie Vastine and Isabel Ruff were impressed with the scope and ambition of our monitoring efforts to date.

Key questions posed for us to consider include: How will the data be used? By us, by municipalities, and by the county? Primary uses? Secondary uses? Suggestion: think of data use along a spectrum, not as one track: to help shape & influence local land use decisions / land use modeling / for public education / what else?

Key resources:

- Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC), at <https://www.chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org/> -- offers technical & logistical support – and its
- Chesapeake Data Explorer, at <https://www.chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org/services/chesapeake-data-explorer/>

- USGS National Land Cover Database, at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database>
- Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium, at <https://www.mrlc.gov/>

Model story maps:

- Adams County has created an ArcGIS story map – see <https://www.adamscountypa.gov/departments/conservationdistrict/watershedprogram>, and direct link: <https://adamsgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=97c0dd83804f429887991f2ea90a0cfd>
- Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association, at <https://clus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=bd9208364a414f82ac1dee2d7586424b>

Questions & suggestions:

- Sources and funding for equipment? Should we seek corporate sponsors?

At the end of the meeting, we agreed to organize a follow-up meeting of our monitoring team leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder
QWA President and Monitoring Program Communications Coordinator