QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Community Room, Annville Free Library, and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Present: Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Bill Bauersfeld, Alexis Biondi, Willy Bixler, Matthew Chesser, Joseph Connor, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Katie Hollen, Jackie Line, Kara Lubold, Bill Osburn, Gary Zelinske, with special guests Reese Goodlin and Kristen Heberlig of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the July 21, 2026 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus. They are housed, along 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.** Katie reported that October will see our next round of routine water quality monitoring.
   - **B. Equipment updates**
     - **1) Multiparameter sonde.** Bob reported that he submitted on behalf of the QWA a proposal to Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited Treasurer Willie Bixler for repair of DFTU's multiparameter sonde, as follows:
       - DP Sensor Cap Replacement (2), total : $500
       - Turbidity sensor (standard), total : $400
       - pH Sensor Replacement Module (unguarded), total: $245
       - pH Sensor Replacement Module (guarded), total $245
       - TOTAL: $1,390

       Joseph responded that the DFTU Board will discuss this proposal at its meeting next Tuesday. Bob was thanked for his excellent work.
     - **2) Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that the Solinst sensors continue to record data at five of our monitoring sites and upload that data directly into our Water Quality Portal.
     - **3) ISCO auto-samplers.** Ready to deploy with a weather forecast for a rain event of 1-2 inches
   - **C. Data Management & Water Quality Portal.** Bob was again commended for his excellent work updating our Water Quality Portal, linked from the Monitoring page of our website, direct link https://quittiedata.org/
   - **D. Macroinvertebrate Sampling Raw Data.** No update.

3. **Special Meeting on GrowCon's Recommendations.** Notes on this Aug 5 meeting appear below in these minutes in **Appendix 1**.

4. **Potential project & site visit to AC Commons property on Quittie mainstem in Annville.** Mike reported that after an extensive email exchange, a site visit to discuss this potential project is scheduled for 11 am tomorrow, Wed Aug 19. The most salient parts of that email exchange are reproduced below in these minutes in **Appendix 2.**

5. **Presentation by special guests Reese Goodlin and Kristen Heberlig of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.** Reese and Kristen kindly offered a presentation on the CBF's Pennsylvania Watershed Resiliency Program, at https://www.cbf.org/programs/watershed-resiliency-program/ Also presented was a sheet titled "2026 Grant Funding Opportunities" describing its "Buffer Bonus Voucher Program" and the "NFWF SWG Resilient Farms" program. Reese and Kristen were thanked for reaching out and for making us aware of these important funding opportunities.

6. **Updates, Insights & Data Analysis from Bill Osburn.** See **Appendix 3.** Bill was thanked for his excellent work on these data & graphs.

7. **LCCD Watershed Action Team.** Did not meet in August; no report.

8. **Projects updates.** No update.

9. **Media & website.** Mike reported that added to the QWA website's homepage the 8-minute video created by Bob for tabling and other events, with the following text:

   "*For a captivating 8-minute aerial tour of the entire 22-mile length of Quittapahilla Creek using Google Earth, starting at the Quittie's headwaters on Lebanon's east side and ending at the confluence with the Swattie, click here. This promotional video was produced & shared thanks to the kind courtesy of QWA member Bob Connell."*

   Mike further reported that he continues to post on Facebook about the QWA's monitoring program and continues to keep the website updated.

10. **Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates.** Bryan reported that planning for the Consortium's future projects remains largely in limbo as a result of PA-DEP's delays in finalizing the terms of the current round of MS4 / NPDES permits, and that one consequence of the delay is considerable frustration on the part of the Consortium's members.

11. **Education, outreach & special events.**

A. **Envisioning a Ghost Landscape: Guided Walking Tour of Quittie Creek Nature Park, 4-6 PM Tues Sept 15.** Mike reported that he will lead a guided walking tour of Quittie Creek Nature Park as part of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's Clean Water Week (Sept. 12-19; see https://lebanonvalleyconservancy.org/cleanwaterweek/); the event is posted on the Friends of Old Annville website, at https://www.fooa.org/events.

B. **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's Lebanon Valley Clean Water Week, Sept. 12-19.** For the full list of events, see TLVC's website at https://lebanonvalleyconservancy.org/cleanwaterweek/

C. **Possible field trips** to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1. Notes on Special Meeting to Discuss Grow Con's Recommendations.

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Special Meeting Minutes — DRAFT

Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD) Conference Room and remotely on Zoom

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Background Material

1. This meeting was called to discuss and reach consensus on a path forward regarding Grow Conservation's four "recommendations" for the QWA, reproduced [in the July 21 meeting minutes]
2. Before the meeting, Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting drafted and submitted a 7-page "Response to GrowCon's Comments and Recommendations," focusing on recommendations no. 2 and 3. That document is reproduced below in **Appendix 1.2.**
3. Also before the meeting, Karen Feather prepared a 1-page document on the "Pros & Cons of Incorporating as a 501c3 Organization" that Mike distributed at the meeting. That document is reproduced below in **Appendix 1.3.**
4. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of the QWA and TLVC on 17 July 2019, updating a previous MOU dating back to 2002. That 2019 MOU is reproduced below in **Appendix 1.4.**

Present: Michael Schroeder (QWA President), Alexis Biondi (QWA and TLVC), Bob Connell, Tim Greene, Abigail Harvey (TLVC), Katie Hollen (LCCD and QWA), Kara Lubold (LCCD and QWA), Bill Osburn, Rocky Powell (Clear Creeks Consulting), Rich Starr (Ecosystem Planning & Restoration)

The meeting opened at 10:00 AM

1. After a round of introductions, Mike summarized the main purpose of the meeting, summarized above.

2. **Recommendation No. 1 on "Liability Protection."**
   - **A.** Mike shared Karen Feather's conclusion that it would be exceedingly unlikely that QWA leaders would be held legally liable for the kinds of routine actions it currently undertakes, like water quality monitoring. Karen suggested that having volunteers sign a liability waiver releasing the QWA and its members from liability would be sufficient to shield the organization and its members from legal liability. She asked her cousin John Feather, Esq., to draft such a liability waiver form.
   - **B.** Mike asked Abigail if the QWA and its members could be covered under TLVC's liability insurance for routine activities like water quality monitoring. Abigail responded that she would inquire with the TLVC Board.

3. **Recommendations Nos. 2 and 3 on "Stimulate Competitive Environment for Project Work" and "Consider Alternatives to In-Stream Focus."** After brief discussion, consensus was reached that these recommendations do not apply to the QWA and its work, and that Grow Conservation evidently did not fully understand its history or practices in these spheres. Rocky summarized the main points of his 7-page document and was thanked for his excellent and very helpful summary of the past quarter-century of his involvement with the QWA's work.

4. **Recommendation No. 4, "Consider Scalability of Current Business Model."** Most of the meeting focused on this item.
   - **A.** After discussion, consensus was reached that instead of becoming a standalone 501c3 organization, with all of the expenses and obligations that such a status would entail, it would better serve the QWA's interests to become an affiliated partner with TLVC by updating and expanding its existing MOU.
   - **B.** Assuming that the TLVC Board would be amenable to the QWA becoming an affiliated

partner, consensus was also reached that:

1) The QWA should develop a Charter that clearly defines its mission, leadership structure, and the roles played by key leaders.
2) Those key leaders should consist, at minimum, of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Alexis Biondi kindly agreed to serve as Treasurer. Mike noted that for many years starting in the early 2000s under Dave Lasky's leadership, the QWA has held, and still holds, a bank account under TLVC's name.
3) The QWA should update its fictitious name as registered with the PA Dept of State as Entity No. 2800037, "Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association," first registered on Feb. 12, 1998, under its owner, Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc.
4) Mike should draft and make available a "Turnover Document" that describes all the various activities that he routinely undertakes as QWA president.
5) The QWA website should be migrated from Mike's hard drive, where it currently lives using Microsoft Web Expression 4.0 software, to a cloud-based platform (like GoDaddy or Squarespace) that can be accessed and edited by multiple people.

C. Abigail responded that she is excited about the prospect of the QWA formalizing its relationship with TLVC as an affiliated partner, and that she will bring these suggestions & recommendations to the TLVC Board for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder

Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1.2. Rocky Powell, "Response to GrowCon's Comments and Recommendations"

A Response to GrowCon's Comments and Recommendations
Prepared by Rocky Powell, Clear Creeks Consulting LLC

GrowCon - Comment and Recommendations #2 - Stimulate Competitive Environment for Project Work

From GrowCon's understanding of the watershed assessment and restoration work being facilitated historically and presently by QWA, it appears that one or a couple consulting firms primarily guide and then execute the work. GrowCon recommends that QWA consider engaging a broader range of consulting professionals to generate an influx of fresh ideas and potential for new approaches. Creation of a competitive work environment for project implementation could result in cost savings, enhanced quality, and more options for the timing of projects. Implementing a competitive bidding process is also typically a requirement of granting entities.

Response to GrowCon's Comments and Recommendations

- Historically and presently the watershed assessment and restoration work has been facilitated by QWA and their Watershed Partners - The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited, Swatara Watershed Association, Lebanon County Conservation District and Lebanon Valley College. From 1997 to 2000 their efforts focused primarily on encouraging landowners to establish riparian buffers, fencing out livestock and installing livestock crossings. Since 2001 their efforts have expanded to include watershed and stream reach assessment and stream, riparian and in-stream habitat restoration work.
- The consulting firms working with the Partners have included Clear Creeks Consulting LLC, Skelly & Loy, Inc., Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, Inc., Steckbeck Engineering and Surveying, Inc., Spring Hill Partners, LandStudies, Inc. and Aquatic Resource Restoration Company.
- Of these firms, Clear Creeks Consulting has been working with the Partners the longest.
  - In 2000, Rocky Powell, Clear Creeks Owner was invited by QWA and the Lebanon County Conservation District to conduct an assessment of the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed and develop a restoration and management plan focused on addressing the problems identified by the assessment.
  - In 2001 the QWA sponsored by the Swatara Watershed Association (SWA) contracted Clear Creeks Consulting to provide these professional services.

1

  - Clear Creeks assembled and lead an interdisciplinary team that included Skelly & Loy, Inc.; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office; Penn State Institutes of the Environment, Pennsylvania State University; Lebanon Valley College Department of Biology; and U.S. Geological Survey, New Cumberland Field Office.
  - Supported by Growing Greener Grants received from PADEP in 2001 and 2003, the Assessment Phase of Quittapahilla Watershed Project was completed between 2001 and 2005. The Planning Phase was completed between 2005 and 2006 and produced Quittapahilla Watershed Restoration and Management Plan (2006).
- As the Partners moved forward implementing projects identified in the Restoration and Management Plan they found that the competition for limited statewide funding was the major obstacle hindering their restoration efforts.
  - The QWA determined that they would seek other funding sources. In order to qualify for 319 funding, they decided to prepare the USEPA required Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).
  - In 2017 QWA requested that Clear Creeks prepare the WIP. Contracted by The Lebanon Valley Conservancy and funded by a Growing Greener grant Clear Creeks prepared and submitted the Draft WIP document for USEPA and PADEP review and approval on September 7, 2018.
  - USEPA and PADEP comments were received in September 2020. Minor revisions to the document were made to address their comments and the Updated WIP was submitted on January 27, 2021. PADEP informed the Watershed Association and their partners that the WIP had been approved by USEPA on March 3, 2021.
- Between 2006 and 2018 QWA requested Clear Creeks provide design, permitting and construction management services for restoration projects contracted by their Partners - Swatara Watershed Association, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy and Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited.
- Starting in 2021 Clear Creeks successfully competed for a regionally advertised Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited to provide On-Call Environmental Assessment, Design and Construction Management Services. In 2024 Clear Creeks again successfully competed for an On-Call Environmental Assessment, Design and Construction Management Services Contract with Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited.

2. Consider Alternatives to In-Stream Focus

The Quittie and its tributaries have impairments due to a variety of stressors, including nutrients, sediment, and pathogens. To date, QWA has largely focused its restoration of the watershed on in-stream or channel restoration projects. Such in-stream projects will primarily act to improve only one of these three stressor categories – that being sediment load. In-stream restoration is not an effective approach to reducing nutrient load or pathogens. In addition, in-stream restoration is an extremely costly form of watershed restoration due to the very high engineering design, permitting and construction costs.

GrowCon recommends that QWA begin to integrate alternative watershed restoration practices into its initiatives, such as riparian buffer plantings and land use best management practices (BMPs) (e.g., cover crops, nutrient management plans, livestock fencing). For one, riparian buffer plantings and BMPs will more directly affect the nutrient and pathogen loads to the waterways. Additionally, these types of practices are far more cost-effective than in-stream restoration. Lastly, there are a variety of funding and outreach partners available for collaboration on these practices. QWA need only look to its neighbors, the Lancaster Clean Water Partners, to see a successful model of these approaches. A focus on these types of land-based measures should result in measurable improvements in the Quittie watershed, which in-stream restoration alone is unlikely to accomplish.

<u>Response to GrowCon's Comments and Recommendations</u>

- Historical Perspective
  - The Quittapahilla Watershed Restoration and Management Plan (2006) included BMPs identified for controlling runoff from urban land and agricultural land, as well as projects focused on stream, floodplain, riparian and in-stream habitat restoration along the mainstem Quittapahilla Creek and its major tributaries.
  - The Plan recommended the following three-pronged approach to the Watershed Restoration:
    - Consistent with their overall mission and restoration goals for the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed, QWA would spearhead the stream/riparian and in-stream habitat restoration efforts as they had since 1997.
    - After early meetings with Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD) and USDA-NRCS staff it was agreed that as the experts on farming operations and agricultural BMPs these agencies would take the lead on implementing agricultural water quality BMPs.
    - After early meetings with the City of Lebanon DPW, Lebanon County Planning Department and several Township representatives it was agreed that City of

Lebanon and the other Townships in the watershed would move forward with implementation of the urban water quality BMPs as well as updating their stream, wetland and floodplain protection regulations.

- The Lebanon County Conservation District and USDA-NRCS had been and continue to work actively with farmers to implement agricultural water quality BMPs.
- At the time the Restoration and Management Plan was prepared, deadlines for meeting MS4 requirements were still years away for the City of Lebanon and the other Townships in the watershed.
- Undeterred, the QWA resolved to move forward with implementation of the stream restoration projects and a few of the stormwater BMPs identified in their Restoration and Management Plan.
- QWA was determined to expand their efforts to include full scale stream, riparian and in-stream habitat restoration. They began by targeting restoration projects and two stormwater BMPs along the mainstem Quittapahilla Creek.
  - Utilizing Growing Greener and Fish and Boat Commission Grants, Clear Creeks and Skelly & Loy were contracted by the Swatara Watershed Association to design and permit the Quittie Creek Nature Park Stream Restoration Project and Regional Stormwater BMP 3.
  - Work on design and permitting both projects was moving forward smoothly with verbal approvals of the final design plans for both projects from LCCD, PADEP, USF&WS, USACOE reviewers.
  - In anticipation of obtaining permits shortly thereafter, applications for construction grants were submitted to PADEP.
  - The construction grant application prompted DEP to contact QWA requesting a meeting to discuss the stormwater BMP.
    - During this meeting DEP staff indicated that although they had funded design and permitting for both projects, they had decided that they would not fund the construction of BMP 3.
    - They indicated that QWA should not be pursuing urban BMP projects that the City and Townships should be responsible for implementing.
    - They specifically directed QWA and their Partners to focus their efforts on stream, riparian and in-stream habitat restoration projects.

- Technical Perspective
  - Restoration measures were selected for their potential to reduce loadings of sediment and nutrients, correct channel instability, and improve in-stream habitat problems and include two major types of measures.
  - *Source-Based Measures* focus on upland problem areas and include implementation of agricultural best management practices such as crop rotation, cover crops, conservation tillage and residue management, strip cropping/contour

farming, terraces and diversions, nutrient management, grazing land management; installation of quality and quantity management facilities for controlling urban storm water runoff, construction of wetlands in floodplain areas to increase valley storage, reduce the erosive effects of flood waters, and create wildlife habitat. Referring back to the three-pronged approach to addressing the problems identified in the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed implementation Plan all of these types of measures fall under the purview of LCCD and NRCS and the City and Townships.

- *Stream-Based Measures* focus on stream channel problems and include installation of stream bank fencing and livestock crossings to limit the impacts associated with livestock grazing; modifications to bridges and culverts to reduce effects on flood conveyance and sediment transport capacity; removal of fish barriers; restoration of stable channel form, stream bed and bank stabilization utilizing grade control and flow diversion structures; improving in-stream habitat by incorporating habitat structures using native materials into channel restoration; removal of flood berms or lowering of stream banks to reconnect a channel to its floodplain; establishing riparian buffers. Implementation of these types of measures fall under the purview of the Watershed Partners.
- Meeting Total Targeted TMDL goals for the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed will be accomplished by implementing restoration and management measures focused on controlling urban and agricultural runoff, as well as stream channel and floodplain restoration. The restoration and management measures utilized fall into four categories; 1) TMDL Stream Restoration; 2) MS4 Stream Restoration; 3) MS4 Urban BMPs and 4) Agricultural BMPs.
- The Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Restoration and Management Plan (2006) and the Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Implementation Plan (2021) provide a detailed summary of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loadings and the sources of these pollutants. They also provide a detailed summary of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loading reductions by each of the four restoration and management measures as well as the combined benefit of all four working in concert.

• Directly Addressing GrowCon's Recommendation Regarding Riparian Buffer Plantings

- Riparian Buffers are an integral component of the Watershed Partners restoration efforts. As such they have been and will continue to be included in every stream and floodplain restoration project.
- Stream restoration refers to a broad spectrum of activities. With increasing levels of complexity and work effort these activities can include riparian buffer plantings, in-stream habitat improvements, streambank stabilization, stream channel reconfiguration to reestablish meanders along previously channelized reaches, stream channel relocation/reconfiguration and floodplain restoration.

- For some of the projects identified in the Plans that guide their efforts restoration will involve the "natural recovery" approach. This involves removing the impacting activity, preventing future impacts and allowing natural processes to heal the damaged stream. For example, along stream reaches impacted by intensive livestock grazing where the streambanks have been trampled and the channel is over wide and filled with fine sediments streambank fencing, installation of livestock crossings and riparian plantings may be the most appropriate approach to restoring that stream reach. During my reconnaissance surveys and mapping of the 65 miles of tributaries in 2003, I personally observed the benefits of this approach where the QWA had worked with landowners to implement it. The "restored reach" exhibited a narrow stable, well vegetated channel with a coarse cobble and gravel streambed and deep pools. While the upstream and downstream reaches where no fencing had been installed were many times wider, poorly vegetated mud flats with shallow or no pools and a streambed composed of fine sediments and organic muck. The natural recovery approach would fit at the lowest level of intervention required and accordingly the lowest cost for design, permitting and construction.
- The detailed geomorphic assessments conducted along every reach proposed for restoration documents the existing conditions and informs the level of intervention required.
- Where stream reaches exhibit tight meander bends and/or severe and active bank erosion the level of intervention required will be greater. That is the case with many of the stream reaches identified along the tributaries in the Quittapahilla Creek watershed. Planting a riparian buffer along these reaches will result in the trees and shrubs being undercut and falling into the channel, creating debris jams and accelerating the erosion process with little benefit derived from the effort.
- The geomorphic assessments also include an evaluation of the existing bank conditions and erosion rates with estimates of annual sediment and nutrient loadings. Along the stream reaches assessed in the Quittapahilla Creek watershed tributaries sediment loadings have been estimated to be in excess of 100 – 300 tons of sediment per year. How can anyone can seriously suggest that correcting these conditions is not a worthwhile activity or not relevant to the overall watershed restoration effort.
- I strongly recommend that the QWA and the Watershed Partners continue to support the three-pronged approach and maintain the legacy that your organization began in 1997. Due to the tremendous efforts of the Watershed Partners, between 2013 and 2025, 11,090 feet of Quittapahilla Creek, Beck Creek, and Snitz Creek stream channel and floodplain restoration projects were designed, permitted and constructed. Construction of Beck Creek 6 and Creek 2 were completed in 2025. Snitz Creek 3 is currently under construction. An additional

7,220 feet of restoration projects along Snitz Creek, Bachman Run and Killinger Creek are currently awaiting construction funding or in the restoration design and permitting phase. All together these projects will result in 18,310 feet of restored stream channel. In addition, 10.87 acres of wetlands and more than 25 acres of riparian buffers will have been established.

Appendix 1.3. Pros & Cons of Incorporating as a 501c3 Organization
Quittapahilla Watershed Association
Drafted by Karen Feather
August 5, 2026

PROS	**CONS**
Legitimacy with potential donors & grantees; ability to raise funds	Expense: - Startup $125 to PA Dept of State - Startup $275 to IRS - Startup labor: est. 100 hours - $1,300 estimated annual liability insurance for officers - Annual reporting requirement
Autonomy	Liability as a standalone entity
Leadership shielded from liability	Reliance on multiple volunteers to dedicate time to administrative functions: minimum of president, secretary & treasurer
	Fundraising required to meet additional expenses

Appendix 1.4. Memorandum of Understanding between the QWA and TLVC, 17 July 2019.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc. & Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association

Whereas, **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** hold as its mission, the preservation of the unique cultural, historical and environmental heritage of our region for the benefit of present and future generations; and

Whereas, the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** holds as its mission to improve water quality; to promote watershed stewardship by working with land owners to improve the management of streams on their properties, and to make the public aware of the environmental impact of non-profit source pollution through the media as well as programs in the schools; and

Whereas, the cooperation of these two organization will provide mutual benefits derived from the different strengths each group brings to facilitate the enhancement of the Quittapahilla watershed;

Therefore, **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** does hereby agree to embrace the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** as a working partner and to provide administrative assistance where plausible. It is the desire of both organizations that **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** will be the financial conduit for funds that will be maintained for the joint watershed projects entered into by the aforementioned two parties. The mailing address of the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** is 189 School House Lane, Annville, PA 17003 and the watershed association files will be maintained at this location.

And further, the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** shall provide monthly reports that reflect the activities of any grants or other joint activities of the two groups to **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** Board of Directors, and present project proposals for the review and approval of **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** Board of Directors.

Proposed grants where **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** will be asked to be the sponsoring partner shall be coordinated by the following procedure and guidelines.

- **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** will be given the first right of refusal for any project. If **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** does not have the capacity to sponsor the grant, the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** will ask other partners to sponsor.
- In advance of **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy**'s monthly meeting, the **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** will provide the grant details including:

⇒ Dollar Amount of the grant and whether administrative cost can be included.
⇒ Marching fund requirements, both cash and in-kind
⇒ Application due date and start and finish dates for the grant period
⇒ Work required, copy of grant proposal and who will be responsible for the tasks.

- Once reviewed, accepted and approved by **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy** Board of Directors, the Conservancy will contact **Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association** in writing.

Signed this 17th day of July 2019.

Edward B. Gibble

Edward Gibble, President
The Lebanon Valley Conservancy

Michael Schroeder
Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association

Original MOU signed 2002. Revised and Approved July 2019.

Appendix 2. Compilation of emails and meeting notes on potential project & setting up a site visit to AC Commons property on Quittie mainstem in Annville

Email correspondence to date
Compiled by Michael Schroeder, QWA President
July 28, 2026, updated August 5

SUBJECT: Request for joint site evaluation and funding partnership – Quittapahilla Creek at 1236 E. Main Street, Annville

From Jordan Johnson to Michael Schroeder
Wed July 22, 2026

Hello,

My name is Jordan Johnson, and I am the owner or authorized property representative for the commercial complex at 1236 E. Main Street, Annville, PA 17003, commonly known as AC Commons.

I have already personally invested approximately $25,000 in cleaning up and improving the area along Quittapahilla Creek. The site currently supports free public fishing access, and I am willing to continue providing designated access and free parking under a safe,clearly defined arrangement. I would also consider a hand-carry kayak access point if the stream conditions, engineering, insurance, and permitting support it.

The property now needs a professionally planned project addressing streambank restoration and the creek itself. I am requesting a joint site visit and project-development discussion for potential work including:

- Streambank stabilization and erosion reduction
- In-stream fish and aquatic-habitat improvements
- Floodplain or riparian restoration where feasible
- Native trees, shrubs, and invasive-plant management
- Stormwater/outfall stabilization or treatment
- Safe angler access from the parking area
- Public fishing-access improvements and educational signage
- Feasibility of a safe hand-carry paddling access point
- Pre-project assessment and post-project monitoring

Because an individual commercial landowner may not be eligible to serve as the applicant for several of the strongest programs, I am specifically seeking a nonprofit or governmental partner

willing to evaluate the site, help define the scope, and determine the most suitable applicant and funding stack.

Please screen the site for Lebanon County Conservation District watershed cost-share and Countywide Action Plan funding, municipal MS4 partnership or sediment-reduction credit, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Tulpehocken/Quittapahilla Watershed Grant, Growing Greener or Section 319 opportunities, DCNR rivers/recreation funding, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, NFWF Chesapeake Bay funding, Coldwater Heritage or Trout Unlimited support, and other appropriate programs.

I can provide property records, a site survey if available, photographs, an estimated creek-frontage length, documentation of prior investment, storm and erosion photographs, public-access information, and access for a site inspection. I understand that prior expenses may not be reimbursable and will not count them as grant match unless a funding agency approves them in writing.

Please identify a lead contact and propose dates for a joint site walk. I would also appreciate confirmation of whether the site can be considered for an upcoming Quittapahilla watershed project pipeline and who could serve as the eligible grant sponsor.

Thank you,

Jordan Johnson
AC Commons
1236 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003

Mike's response, Wed July 22

Hello Jordan Johnson,

Thank you for your email. I am responding from my primary email account wearing my hat as President of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association. In brief, what you propose sounds intriguing and doable. In fact, my friends and LVC colleages John Hinshaw and Ivette Guzman-Zavala live just a couple doors down from your property at 1112 East Main St, a property that includes a substantial parcel across the Quittie, and I'm confident that they would also be interested in collaborating with the project you are envisioning.

Let me reach out to John, Ivette, and our QWA members and partners, including the good folks in the Leb Co Conservation District, and we'll see if we can arrange a time for a site visit. You probably know that the deadline for the most recent round of DEP Growing Greener grants just ended at the tail end of June, but there's other pots of money we might tap into.

We in the QWA look forward to connecting. Meantime please use this email address instead of my Yahoo address to which you sent your initial email.

Yours for a healthier watershed,

Mike

Michael Schroeder
President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association
https://www.quittiecreek.org/

Jordan Johnson to Michael Schroeder
Sunday, July 26, 2026

Hi Mike,

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I really appreciate your thoughtful reply and your willingness to explore this opportunity.

I'm encouraged to hear that you believe the project is both intriguing and doable. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, John, Ivette, members of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association, and the Lebanon County Conservation District for a site visit whenever it is convenient.

My goal extends well beyond improving my own property. I would like to create a project that serves the watershed, improves fish habitat and stream health, enhances public access where appropriate, and demonstrates what can be accomplished when private landowners and conservation organizations work together. If we can leverage grants and other funding sources to maximize the impact, I am fully supportive of that approach.

I understand the Growing Greener deadline has passed, but I'm encouraged to hear there are other funding opportunities we may be able to pursue. I am committed to being patient and working through the process correctly if it results in a better long-term outcome.

Please let me know what dates work best for everyone, and I'll make myself available.

Best regards,
Jordan Johnson

Reply of Jeffrey Schmid, PA Fish & Boat Commission
July 27, 2026

Hello All,

As the Watershed Restoration Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Creek Watersheds Enhancement Grant Program, I have read your email inquiry and proposed project for improvements in and along Quittapahilla Creek on the Jordan Johnson property at 1236 E. Main Street, Annville, PA 17003. The types of proposed improvements for aquatic habitat and public stream access for recreational fishing and boating are eligible for grant funding through this Commission grant program. Based on my review of an aerial photograph, there are approximately 170 linear feet of stream frontage along the stream for this property.

As Mr. Schroeder has suggested, nearby property owners John Hinshaw and Ivette Guzman-Zavala may also be interested in making similar improvement to their property that will benefit the fishery and public recreation. I encourage your contact of these and other landowners along this section of Quittapahilla Creek. A longer section of proposed stream improvement, with its commensurate aquatic habitat and recreation benefits, will make a future grant application more attractive for funding consideration by the agency's project review committee.

For additional information, please see the following webpage: Apply for the Tulpehocken/Quittapahilla Watershed Grant | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania<https://www.pa.gov/services/fishandboat/tulpehocken-quittapahilla-watershed-grant>

I am interested in a site visit to see the proposed project area and would appreciate being included in your scheduling of such a site meeting.

Thank you!

Jeffrey S. Schmid | Fisheries Biologist
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission | Division of Habitat Management
595 East Rolling Ridge Drive | Bellefonte, PA 16823
Office: 814.359.5242

Mike's response to Jeffrey Schmid
July 27, 2026

Dear Jeffrey,

Thank you for your encouraging response. We look forward to being in touch soon to figure out the best time for a site visit,

Mike

Michael Schroeder
President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association
https://www.quittiecreek.org/

Jordan Johnson follow-up email directed to Annville Township
SUBJECT: Urgent sewer infrastructure inspection request - 1236 E Main Street
Mon July 27, 2026

Hello,

I am following up on the Quittapahilla Creek restoration request for AC Commons at 1236 E. Main Street, Annville.

Creek-bank erosion is affecting the area around an exposed sanitary sewer manhole and is threatening the associated sewer main, which I understand is approximately 10 feet deep. The facilities appear to be part of the public collection system, but I am requesting written confirmation rather than assuming ownership.

Please arrange the earliest available field inspection involving Annville Township Public Works and the Township Authority to document the condition and determine whether emergency or interim stabilization is necessary.

Please also confirm or provide:

1. Ownership and maintenance responsibility for the manhole and main, including whether any portion is a private lateral.
2. Manhole IDs, upstream and downstream structures, line alignment, pipe diameter, material, depth or invert elevations, and installation date.
3. Available as-built drawings, utility maps, profiles, easements, recorded plans, inspection/CCTV records, maintenance history, and emergency-response records for this reach.
4. The emergency contact and procedure if additional bank loss, pipe movement, leakage, or structural distress occurs.

5. Whether the Township or Authority will consider serving as public sponsor or applicant for USACE CAP Section 14, PENNVEST, statewide LSA, CFA water/sewer or flood funding, and Lebanon County CAP/MS4 funding.
6. Whether this project can be added to the Township or Authority capital plan, MS4 pollutant-reduction planning, and county hazard-mitigation planning.

I am not requesting authorization to excavate, place rock, alter the channel, or perform regulated stream work without the required approvals. I can provide immediate site access and current photographs.

Please treat the records portion of this email as a public-records request or advise which Township form is required.

Thank you,

Jordan Johnson
AC Commons
1236 E. Main Street
Annville, PA 17003

Michael Schroeder to Jordan Johnson
SUBJECT:
Mon July 27, 2026

Hello Jordan,

I've taken the liberty of reaching out to several people about the project you described, including my friend & colleague and your neighbor at 1112 E Main St John Hinshaw; Hannah Hartman & Katie Hollen at the Leb Co Conservation District; and Bryan Hoffman, Chair of Cleona Borough Authority and Cleona rep to the Leb Co Stormwater Consortium. Meantime, as you know we received an encouraging response from Jeffrey Schmid of PA Fish & Boat.

To facilitate arranging an initial site visit, I've drafted the attached list that includes everyone I think should be invited. Please let me know if you'd like to be in touch with these folks to figure out the best time, or I'd be happy to do it.

What is your availability in August?

Thanks,

Mike

Michael Schroeder
QWA President
https://www.quittiecreek.org/

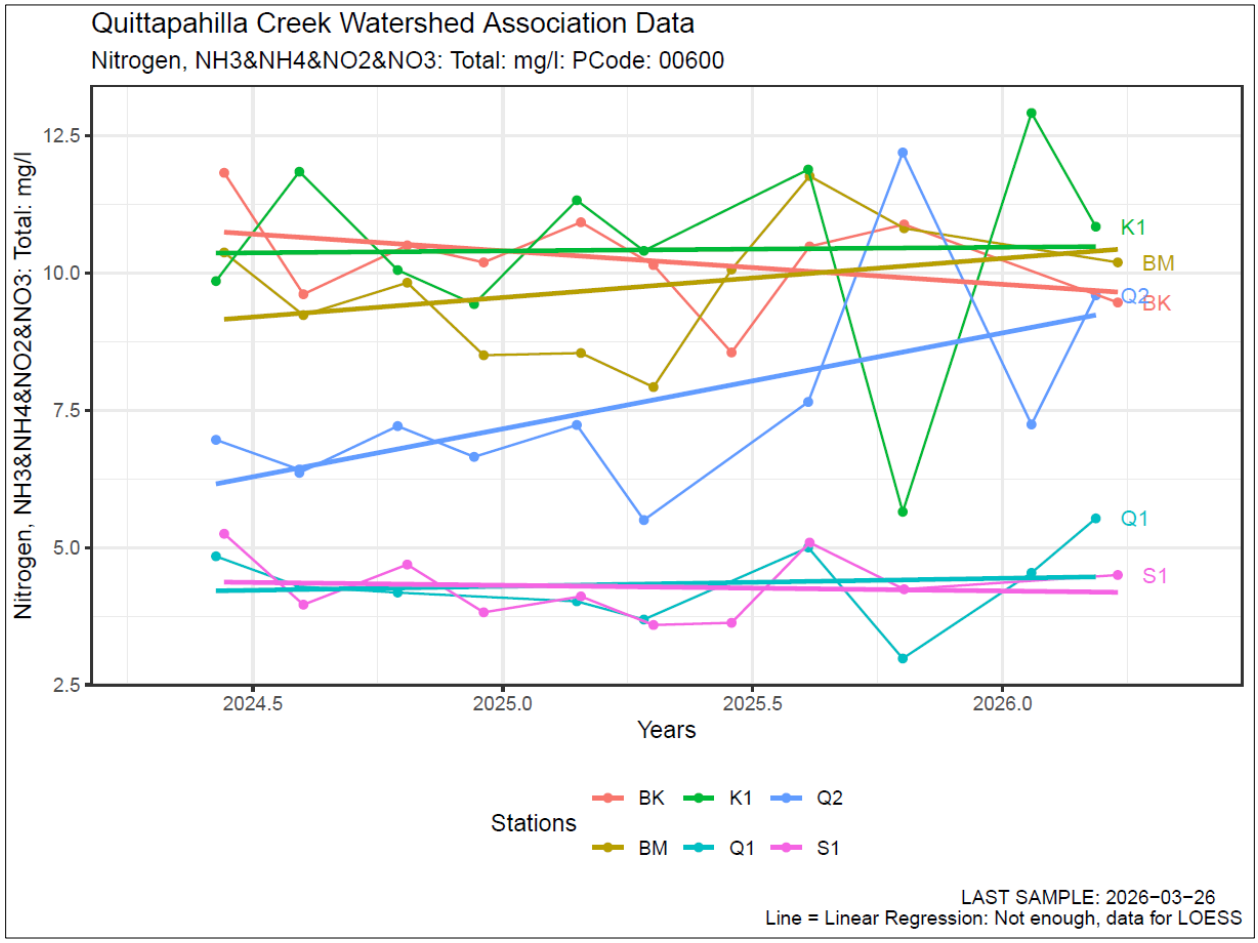
ATTACHMENT to the above email:

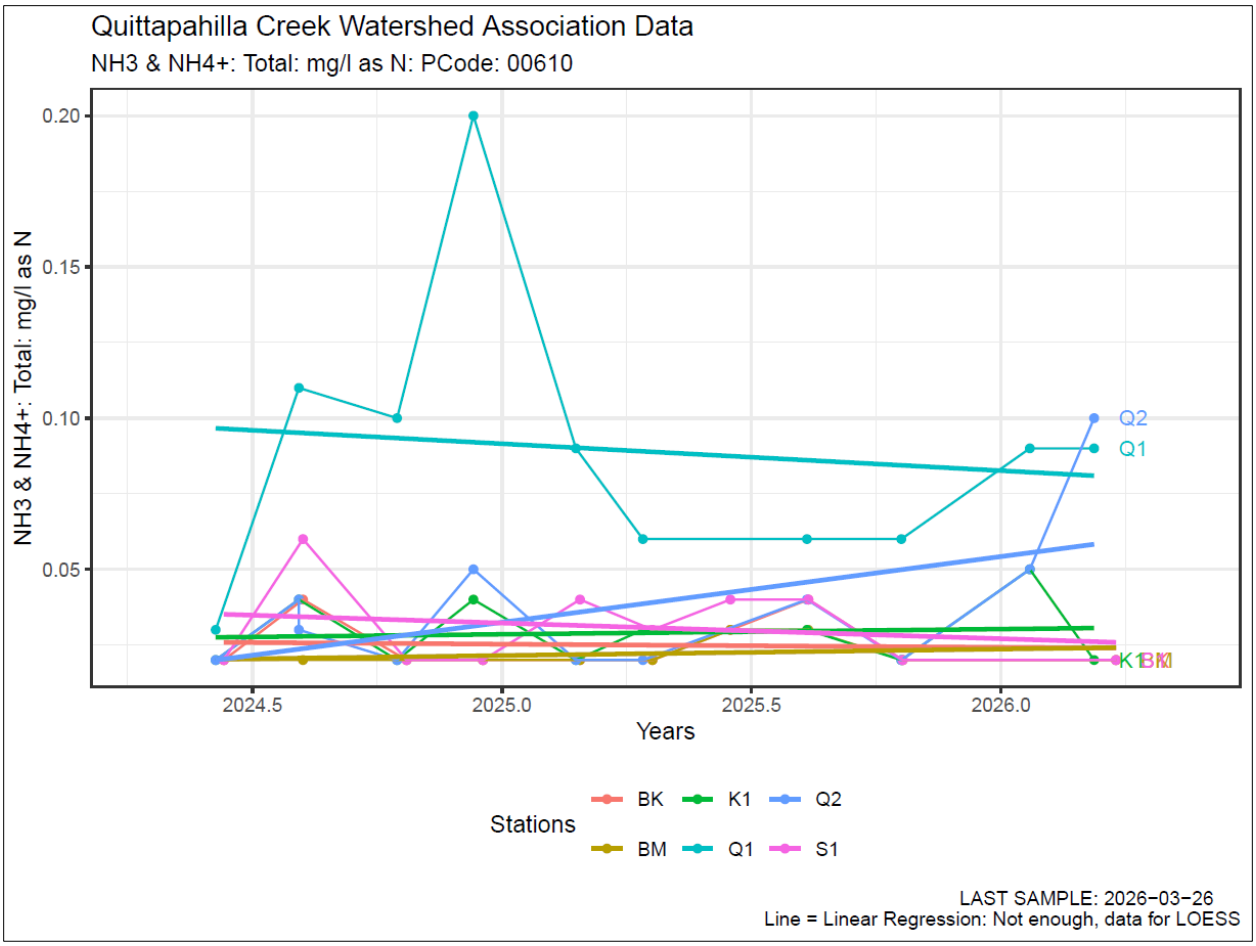
AC Commons Quittie Creek Improvement Project
Drafted by Michael Schroeder
July 28, 2026

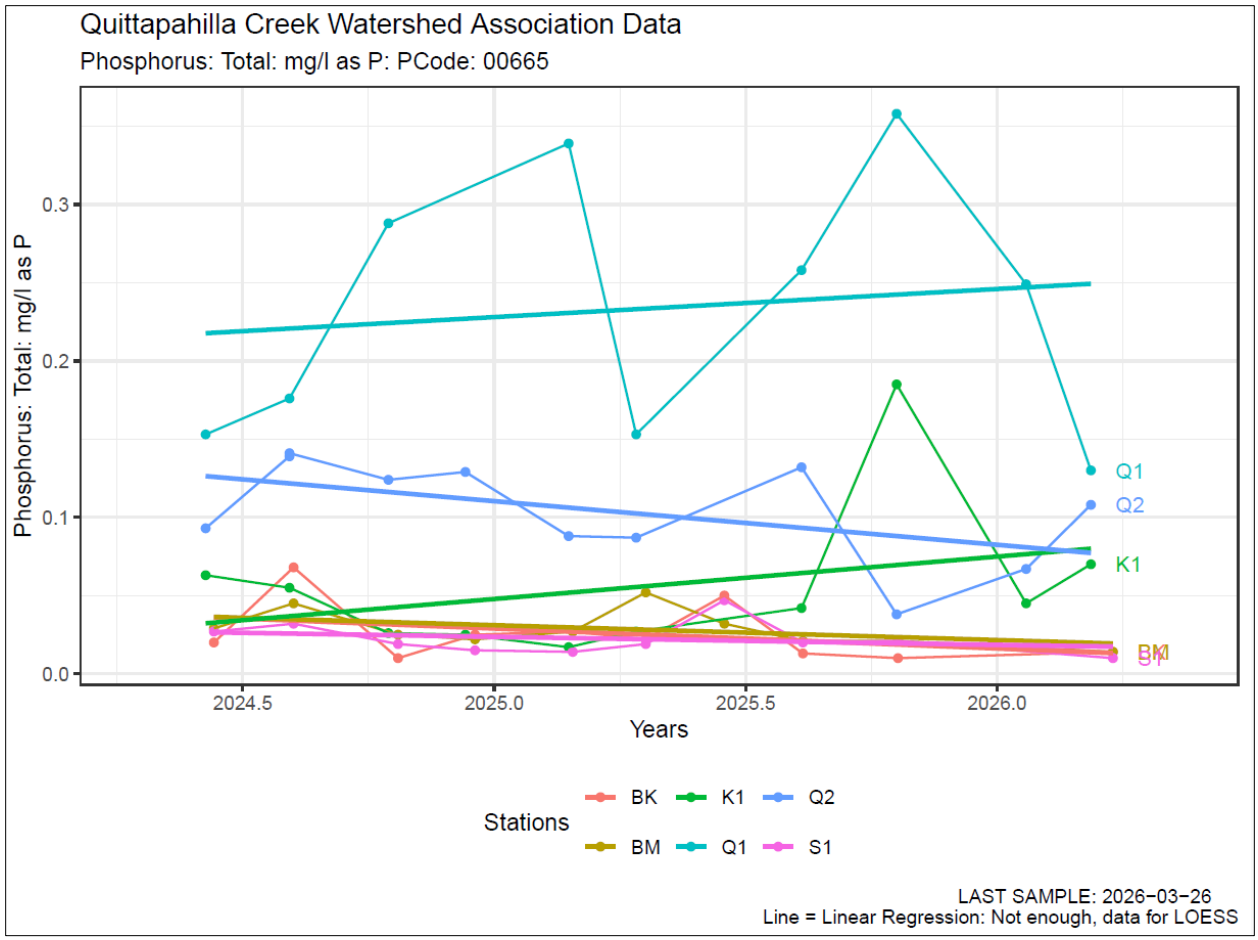
Suggested Initial Site Visit Invitees

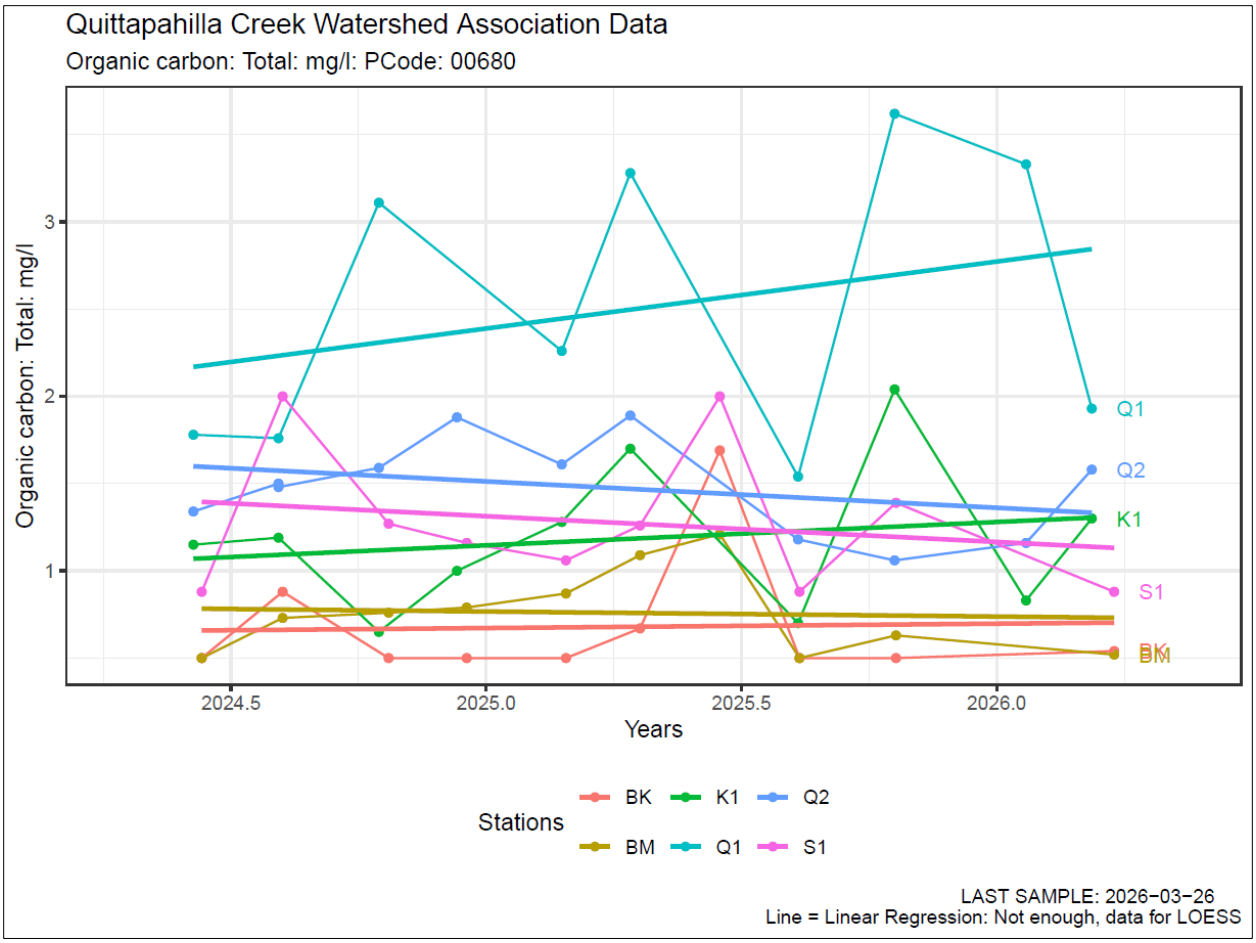
- Jordan Johnson, owner or authorized property representative for the commercial complex at 1236 E. Main Street, Annville, PA 17003, aka AC Commons
- Michael Schroeder, President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association
- Katie Hollen, Watershed Specialist, Lebanon County Conservation District
- John Hinshaw & Ivette Guzmán-Zavala, property owners, 1112 East Main St, Annville
- Jeffrey Schmid, Fisheries Biologist, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Division of Habitat Management, 595 East Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823, office 814.359.5242
- Anthony Perrotto, Annville Township Commissioner, and Les Powell, Annville Township Public Works
- Bryan Hoffman, Chair, Cleona Borough Authority and Cleona representative to the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium
- Rich DiStanislao, President, Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited
- Alexis Biondi, Board Member, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy
- Rich Starr and Bryan Seipp, Ecosystem Planning & Restoration, 8808 Centre Park Drive, Suite 205, Columbia, MD 21045, website www.eprusa.net

