

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

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

The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m.

- 1. Minutes.** The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved by consensus.

- 2. Student Internship Program.** Student intern Ben Mitchell reported on June 13 on an incident on a landowner's property on Reach 15 of Beck Creek in which the landowner became hostile toward him and fellow intern Hannah Horengic, accusing them of trespassing and behaving in a generally threatening manner. Thankfully, the incident was defused, but it also pointed to the need for enhanced communication with landowners and improved identifying insignia for the interns. Rocky Powell and Kara have taken a number of steps to address the issue, including a revised introductory letter from the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD) and LCCD hats and shirts with badges for easy identification. In short, the issue is being addressed. Otherwise the internship program is going well.

- 3. Monitoring Program Updates**
 - A. June Fieldwork.** Katie, Bob, and Mike reported on two successful days of fieldwork on Wed June 5 and Tues June 11, during which we measured streamflow, pH, dissolved oxygen and more and took water samples at our six monitoring stations, which were taken to the PA-DEP lab in Harrisburg. The fieldwork was undertaken by Willie Bixler, Bob Connell, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Charles Katona, Michael Schroeder, and Gary Zelinske. Mike's Facebook post on the fieldwork garnered considerable interest, including 40 "likes" and two shares.
 - B. Auto-Samplers.** Bryan generously volunteered to drive to the Poconos to pick up the two auto-sampler units. He will be in touch with Kent for the logistical details. Kent suggested that monitoring site Q1 (Garfield St. in Cleona) would be an ideal site for the auto-sampler once it is ready to be deployed.
 - C. Multiparameter Sondes Deployed.** Bob reported that he deployed our multiparameter sonde at our monitoring site for Bachman Run, let it sit unattended for 3-4 days, with data recorded every 15 minutes, and then retrieved it. Everything worked well.

- D. Demonstration of QWA Water Quality Portal.** Bob reported that he and Alyssa Bellucci, as leaders of our Data Management Team, will be offering a 20-25 minute demonstration on Zoom, starting at 7:00 pm on June 25, on the QWA's Water Quality Portal that they created, at <http://147.185.239.141/qwa/>. The demonstration will be recorded and published on the QWA website.
- E. Equipment Needs.** Kara, as Equipment Manager, reported that we are running short deionized (DI) or ultra-pure water and that we should ask DEP for more.
- 4. Grants Update.** Mike reported that he just submitted two grant applications via the PA-DCED grants portal on behalf of Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited and Rocky Powell, in anticipation of the June 21 deadline: Snitz Creek Project 2, submitted to PA-DEP's Growing Greener Plus Program, and Snitz Creek Project 3, submitted for EPA 319 funding. **For Snitz 2:** \$481,563 requested from Growing Greener, with state matches of \$290,337 and local matches of \$380,449, for a total budget of \$1,152,349. **For Snitz 3:** \$457,727 from EPA 319, with state matches of \$151,458 and local matches of \$154,489, for a total budget of \$763,674.
- 5. Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance Storymap Unveiling.** Mike reported that Julie Cheyney, Director of the Lebanon County Planning Dept, and Cherie Prentice-Brown, the Department's GIS expert, will offer a presentation at the county commissioners' workshop meeting at 1:30 pm Wed. June 19 (tomorrow) to unveil the Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance Storymap and ask that it be linked from the county's homepage. The link to the storymap is here:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/670c2a0363f74862abbb14d52b0f31fa> This is in addition to the Planning Department's Watershed Viewer, the link for which appears on the Planning Dept homepage, direct link here:
<https://lebcogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=564d71cbcd8446f8a299ac9378384b49> Mike reported that he intends to attend and has let other QWA members know and encouraged them to attend if they can.
- 6. Projects Update.** No new updates since our May meeting.
- 7. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium.** Bryan reported that PA-DEP recently announced that the permitting requirements in the current 2020-2024 permitting cycle will be extended into 2025, with no specific dates indicated. Bryan characterized the announcement, in a nutshell and with more than a hint of exasperation, as, "Just keep doing what you've been doing until we tell you to do something else." Bryan further noted that the project off Chestnut St. has been reseeded because flocks of Canada geese have been

eating all the seeds sowed and all the sprouts sprouting, and that it's now too hot and dry for seeds to sprout and the project area looks pretty bad, at least to the casual observer. The next phase will turn to properties along the mainstem in Cleona.

- 8. Special Events.** Consensus was reached that our outreach efforts at Historic Old Anville Day were both successful and fun. Also, as noted in our May meeting minutes, 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 on Thursday, September 12 from 9—11 am. Mike has responded that the QWA will be happy to offer such a presentation.
- 9. QWA Website Issue.** Mike reported on a technical issue that is preventing him from updating the website and that he hopes to resolve the issue soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem