

## QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

### Meeting Minutes

Community Room, Annville Free Library, and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

**Present:** Michael Schroeder (President), Bill Bauersfeld, Hunter Benasutti, Alexis Biondi, Mia Bucher, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Jackie Line with son James, Bill Osburn, Stephan Vegoe (DFTU), Gary Zelinske

The meeting opened at 5:30 PM with a special presentation by Bill Osburn titled “Quittapahilla Creek near Bellegrove, PA: Nutrient & Sediment trends,” on using statistics to better understand the monitoring data the QWA is producing. A pdf file of the PowerPoint presentation is accessible on the Monitoring page of the QWA website, at <https://www.quittiecreek.org/monitoring.html> The presentation ended around 6:30 pm, followed, by a pizza break, followed by our regular meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

**1. Minutes.** The minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus. They are housed, along with all other extant QWA meeting minutes, on the Meetings & Minutes page of our QWA website, at <https://www.quittiecreek.org/calendar.html>

## **2. Monitoring Program**

### **A. Fieldwork updates.**

- 1) October fieldwork. Katie reported that she will send out a Doodle poll to determine the best dates for our October fieldwork.
- 2) Biological Monitoring. Katie reported that the LCCD intends to undertake macroinvertebrate sampling in the Quittie watershed this fall and is coordinating with Lebanon Valley College for an intern to undertake the sample analysis.
- 3) Safety Meeting. It was agreed that our October 21 regular monthly meeting should be preceded by a meeting from 6-7 pm focusing on safety protocols for our fieldwork to minimize risk to our volunteers. Mike will include that in the invitation to the October meeting.

### **B. Equipment updates**

- 1) **Multiparameter sonde.** Katie reported that the handheld device for the multiparameter sonde has been repaired under warranty by the manufacturer and is being returned to us.

- 2) **Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that the Solinst sensors continue to record data at five of our monitoring sites (the sixth, Q2, has a USGS monitoring station), and that the data is now being uploaded directly into our Water Quality Portal.
- 3) **ISCO auto-samplers.** Bob reported that all the bottles and hoses for both auto-samplers, Kay and Lee, have been cleaned using the rigorous protocols developed by Kent Crawford and approved by PA-DEP (see Appendix 1 in the Aug 19 meeting minutes). On Wed, Sept 3, Bob, Katie, and Mike spent three hours in the LVC Biology lab cleaning the 72 sample bottles (24 for each unit, plus 24 extras), and this morning cleaned and prepared the hoses. Now we only await a forecasted and suitable high-rain event.
- 4) **Sieve Bucket for Macroinvertebrate Sampling.** Mike reported that he purchased the sieve bucket from Forestry Supplies, Inc., at a cost of \$145.15, using his personal credit card. He reported that at next month's meeting he will bring the QWA checkbook and write himself a check for that amount under the watchful eyes of other QWA members.

#### C. Data Management

- 1) **Meeting with new volunteer.** Mike & Bob met with new volunteer Mia Bucher on Mon Sept 15 to introduce her to our Water Quality Portal and data management needs.
- 2) **Macroinvertebrate Sampling Raw Data.** Mike reported no updates in the effort to secure the raw macro data from LVC graduate Charles Katona.
- 3) **Job description for LVC intern.** Bob reported that he will be revising the draft job description for an LVC student intern on data management. Job descriptions for interns doing other types of work were also discussed. It was agreed that we could fruitfully engage the services of student interns in the following areas: (1) Macroinvertebrate sample analysis, (2) Data management, (3) Marketing, and (4) Literature review and "report cards" on the Quittie data

### 3. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant.

- A. Google Drive folder housing NFWF grant materials:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n\\_Hxv4i3a\\_pVNg1H?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4i3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing)
- B. Upcoming meetings:
  - 1) Fri Sept 19, 12 noon, Zoom: meeting with media consultants on promotional literature (see [Appendix 1](#), below)
  - 2) late October check-in meeting, one hour, Zoom

- 3) early December in-person wrap-up meeting, in person, 90 minutes
  - 4) mid-December Closing Presentations with all grant recipients
  - C. Canva account? Discussion was held on whether to purchase a subscription to Canva for our promotional literature. Consensus was reached that we can make due with the free version, and if we can't, we should try to piggyback on another organization that does have a paid subscription.
4. **LCCD Watershed Action Team.** The minutes of the WAT's meeting of September 4, 2025 are included below in [Appendix 2](#) to these minutes.
5. **"Digital Storytelling" Course at LVC.** Mike reported that he had received some digital files from Prof. Pettice's course in digital storytelling this past spring, but unfortunately most of the final videos are not included in the materials shared. Mike will follow up to secure the dozen or so videos produced by the students.
6. **Projects updates.** See the reports in item no. 4, above.
7. **Media & website.** Mike reported that he continues to post on Facebook about the QWA's monitoring program and continues to keep the website updated.
8. **Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates.** No report.
9. **Education, outreach & special events.**
- A. **TLVC Sustainability Fair, Saturday, Sept. 27, 12-4 PM, Coleman Memorial Park.**  
Mike and Mia volunteered to table at this event, and Bob said he would try to make it.
  - B. **Water Week at Cornwall Manor, late October.** Details are still forthcoming from Daphne Messerschmidt & the Tree & Environment Committee at Cornwall Manor for their anticipated "Water Week" in the last week of October.
  - C. **Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum.** Katie reported that this year's Watershed Forum will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Millersville University in Lancaster; more details will be forthcoming soon.
  - D. **Possible field trips** to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

## **Appendix 1. NFWF grant: Promotional literature requested from consultant**

Mike's email to Ryan Szuch, Aug 31, on the topic of the upcoming Fri Sept 19 remote meeting noted above:

Hi Ryan,

I'm following up on our conversation at the end of last Monday's "summit" meeting at the LCCD office. Here are our suggestions for promotional literature that we would find helpful, from higher priority to lower priority:

1. A revamped trifold brochure introducing the QWA to a general audience
2. Volunteer recruitment sheet to spark interest among residents at 55+ communities:  
possible volunteer activities include:
  - a. Helping with monitoring fieldwork
  - b. Helping with data management
  - c. Helping with social media footprint
  - d. Helping with website updating
  - e. Serving as Secretary
3. Volunteer recruitment sheet to spark interest among high school and college students – same possible volunteer activities
4. Crisp summary of the QWA Monitoring Program
5. Info-graphic wheel of the QWA's five strategic priorities as of Fall 2025, with current partners in an inner ring and aspirational partners in an outer ring
6. A postcard targeted to HOA residents with tips for homeowners to live a more "watershed-friendly" life that includes the QWA's logo & contact info
7. A handout targeted to farmers that lists ways they can protect the watershed.

## Appendix 2. Watershed Action Team Meeting Minutes, Sept. 4, 2025



### Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Invited: Bethany Canner, Russ Collins, Hannah Hartman, Abigail Harvey, Katie Hollen, Dan Kreiser, Kara Lubold, Mike Schroeder, Bryan Seipp, Maranda Smith, Andrea Weaber

#### 1. Introductions

- Andrea Weaber was introduced as LCCD's new Administrative Assistant.

#### 2. Applications

- Beck Creek 1: \$184,700.00- deferred 2026

#### 3. In-Process Projects

- Hammer Creek Estates: \$250,000 of ACAP funding for construction-related expenses
- Gerald Horst bridge replacement: \$23,600 of ACAP funding for design and permitting
- Syner Rd. Phase II: \$213,950 of CAP funding for construction-related expenses- in progress
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,313.92- in progress
- Gingrich Run 1: \$204,325- streambank restoration and stabilization, concrete dam removal
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50- streambank protection, constructed wetland and riparian buffer- in progress
- Heisey: \$241,065- HUA, cattle walkway & fencing (replacing HCE)- In progress

#### 4. Completed Projects

- Hess: \$10,000 match commitment for NFWF INSR grant. Maranda reported that this project is complete, with 14 acres of row crop converted to hay. The landowner was pleased with the project and converted an additional 25 acres on his own.

#### 5. Partner Updates

- Clear Creeks Consulting, Rocky Powell
  - o See Appendix 1.
- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
  - o See Appendix 2.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Abigail Harvey & Dan Kreiser
  - o Still figuring out maintenance for Wengert Memorial Park work. Abigail will send payroll info to Kara.
  - o There is a Friends of Wengert Memorial Park group being initiated which will maintain areas of the park, including the playground area. The group will eventually look for volunteers for maintenance and cleanup days.



### Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- September 27: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sustainability Fair at Coleman Memorial Park, 12pm – 4pm. It is recommended that people register for planning purposes:  
<https://lebanonvalleyconservancy.org/fair/>
- Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
  - See Appendix 3.
- Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner
  - Attended the POWR-NFWF-watershed group meeting on August 25 for the capacity-building grant. The next work will be focused on marketing, messaging, and communication with key groups, like landowners along the creek.
  - The Artist in Residence project through POWR is coming to an end. The artist will reveal her illustrated map at the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper's Dam Bridge Challenge on September 20. There will be another nature journaling event the first weekend of October in Middletown.
  - September 21: Co-hosting a pre-conference workshop for a PA Greenways & Trails workshop in Harrisburg. SWA and Manada Conservancy are co-hosting a paddle and presentation.
  - October talk with QWA for Cornwall Manor's "Water Week."
- Trout Unlimited, Russ Collins & EPR, Bryan Seipp
  - Hammer Creek Estates: Recently received PADEP permit. EPR is getting the bid documents together to assist TU with getting construction underway.
  - Historic Schaefferstown Farm: Setting up a meeting with the Board to go over designs on upper and lower sections.
  - Heisey Farm: In agreement with landowner, finishing concept designs for his review.
  - Fisher/Wine/Klein: No updates.
  - Barry Farm: Still in limbo. Maranda is meeting with landowners later today and will talk about fencing on the lower section. Katie reported a good survival rate so far for the trees planted in the spring on the upper portion.
- 6. Lebanon County Conservation District Update- Kara Lubold, Maranda Smith
  - Environmental Conservation grant- open 7/10/25, live on website: [Projects — Lebanon County Conservation District](#)
  - CAP Ag projects- Maranda
    - Heisey is built, finishing final estimates around barn and walkways. Maranda will be in contact with Bryan about final project specifications. Should be completed without the next two weeks.
  - Kara is sending information packets to municipalities as an outreach tool. She reported on a positive meeting with South Lebanon Twp.
  - Kara mentioned a DEP webinar about the Integrated Water Quality Report overview and 2026 updates and shared the links:



#### **Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team**

- Integrated Water Quality Report- [Integrated Water Quality Report | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- StoryMap- [2024 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Report](#)
- Chapter 93- [25 Pa. Code Chapter 93. Water Quality Standards](#)
- GIS Tool- [Integrated Report 2024](#)

#### **7. Next Meetings**

- Thursday, October 2, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, November 7, at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m.



### **Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team**

**Appendix 1. Clear Creeks Consulting Updates, provided by Rocky Powell via email to Russ Collins on 9/3/25**

September 4, 2025 Watershed Action Team Projects Update – Quittapahilla Creek Projects

#### Beck Creek 6

Channel Construction Stage 1 – Completed work along Stations 6+15 to 15+25.

Channel Construction Stage 2 – Completed work along Stations 16+25 to 21+25.

Channel Construction Stages 6 - 8B– Completed work along Stations 1+35 to 4+25.

Channel Construction Stages 3 and 4 - Tie-in of upstream and downstream ends of relocated channel to existing channel completed.

Wetlands Construction – Completed all work on floodplain wetlands

Scrub-Shrub Wetlands W-1, W-2 and W-3

Wet Meadow Wetlands WM-1 to WM- 6

Wetland Water Quality Impoundment

Excavation and grading completed.

Installation of freshwater diversion pipes -.completed 9/3/2025

Grading and stabilization of Upland Habitat Areas proceeding.

Pre-Planting Meeting scheduled for 9/5/2025

Project on schedule.

#### Snitz Creek 2

Channel Construction Phase 1 – Completed work along Stations 0+00 to 11+33.

Wetland Construction Phase 1 – Completed work along Stations 12+25 to 0+00.

Construction Phase 2 – Installation of construction access road and E&S from Culvert Street to Station 12+25 completed.

Tree clearing along left bank 12+25 to 19+75 completed. Tree clearing along right bank 18+00 to 19+75 completed 9/2/2025.

Channel Construction Phase 2 – Work completed along Stations 11+33 to 13+30.

Project on schedule.

#### Bachman Run – Horst Properties

Permit Application & Supporting Documentation – Uploaded to DEP ePermits website 5/1/2025

PADEP Comments received 5/11/2025

Response to PADEP Comments uploaded to DEP ePermits website 5/28/2025

E&S Permit Application – Approved by LCCD 5/28/2025

E&S Approval Letter uploaded to DEP ePermits website 5/29/2025

Second Round of PADEP Comments received 7/2/2025

Responded to Second Round of PADEP Comments on 7/25/2025

Bender Lane Culvert Design – PADEP Second Round of Comments received 8/07/2025

Bender Lane Culvert Design – Responded to Second Round of PADEP comments 8/27/2025.

#### Snitz Creek 3: Same as last month

#### Snitz Creek 4: Same as last month



### **Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team**

**Appendix 2. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium Updates, provided by Darren Heisey via email on 9/3/2025**

**General:**

We are still waiting on DEP to give us information on the upcoming MS4 permit term, beyond the partial draft material presented for comment thus far, in January.

**Floodplain Restoration SQ1 Phase 1 (East of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street):**

Still growing in – this is its second year post-construction. The Consortium has a maintenance contract in place with LandStudies for this year and next.

**SQ1 Phase 2 (West of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street)**

To be constructed in 2026 as part of the adjacent bridge realignment.

**Floodplain Restoration SQ6 (Dairy Road to Mill Street):**

Design work has begun, involving additional survey and stream evaluation. A new owner has bought a key property along Mill Street, which was previously unresponsive. The new owners appear to be more amenable to the idea of the project, *and if this summary is being read by Kara, we are currently meeting with them.*

**Lions Lake Shoreline Stabilization:**

Project is substantially complete. A maintenance bond is in place. Several punch list items are to be completed in the fall and winter, being (among others) fall overseeding and re-planting of certain livestock areas, respectively.



### Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

#### Appendix 3. Quittapahilla Watershed Association Updates, provided by Mike Schroeder at the 9/4/2025 Watershed Action Team meeting

##### QWA Monthly Update for the LCCD Watershed Action Team

Michael Schroeder, QWA President  
Thurs Sept 4, 2025

1. Monitoring Program
  - a. Fieldwork. Katie Hollen organized fieldwork days covering all six monitoring stations on Aug 12 and Aug 13, with volunteers Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Chris Salvas, Michael Schroeder, and Gary Zelinske.
  - b. ISCO auto-samplers. On Wed Sept 3, Katie Hollen, Bob Connell and Michael Schroeder washed & prepared the bottles for the two auto-samplers. The hoses need to be washed, after which the two units will be ready to deploy for a high-rain event.
  - c. Solinst sensors for five monitoring stations are actively recording data. That data is being directed to the QWA's cloud-based platform.
2. NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant for capacity-building: a "summit" meeting was held on Mon Aug 25 at the LCCD office with representatives of the various organizations involved in the POWR-facilitated NFWF grant. We are approaching the final stages of the grant period.
3. Education & Outreach
  - a. Jeremy Cox, Staff Reporter at the Chesapeake Bay Journal, accompanied our fieldwork crew on Tues Aug 12 for an article for the "Our Waterways" series slated for publication in the September issue.
  - b. A successful outreach event at the Lebanon Valley College Student Engagement Fair on Wed Sept 3, staffed by Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, and me.
  - c. Daphne Messerschmidt & the Tree & Environment Cmte at Cornwall Manor are organizing a "Water Week" in the last week of October with Bethany Canner of the Swatara Creek Watershed Assoc and me presenting on "Where does our water come from and how is it doing health-wise? Where does our 'used water' go (sewage treatment plant)? and What's the condition of the water around us? (Furnace Run, Snitz Creek, source through The Woods past the tennis courts and beyond)"
  - d. TLVC Sustainability Fair, Coleman Memorial Park, Sept 27, 12-4 pm
4. Projects Update: forthcoming from Rocky Powell.
5. Next QWA meeting on Tues Sept 16 in the Community Room of the Annville Free Library will start at 5:30 pm with a presentation by QWA member and retired USGS geologist Bill Osburn, on a statistical analysis of our monitoring data. This will be followed by a pizza break from 6:30-7:00 pm, followed by our regular meeting from 7:00-7:55 pm. Both meeting segments will offer a Zoom option for those unable to attend in person.