

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom in consequence of the global pandemic
January 19, 2021

Present: Michael Schroeder, Karen Feather, Russ Collins, Joseph Connor, Kent Crawford, Bryan Hoffman

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

- 1. Project Updates.** Russ provided updates on the following ongoing projects:
 - A. Snitz Creek Project 2.** The Kralls are moving forward and in conversations with their attorney and Cornwall Borough; it is hoped that notable progress will be made in the coming weeks; Borough Council President John Karinch will keep Russ updated.
 - B. Killinger Creek Project 5.** The grant proposal to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for this 1,430 linear-foot project has been declined. Kyle Shenk of the Conservation Fund is in conversation with Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) for the already allocated \$130,000 for design & permitting, to be undertaken by Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting.
 - C. Beck Creek Project 6.** The project is moving forward, along with the remediation process with respect to the legacy contamination in the area. A letter from PA-DEP exempting the QWA, TLVC, and Rocky Powell from liability with respect to this legacy contamination is reportedly forthcoming. The bog turtle survey revealed no bog turtles or bog turtle habitat in the project area.
 - D. Snitz Creek Project 3.** The EPA 319 grant has been received and the design & permitting contract issued; Rocky just submitted his invoice for the design.
 - E. Spring Creek Watershed Association.** Russ reported that he is involved in helping to create a Spring Creek Watershed Association in Derry Township in Dauphin County.

- 2. Summer 2021 Internship Funding.** Kent reported that there remains little room for optimism for securing funding for summer 2021 interns. Trout Unlimited does not have funds available; nor do PA-DEP or EPA or the Foundation for PA Watersheds. PA-American water declined our grant application. The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant applications are due in April and announced in May, which would leave little time to find suitable candidates for the positions. We had been hoping for approximately \$24,000, which would provide sufficient funds to make this a full-time summer job for two interns and remunerate Rocky Powell for his time undertaking classroom and field training. It appears that our best hope at this point is to try to secure internship funding for summer 2022.

- 3. Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Updates.** Bryan reported that a coordination committee has been formed with Mary Kate Gallagher at the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD) and other members of the the CAP leadership (including Mike LaSala and Laurel Etter) and the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium. The goal is to develop a prioritized list of projects to work on once funding becomes available. Bryan also discussed the

frustration among members of the Consortium and the CAP that there exists no mechanism for “trading load reduction credits” for projects that reduce total loads of sediment and other pollutants flowing down to the Chesapeake Bay – for instance, load reductions in agricultural projects being used to help offset load reductions in urban MS4 projects. Maryland reportedly has such a credit-swapping program in place and it is reportedly efficient and cost-effective; see, e.g., “Accounting for Stormwater Wasteload Allocations and Impervious Acres Treated: Guidance for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permits,” Maryland Department of the Environment, June 2020, at <https://mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Documents/2020%20MS4%20Accounting%20Guidance.pdf>. Unfortunately, according to Bryan, PA-DEP is opposed to such a program and is not interested in the prospect of “crossing silos” in this manner. The Consortium would like to see greater flexibility in PA-DEP’s rules, and has asked our PA State representatives to lobby DEP on its behalf in this regard.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem