

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
November 15, 2016

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Alicia Norris, Alan Wood, Kent Crawford, Russ Collins, Erik Josephson, Joe Connor, Bill Beck, Sean Droms, Kelly Cottingham

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

1. Mike provided an update on the projected Quittapahilla Restoration Project in Cleona. He noted that the deadline for submission of proposals for the next round of PA-DEP's Growing Greener program is January 17, 2017. To date, 16 of the 21 landowners along the creek have signed the initial permission forms from PA-DEP. Efforts to secure the permissions of the remaining property owners have largely stalled (see the Excel spreadsheet and map accompanying these minutes). Mike suggested a concerted effort to secure these permissions before Christmas. Joe Connor and Russ Collins volunteered to help in this effort.
2. Kent provided an update on the projected Lower Snitz Creek proposal submitted to the PA Fish & Boat Commission by the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited (DCTU) in collaboration with Rocky Powell (Clear Creeks Consulting) and Lee Irwin (Aquatic Resources Restoration Co.) and in partnership with the Watershed Association. The proposal identifies 1,200 linear feet of stream to be restored, with its lower terminus at the Dairy Road bridge, with an approximate estimated budget of \$150,000. The work would stabilize the banks; provide livestock crossings; remove invasive species; erect fencing; narrow the channel; increase the stream velocity; and include installation of riparian buffers using saplings to be provided by the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is expected that the Fish & Boat Commission will announce grant recipients by mid-December. The proposal is posted on the QWA website: Homepage > Studies & Documents; the direct link is here: <http://quittapahillawatershedassociation.org/documents/160928-SnitzCreekProposal-FBComm.pdf>.
3. Kent provided an update on a second grant proposal to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for a scientific study of dissolved oxygen and temperature at several points along Quittapahilla Creek. This proposal was submitted by Associate Professor of Biology Becky Urban of Lebanon Valley College. The grantee will be Lebanon Valley College, with DFTU serving as a partner in the proposal. The estimated budget is a little under \$40,000, which includes stipends for LVC students and Prof. Urban, equipment, and LVC administrative overhead. The proposal is posted on the QWA website: Homepage > Studies & Documents; the direct link is here: <http://quittapahillawatershedassociation.org/documents/160926-Proposal-Temp-O2.pdf>.
4. Alan reported on the Conservation Innovation Grants being offered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. After speaking with Karl Kirchner of the Lebanon County Conservation District, and considering the complexities of the envisioned project on the lower Quittapahilla, Alan suggested that we drop the idea.
5. Alan offered an update on a landowner along Quittapahilla Creek near the Pennsy Supply quarry who intends to reconstruct some 800 feet of stream and streambank on his own, in consultation with Alan and others with expertise in stream reconstruction. The biggest

problems are a widening stream, intensifying erosion, and high levels of dissolved limestone and sediment from the Pennsy quarry. The Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited is also partnering in the project, supplying saplings to be planted along the reconstructed portion. Alan further noted that PennDot is required to have mitigation offsets, and will consult with an official at PennDot on this pending project. He further indicated that he will keep Kent Crawford, Joe Connor, and Russ Collins apprised of progress on the project.

6. Kent reported on ongoing discussions regarding the construction of wetland BMPs in the City of Lebanon. He reported that he has spoken with Rocky Powell, who would do the design work, and that the project would help the City of Lebanon with stormwater management. He further indicated that he intends to speak with Robin Getz, Director of Public Works in the City of Lebanon, regarding a project to divert stormwater into retention ponds and wetlands just downstream of the Hazel Dyke. Kent encouraged the Association to pursue this potential project. Karen suggested that the Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance (LCCWA) should be included in these discussions, a suggestion that Kent received favorably.
7. Joe reported on a successful event on October 29 in the City of Lebanon, where upwards of 100 volunteers cleaned up the Hazel Dyke from 10th St. to 5th St. and removed a “sad amount” of trash. Joe further indicated that City of Lebanon Mayor Sherry Capello is supportive of such cleanup efforts, and suggested that he serve as liaison between the QWA and the Mayor’s Office for future cleanup efforts. His suggestion was received very favorably.
8. Kent provided an update on a request submitted by the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, endorsed by the Watershed Association, to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for an electro-fishing survey of Quittapahilla Creek, to determine the extent to which trout are now reproducing in the creek. He reported that he had spoken with Kris Kuhn, regional biologist for the PA Fish & Boat Commission, who indicated that the study would likely take place next spring or later near the headwaters of Snitz Creek.
9. Alan reported on the Greater Lebanon Community Project and suggested the QWA partner with this important initiative; see <http://www.lebanon.k12.pa.us/quick-connections/great-lebanon-lebanon-community-project/>.
10. Alicia Norris reported that she has agreed to serve the Association as Treasurer, and that she will speak with outgoing Treasurer Ann Lasky to arrange the transfer of responsibilities. The assembled members extended their thanks to Alicia for taking on this important role.
11. Russ Collins reported on an upcoming “PA Pipeline Construction Monitoring Workshop” for the proposed Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project, organized by Trout Unlimited and Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, to be held in Danville PA on Thursday, Nov. 17, which he plans to attend. See <https://www.fractracker.org/event/pipeline-construction-monitoring-training/>.
12. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem