

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Virtually via Zoom
March 21, 2023

Present: Michael Schroeder, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

- 1. Minutes.** The draft minutes of the meeting of Tues. Feb. 21 were approved by consensus and will be posted on the QWA website.

- 2. Monitoring Program Updates.** Kent offered three set of updates on our Monitoring Program:
 - A. Maintenance of Streamflow Monitors.** A workday is scheduled for this Thurs. March 23, starting at 1 pm at the Quittie mainstem monitoring station on Garfield St. in Cleona (next to Cleona Park) to clean the instruments, extract the recorded data, and change the batteries in five of our six monitoring stations. Five volunteers have indicated their availability.
 - B. Streamflow Measurements downstream of Spruce St Bridge.** A workday will be scheduled sometime in mid-April to collect data on streamflow (velocity, width, depth) in three cross-sections of the Quittapahilla mainstem in the area just downstream of the Spruce St. bridge in Annville, which is slated for restoration work later this year. This is so we can compare data pre- and post-restoration.
 - C. Water Quality Sampling.** Expected kickoff sometime in mid-April.

- 3. Lebanon Co. Stormwater Consortium.** Kent reported on his meeting earlier in the day with the Lebanon Co. Stormwater Consortium after sending the following email earlier in the day shortly after the meeting had ended:

“This morning, I gave a presentation to the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium on the merits of a regional approach to stormwater management using large-scale, on-line facilities. My presentation borrowed very heavily on work done by Rocky Powell in the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Assessment and from a PowerPoint presentation that Rocky had previously shared with LCCD and me. Rocky builds an overwhelming case for going with the on-line regional approach and I tried to convey that to the Consortium members. The reason for this presentation at this time is that new funds are available through PENNVest to support nonpoint-source pollution reductions. These funds came from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“My presentation went O.K. and the reception was polite, but underwhelming. Members of the Consortium had several concerns with my ideas. For example:

- Permitting will be an issue
- Wetlands promote black flies
- The sediments to be moved are in industrial areas -- likely contaminated
- We have heard this approach before from Russ Collins
- The properties are not all on public land
- Maintenance will be required. Who will do it?
- Have you looked at our PRP? We are doing some of this already

“All of these are legitimate concerns, but all can be handled. Basically, I don't think I got very far in convincing the Consortium members. No one asked for a copy of my PowerPoint slides and no one suggested any follow-up actions. It seems as if the case is closed. Instead, they have opted to put \$2.5 million of their \$4.5 million cash on hand into a 180-day investment at 5+ percent interest.”

In sum, Kent expressed disappointment at the reception his proposal received.

- 4. Quittapahilla Creek Restoration Project downstream of Spruce St. Bridge, Annville Township.** Kent followed up on the good news reported last month that the PA Fish & Boat Commission has provisionally approved the proposal submitted by Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited for a stream restoration project downstream of the Spruce St. bridge in Annville Twp, with approximately \$70,00 from Fish & Boat and another approximately \$30,000 in funding from the Countywide Action Plan (CAP), administered by the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD). Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (AARC, at <https://arrc1.com/>), based in York, PA, will be undertaking the construction of the project, with a likely start date of later this year.
- 5. Summer 2023 Internship Program.** Mike reported that he has sent the flier for our Summer 2023 Internship Program to professors at Lebanon Valley College and elsewhere in the region and that we await responses.
- 6. Monitoring Program Updates.** Kent reported that much of the equipment and supplies necessary for our Monitoring Program have been transferred to a locked storage room in the basement of Neidig-Garber Science Building at Lebanon Valley College thanks to the good graces of Prof. of Biology Becky Urban; when needed, a key can be secured from the Biology Dept's administrative assistant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem