

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

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

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

- 1. Meeting Minutes.** Mike apologized for the backlog of uncompleted minutes of past meetings and pledged to get them completed, circulated, and posted on the website in the coming weeks. The draft minutes of last month's meeting on Sept. 20 were circulated before the meeting to those in attendance, with a request to flag any errors or suggest revisions.
- 2. Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Update.** Mike conveyed the update kindly provided by CAP Coordinator Mary Kate Gallagher, who was unable to make the meeting, to wit:

A. Project Updates.

- 1) Watershed Action Team: Waiting on PA-DEP to approve permits with updated wetland delineation and Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PDNI). Trout Unlimited plans to request a stream waiver to be in the stream after the deadline from PA Fish & Boat Commission. Once they start, it should only take about a week to complete the projects.
- 2) Agriculture Action Team: Both designs have been completed and pre-construction meetings have been held and construction is expected to begin in the next couple weeks.

B. Funding Updates.

- 1) CAP Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) application and ranking criteria and guidelines are finalized and have been approved; please see website for the forms to apply for funding:
<https://www.lebanoncleanwateractionteam.com/fundingresources>.
- 2) Started 2022 CAP Implementation Grant application (Due Oct. 29, expected budget by Dec.)
- 3) National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grant meeting Friday. Plan to partner with Stormwater Consortium on SQ1 project in the Quittie (SQ1 is the major restoration project being planned for the nearly five acres of floodplain from the end of the Hazel Dike to the 22nd St. bridge in North Cornwall Township).

C. EPA 319 Funding Approved.

- 1) Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited awarded \$161,081 to restore 2,781 linear feet of stream and plant a 35-foot-wide streambank buffer along Bachman Run on two properties in South Annville Township. In addition, the project will convert heavily impacted pasture into a half-acre of emergent wetland in the adjacent floodplain.

D. NFWF Small Watershed Grants Approved.

- 1) Stream Stabilization and Riparian Forest Buffer Installation in Killinger Creek, South Londonderry Township, Lebanon County: \$220,000.
- 2) Leveraging New Corporate Clean Water Partnerships in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties: \$500,000.

(see the NFWF press release announcing these grants here:

<https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/nfwf-epa-announce-10-million-grants-restore-chesapeake-bay-watershed> -- and the list of Small Watershed Grants awarded here: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/NFWF-Chesapeake-20211012-GS.pdf>

3. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium Update. Bryan reported no major updates from the Consortium's meeting earlier today. Mike noted that the PowerPoint presentation Bryan shared last month is now posted on the Studies & Documents page of the QWA website and has also been posted on the QWA Facebook page. Russ suggested that the Consortium might fruitfully partner with the Countywide Action Plan initiatives currently being developed. Both Bryan and Laurel were receptive to the idea. Bryan noted that the Consortium plans to continue working its way downstream from the 22nd Street Bridge down to Cleona and Annville once the SQ1 project is completed.

4. Upcoming Watershed-Related Events. The following upcoming events were noted:

- A. Nov. 1-5:** The 16th Annual [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum](#) will be held November 1-5 online with in-person networking. The theme of this year's Forum is-- The Future is Now: Getting to (and Moving Beyond) 2025. This watershed-wide event reaches over 400 restoration and protection practitioners to inspire and empower local action towards clean water. The forum shares successful tools and techniques, offers lessons and learnings from on-the-ground work, builds capacities of local organizations, fosters partnerships and networking, educates on new initiatives and emerging practices, and celebrates successes. See <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2021/09/register-now-for-2021-chesapeake-bay.html>
- B. Nov. 7-8:** 2021 PA Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) invite you to network with colleagues, learn how to strengthen your local organizations, and discover new and emerging science, tools, and resources at the 2021 PA Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, State College. Russ Collins will be attending and representing the QWA. Registration is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-pa-statewide-conference-for-watershed-organizations-tickets-164538136997>
- C. Nov. 19-20:** Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum and Science Symposium, Susquehanna and Swatara Rooms, Elizabethtown College. Partners conducting research, advancing science, and working to improve our local watersheds are invited to gather and share their work at this free two-day symposium at Elizabethtown College on November 19-20, 2021. This gathering seeks to foster collaboration among watershed scientists and practitioners working and interested in this high priority region for addressing impacts to watersheds. Day one will be a full day focus on science and research. Day two will be a half day focus on actions to enhance and

support the watershed work of local watershed practitioners, volunteers, local governments, and community organizations. Registration is here:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RY30fNs9iUOpwcEVUm61LofwYmL5KQNBg7expkr-VxpUMDZSQ1FESUIzRDdWT1RFQzI2OTFCU0NKSC4u>

- 5. Monitoring Program.** Kent reported that the water quality monitoring program that was launched right before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and that was put on hold in consequence of the pandemic, is ready to be re-launched this fall. He reported that he is in the final stages of revising the program's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which he expects to complete in a day or two, and which he would like to be posted on the QWA website under the "Monitoring" tab for easy access by the program's volunteers. He noted that the monitoring program will include assessment of macroinvertebrates, formerly undertaken by student volunteers from Lebanon Valley College, will be undertaken by QWA and Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) volunteers, and will be a fairly big project and take an estimated three half-days to complete. He further noted that the macroinvertebrate assessment should take place within the next 2-3 weeks to align with the timing of last year's assessment in late October. He further noted that all necessary equipment has been secured and that DFTU has generously donated \$1,000 for purchase of key equipment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem