

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
November 19, 2015**

Present: Dave Lasky, Ann Lasky, Mike Schroeder, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Joe Connor, Alicia Norris, Perry Hilbert, Dee Neff, Gray Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

1. New visitors Perry Hilbert, Dee Neff, and Gray Johnson were offered a warm welcome to the Association's monthly meeting.
2. Dave provided an update on the Streambank Restoration Project. He noted that Rocky Powell will be meeting with landowners Jim Scott, Jeremy Paul, Stumpy Graham, Mike Schroeder, and Tom Yeakley on Saturday, December 4 to review a series of small revisions to the project. The projected timeline is for the work on Phase 2 to begin in mid-January, and to be completed by around mid-March.
3. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a broad-ranging discussion of the issue of riparian buffers. Dave offered the reminder that up to 2002, the QWA assisted in the installation of upwards of 55,000 feet of streambank fencing, but since 2002, with the change in the PA-DEP regulations stipulating that riparian buffers must be at least 50 feet wide, the QWA has not installed any new fencing. Alan noted that the NCRS (the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a branch of the US Department of Agriculture) specifies a minimum of 35 feet for riparian buffers, and that they recommend different widths and types of plantings depending on the purpose of the buffer (primarily to protect streambanks? To filter chemicals? To promote wildlife? Etc.
4. Alan suggested that the NCRS might know of farmers in the Quittapahilla watershed who might be interested in installing riparian buffers on their property, and that they in turn could serve as demonstration models for other farmers in the area who might wish to emulate their streambank projects. Alan further noted that past experience shows that when a few farmers install such riparian buffers, other farmers are more likely to participate. He
5. Kent noted that for most grant-funded projects, farmers would also need to put up matching funds. Perry Hilbert noted that maintenance is also crucial, and that it's important to keep weeds and weed trees in check. Karen asked the group to consider the question from the perspective of farmers, in particular, what is the benefit of riparian buffers and fencing from a farmer's perspective?
6. Alan offered to present to the Association his PowerPoint presentation on "Stream Restoration Techniques". It was suggested that the presentation be offered at the QWA's meeting of Thurs. January 21.
7. Perry Hilbert noted that the parcel of land owned by Lebanon County just downstream of the Hazel Dyke is littered with trash and debris, and that the County should clean it up.
8. Joe brought to the Association's attention the practice of the farmer just across the creek from Cleona Park to plant corn right down to the creek bank, and that masses of corn cobs and ruffage enter the stream when it rises in response to high rain events. He suggested that

the Association get in touch with North Cornwall Township Supervisor Tom Long regarding this practice.

9. Alicia noted that there exist a range of grant opportunities for the prospective projects summarized in Rocky Powell's 2006 study, and suggested that the Association pursue some of these grant opportunities, particularly with regard to "recovering cold water streams" like the Quittapahilla.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem