

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Community Room, Annville Free Library, and remotely on Zoom

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Hunter Benasutti, Willy Bixler, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, Gary Zelinske

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus. They are housed 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) Bill's printed field safety cards with site addresses and information for monitoring volunteers to keep in their vehicles and with equipment are yet to be distributed.
- 2) Katie reported that our December round of routine monitoring will be postponed until January due to inclement weather and busy schedules. She will email a Doodle poll to all volunteers early in the new year.

B. Equipment updates

- 1) **Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that the Solinst sensor at BM1 is not working and is being sent back to Solinst for repair or replacement; that the sensor at K1 needs its battery replaced; and that the sensor at Q1 in Cleona needs an antenna. After discussion, consensus was reached that we should order an antenna for Q1 from Solinst at a cost of \$270 plus shipping. Mike and Bob will work out the details of payment and shipping.
- 2) **ISCO auto-samplers.** No updates.

C. Data management

- 1) **Tutorial on qGIS.** Bob and Alyssa will hold an initial hands-on tutorial session on learning to use open-source qGIS software used to build our Water Quality Portal. The meeting is scheduled for Tues. Jan. 13, 2026 from 6-8 pm in the meeting room at Annville Free Library. Those interested in participating

should contact Bob. Participants should bring a computer to the session and Bob will have flash drives to give out with the materials. Additional training sessions may be conducted virtually after the initial session.

2) Macroinvertebrate Sampling Raw Data. No updates.

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

A. Google Drive folder housing NFWF grant materials:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7HIh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4i3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing

B. The project will be extended into January with an additional \$2,000. Consensus was reached that additional resources should go toward a simple “report card” for the general public that answers the question, “How is the Quittie doing?” Mike has communicated this to the consultants, who will set up a meeting in the new year.

C. Closing meeting with presentations by all grant recipients, to be held virtually on December 17 starting at 12:00 pm.

4. LCCD Watershed Action Team. The minutes of the WAT’s meeting of December 4, 2025 are included below in **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

5. Projects updates. See **Appendix 1**.

6. Media & website updates. No report.

7. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates. No report.

8. Education, outreach & special events.

A. Geological Survey field trip. On Dec. 9, QWA members Bob Connell, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, and Mike Schroeder were treated to a highly informative and helpful tour of the PA Geologic Survey by Al Guiseppe Geoscience Manager, at their state headquarters at 3240 Schoolhouse Road in Middletown. Because Alyssa Bellucci was not able to join us on Dec. 9, a second field trip is scheduled for 10 am—12 pm Friday Jan. 23.

B. Possible field trips to the City of Lebanon Authority’s (COLA’s) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station. No updates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Schroeder

Appendix 1. Watershed Action Team Meeting Minutes, Dec. 4, 2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

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

Members Present: Bethany Canner, Reid Garner, Abigail Harvey, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Dan Kreiser, Kara Lubold, Rocky Powell, Bryan Seipp, and Rich Starr

1. Applications

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

2. 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. Construction and plantings completed in November.
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,313.92- in progress
- Gingrich Run 1: \$204,325- CAP-streambank restoration and stabilization, concrete dam removal
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50- CAP- streambank protection, constructed wetland and riparian buffer. Construction and plantings completed. Livestaking in December.

3. Partner Updates

- Clear Creeks Consulting, Rocky Powell
 - o See Appendix 1.
- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
 - o Still waiting for DEP to release new MS4 permit.
 - o SQ6 Floodplain Restoration: LandStudies continuing design. The plan is for the permit application (waiver 16) to be submitted mid-December.
 - o Lions Lake Shoreline Stabilization: Livestaking planned for early spring.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Abigail Harvey & Dan Kreiser
 - o Held a Board retreat to discuss the strategic plan. Discussed how TLVC can focus on clean water projects moving forward.
 - o Wengert Park: Abigail will loop Kara in on the invoices.
 - o Interested in pursuing some version of a "water week" in Lebanon County, maybe in fall 2026. Partners will be contacted to be involved.
 - o Will discuss Killinger application for next year with Rocky and Bryan.
- Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
 - o See Appendix 2.
- Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- NFWF capacity-building grant: There is a wrap-up meeting with the consultant and a joint meeting with QWA and the consultant later today. The final project showcase is on December 17, but there is a possibility of the grant being extended into next year.
- Ecosystem Planning & Restoration, Bryan Seipp & Rich Starr
 - Hammer Creek Estates: Selected Flyway for construction. The bid came in a little under budget so money may be moved to Heisey. Scheduled start date is February 1 and construction should take about one month.
 - Heisey Farm: Pre-application meeting scheduled for December 17. May have additional construction funding left over from HCE.
 - Historic Schaefferstown Farm: 30% designs should be complete soon.
 - Barry Farm: LandStudies updated plans to fill in gullies, fill in abandoned channels, and reroute pipe draining rooftops to a different location. Rich is hopeful that revisions will be submitted to DEP this month for approval. IF DEP approves, LandStudies will make changes to design and permit application and will submit for permitting.
- Spring Hill Partners, Reid Garner
 - Snitz Trib at Ironmaster Rd: Working with Kara to apply for SRBC Consumptive Use grant by the end of January.

4. Lebanon County Conservation District Update

- Kara expects the CAP 2026 award announcement the second week of December.
- Gingrich Run 1- Waiting to hear back from permitting.

5. Next Meetings 2026

- January 8 — 9:00 am
- February 5 — 9:00 am
- March 5 — 9:00 am
- April 2 — 9:00 am
- May 7 — 9:00 am
- June 4 — 9:00 am
- July 2 — 9:00 am
- August 6 — 9:00 am
- September 3 — 9:00 am
- October 1 — 9:00 am
- November 5 — 9:00 am
- December 3 — 9:00 am



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 1. December 4, 2025 Watershed Action Team Projects Update – Quittapahilla Creek Projects, provided by Rocky Powell, 12/4/2025

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

Grading and stabilization of Upland Habitat Areas - Completed.

LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025

Plant Installation 10/20 – 10/31/2025

Live Stake and Live Branch Installation – February 2026

Addressing LCCD Concerns

Wetland Outlet Pipe clogging with debris (e.g. straw, corn husks).causing overflow

Potential for erosion along Outfall Channel

Lack of grass and aquatic vegetation establishment due to goose damage

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.

Channel Construction Phase 2 – Completed work along Stations 11+33 to 19+75.

LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025

Pre-Planting On-Site Meeting - 10/10/2025

Plant Installation 10/14 – 10/24/2025

Live Stake and Live Branch Installation – December 2025

Bachman Run – Horst Properties

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

PADEP Comments received 5/11/2025

Response to PADEP Comments uploaded - 5/28/2025

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

E&S Approval Letter uploaded - 5/29/2025

PADEP Second Round of Comments received 7/2/2025

Response to Second Round of PADEP Comments uploaded - 7/25/2025

PADEP Application Completeness Notification - 7/31/2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

PADEP Technical Review Comments Received - 9/16/2025
Response to Technical Review Comments Uploaded - 10/22/2025
PADEP Second Round Technical Review Comments Received - 11/05/2025
Response to Second Round Technical Review Comments Uploaded - 11/18/2025
PADEP Third Round Technical Review Comments Received - 11/25/2025
Response to Third Round Technical Review Comments Uploaded - 11/26/2025
PADEP Fourth Round Technical Review Comments Received – 12/03/2025
Currently Working on a Response

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.
PADEP GP-11 Approved – 9/12/2025

Snitz Creek 3

Same as last month

Snitz Creek 4

Same as last month



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 2. QWA Monthly Update for the LCCD Watershed Action Team, provided by Mike Schroeder, 12/4/2025

1. Monitoring Program

- A. Routine fieldwork. Katie Hollen is organizing our December monitoring fieldwork; the dates will be announced soon.
- B. Biological monitoring. Fieldwork organized by Katie Hollen and undertaken on Thurs. Nov. 6 and Sat. Nov. 8 at all six monitoring sites, with Katie, Lydia Mohn, and Hannah Hartman of the LCCD, Katie & Hannah's friends Riley Moore & Marisa Valotta, Master Watershed Steward Tony Shaw, and QWA volunteers Alyssa Bellucci, Bob Connell, Rick O'Leary, Michael Schroeder, and Gary Zelinski. Prof. Becky Urban at LVC has identified a student, Levi, who is eager to identify the collected macroinvertebrates in the lab.
- C. Equipment updates. The Solinst sensors continue to record data at five of our monitoring sites and upload data directly into our Water Quality Portal, except for the sensor at Q1 (Garfield), which does not get a signal. Bob Connell is communicating with tech support about an external antenna. The sensor at Bachman Run experienced a battery failure on November 3, but Bob replaced one of the three batteries and it is now in working order.
- D. Data management: tutorial on using qGIS. Bob Connell and Alyssa Bellucci will hold an initial tutorial session about learning how to use the open-source qGIS software used to build our Water Quality Portal. The meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at Annville Free Library. Anyone interested in attending should contact Bob. Participants should bring a computer to the session and Bob will have flash drives to give out with the materials. Additional training sessions may be conducted virtually after the initial session.

- 2. NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant. All relevant materials are housed in this shared Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4j3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing. The grant has been extended into January with an additional \$2,000. Consensus was reached that these additional resources should go toward Bob Connell's "report card" idea to enhance data communication.

A. Upcoming meetings:

- 1) Joint wrap-up meeting with QWA, the SWA, and Manada Conservancy at Manada offices in Hummelstown on Thursday, December 4, 3:30- 5:00 pm.
- 2) QWA wrap-up meeting at LCCD, Friday, December 5, 9:00 -10:30 am.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- 3) Closing meeting with presentations by all grant recipients, to be held virtually on December 17 starting at 12:00 pm.

3. Education & Outreach

- A. Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum, 8:30 am to 12 noon Sat Nov 15; see <https://www.lccd.org/events/watershed-forum>
- B. Two upcoming field trips to the PA Geologic Survey headquarters in Middletown, courtesy of Al Guiseppe, Geoscience Manager of the Geologic & Geographic Information Services Division at the PA Geological Survey (nested inside the DCNR):
 - 1) 2-4 pm Tues Dec 9 (signed up to date: Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Mike Schroeder)
 - 2) 10 am-12 noon, Friday January 23 (signed up to date: Alyssa Bellucci).

4. Projects Update: forthcoming from Rocky Powell

5. Next QWA meeting: 7 pm Tues Dec 16, Community Room, Annville Free Library

Appendix 2. Katie Hollen's comments on consultants' deliverables

Email of Jan. 6, 2026

Hey Mike,

I skimmed the NFWF deliverables and have a couple comments-

- HOA Postcard_for printer.pdf - Personally, if we have a photo where I'm not making a weird face, I think that would be nice
- QWA Monitoring Program_for email.pdf (&for printer version) - The map shows unimpaired reaches. My guess is it shows recreational impairments. I think to be consistent with what we say on the brochure (which is that 100% of the stream miles are impaired), the map should include all impairment uses, and should thus show the whole watershed as impaired.
 - This comment applies to some of the maps in the "mapping" folder, as well
- QWA Volunteer PDs_final draft.pdf - for data management, time commitment says "Time Commitment: Ranges from 12 hours/month." That is not a range.
- General note- I recall discussion about replacing some of the stock photos with photos of Bob with a laptop or something. I think that is a good idea. But, if we don't have good photos, you can make mockups on Canva using stock photos that you can personalize. Examples-