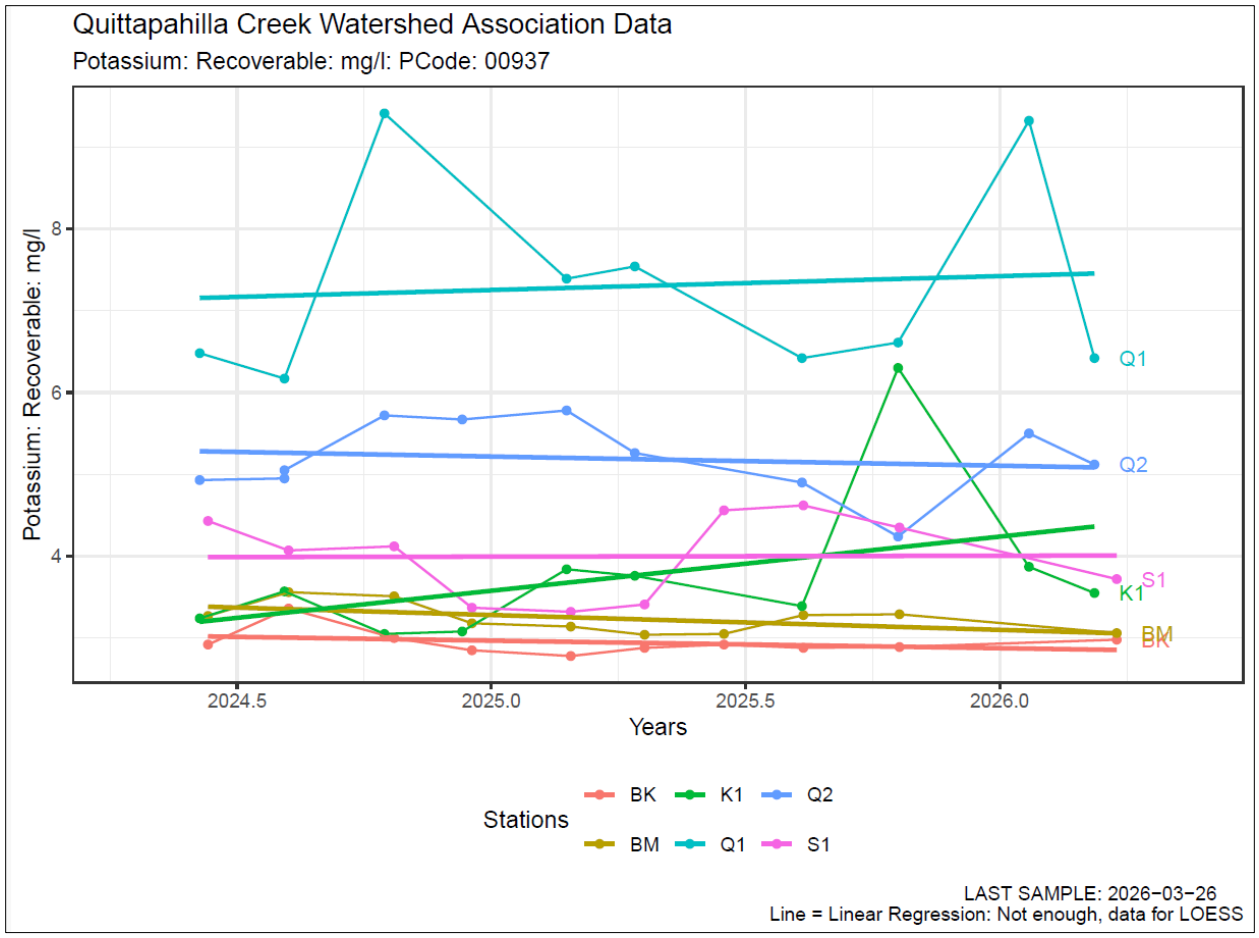
Appendix 3. Updates, Insights & Data Analysis from Bill Osburn




Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association Data
NH3 & NH4+: Total: mg/l as N: PCode: 00610
NH3 & NH4+: Total: mg/l as N
0.20
0.15
0.10
0.05
2024.5
2025.0
2025.5
2026.0
Years
Q2
Q1
K1
BK
BM
Stations
BK
K1
Q2
BM
Q1
S1
LAST SAMPLE: 2026-03-26
Line = Linear Regression: Not enough, data for LOESS


Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association Data
Phosphorus: Total: mg/l as P: PCode: 00665
Phosphorus: Total: mg/l as P
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
2024.5
2025.0
2025.5
2026.0
Years
Q1
Q2
K1
Stations
BK
K1
Q2
BM
Q1
S1
LAST SAMPLE: 2026-03-26
Line = Linear Regression: Not enough, data for LOESS


Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association Data
Organic carbon: Total: mg/l: PCode: 00680
Organic carbon: Total: mg/l
3
2
1
2024.5
2025.0
2025.5
2026.0
Years
Q1
Q2
K1
S1
BK
BM
Stations
BK
K1
Q2
BM
Q1
S1
LAST SAMPLE: 2026-03-26
Line = Linear Regression: Not enough, data for LOESS


Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association Data
Potassium: Recoverable: mg/l: PCode: 00937
Potassium: Recoverable: mg/l
8
6
4
2024.5
2025.0
2025.5
2026.0
Years
Q1
Q2
S1
K1
BM
BK
Stations
BK
K1
Q2
BM
Q1
S1
LAST SAMPLE: 2026-03-26
Line = Linear Regression: Not enough, data for LOESS