

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes Annville Town Hall June 18, 2019

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Dave Lasky, Ann Lasky, Kent Crawford, Alicia Norris, Alan Wood, Bryan Hoffman, Stephan Vegoe, Ned Gibble

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mike reported that the QWA's summer 2019 interns, Sara Burke (Dickinson College) and Michael Yanchuck (Wilkes University) were trained last week by Rocky Powell and are now out in the field undertaking geomorphic assessments of Bachman Run. They have been equipped with waders, field badges, and copies of a letter for landowners describing the work they are undertaking and requesting permission to enter landowners' properties.
2. Kent reported that he spent out-of-pocket approximately \$500 for waders and other equipment for the summer 2019 interns and requested and received reimbursement from the QWA's account. This expenditure was an executive decision made by Mike and Kent and announced to the Board via email and again at this meeting.
3. A discussion was held regarding the Association's partnership with The Lebanon Valley Conservancy and the bottleneck that TLVC has experienced in consequence of a series of approved grant proposals that are stretching TLVC's bookkeeping capacities to the limit. Mike indicated that he would set up a meeting sometime in mid-July with TLVC Executive Director Laurie Crawford and other TLVC Board members and QWA representatives in order to develop a viable plan moving forward. It was further discussed that if it proves to be the case that TLVC will not be able to administer future grants because of resource constraints, that Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited (DFTU) might be able to act in that capacity. Kent and Stephan, both DFTU members, expressed optimism about this possibility. Bryan indicated that the QWA might also consider partnering with the Lebanon Redevelopment Authority. Bryan was thanked for the offer.
4. Kent conveyed a question posed by our summer interns about how and when they will get paid. A check for \$1,500 from PA Trout Unlimited's Forever Wild program has been forwarded to TLVC. Mike indicated that he would send a request for payment to South Annville Township for its pledged amount of \$1,380, payable to TLVC, which is administering the funds. Consensus was reached that the interns should be paid in three installments of \$480 each over the course of the summer for a total of \$2,880 (\$1,440 each), contingent upon time spent in the field.
5. A discussion was held concerning the QWA's monitoring obligations as detailed in the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) of August 2018. Rocky Powell has revised the monitoring requirements in the WIP, as outlined in his email to the QWA of June 18. Relevant excerpts from Rocky's email are pasted below:

“If you focus on the two most relevant sections of this Revised Monitoring Protocol - Subwatershed and Mainstem TMDL Monitoring, you will see that the original protocol presented in the WIP document called for 8 subwatershed monitoring stations. Two stations on each of the major tributaries and four along the mainstem Quittapahilla Creek

for a total of 12 stations. In the revised protocol I'm proposing that we drop that to 4 subwatershed stations, one on each of the major tributaries and two along the mainstem Quittapahilla Creek for a total of 6 stations.

“Another proposed revision involves reducing the number of storm samples collected annually at each monitoring station from 6 to 3. Some station locations have also been adjusted based on my discussions with the DFTU folks.

“Finally - my original monitoring schedule had the number of sites in any given year staggered to take advantage of anticipated starting years for projects in each of the subwatersheds. For example, Snitz Creek being the highest priority subwatershed started monitoring immediately with Beck Creek, Bachman Run and Killinger Creek starting in later years. This allowed for 4 - 5 stations being monitored in any given year. However, projects are already starting in Beck Creek, Bachman Run and Killinger Creek subwatersheds for a variety of reasons. This means that monitoring in all four subwatersheds must be initiated simultaneously as shown in the revised schedule. This results in 6 stations being monitored each year.”

If the QWA approves this revised and scaled-down monitoring plan, Rocky will revise the WIP accordingly and resubmit to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) for its approval.

6. Kent moved that the Association approve Rocky's revised monitoring requirements and also attempt to gather data on stream flow as best as it is able. After considerable discussion, the motion was approved by consensus.
7. Further discussion was held on developing a specific plan for meeting these monitoring obligations. Consensus was reached that the QWA will work to identify six individuals who will each be responsible for one of the six monitoring stations. Kent and Stephan indicated that they would solicit the help of DFTU members in this effort. Mike agreed to assume responsibility for one of the six monitoring stations. Stephan agreed to assume responsibility for another.
8. Further discussion was held on acquiring the equipment needed to undertake these monitoring obligations. Kent estimated a ballpark figure of \$1,000 per station, or \$6,000 total. Bryan stated that the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium might be able to provide funding to purchase the needed equipment. Kent volunteered to prepare a request to the LCSC detailing the need for the equipment and the funds required.
9. Kent noted that LVC student and 2018 summer intern Kyla O'Connor will be undertaking her senior project under the direction of Associate Professor of Biology Becky Urban, and that this project will consist of biological sampling of Killinger Creek before construction on Killinger Creek Project 5 begins.
10. Mike reported that he has been contacted by Mike Snyder of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding a source water protection initiative in the Swatara Creek watershed. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ag Center at 2120 Cornwall Rd. in Lebanon.
11. Stephan reported that the Snitz Creek project undertaken by DFTU with funding from the PA Fish & Boat Commission is now complete, and that DFTU volunteers planted upwards of 200 saplings in the project area.

12. Stephan announced DFTU's Summer Picnic, to be held at Quittie Creek Nature Park on the evening of Tuesday, July 23, 2019.
13. Mike submitted two donation checks to Treasurer Alicia Norris: one for \$150 from Annville Township, and one for \$75 from his in-laws as a birthday present to his wife Karen, for a total of \$225 in donations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem