

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
November 21, 2023

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Kara Lubold

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

- 1. CAP Watershed Action Team.** Katie reported that the Watershed Action Team of the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) meets remotely at 9:00 am on the first Thursday of each month, and that the next meeting is scheduled for Thurs. Dec. 7.

- 2. Report of Summer 2023 Student Interns.** Mike reported on the final report on the work undertaken by our 2023 student interns Hannah Horengic and Ilyssa McLaughlin. The 61-page report was produced by Rocky Powell and is now housed on the Studies & Documents page of our QWA website under October 2023, along with a PDF file of the interns' PowerPoint presentation to the QWA at its October meeting, and related materials (<http://www.quittiecreek.org/documents.html>). Mike noted that he is eagerly awaiting receipt in a thumb drive from Rocky Powell of some 3,000 photographs that the interns took of the reaches they assessed in the three tributaries. Mike characterized the report overall as impressive, comprehensive, and a grim and sobering portrayal of the many impairments in the watershed. He suggested a more reader-friendly format for this important report. As it is, readers must first consult (a) a map of the reach they wish to know about, then turn to (b) the table containing a description of the reach, then turn to (c) photographs of the reach in question. Kara suggested a GIS story map might offer a more reader-friendly way to engage with this mass of important material.

- 3. Monitoring Program Update.**
 - A.** Katie reported that on Wed. & Thurs. Oct. 18-19, our monitoring team took water quality samples from four of our six monitoring stations: Q1, Q2, S1, and BK1. Then on Wed. Nov. 1, samples were taken from BM1 (Bachman Run). No samples were taken from K1 (Killinger Creek), which was completely dry. Bob Connell drove the samples to the DEP lab in Harrisburg and we await the results.
 - B.** Katie further reported that on Wed. & Thurs. Nov. 15-16, our monitoring team undertook macroinvertebrate sampling at five of our six monitoring stations: Katie Hollen and Lydia Mohn of the LCCD, and volunteers Bob Connell, Tony Shaw, Gary Zelinske, and LVC student Charles Katona. (Killinger Creek was again bone dry.) The samples will be analyzed and reported on by LVC students under the supervision of Biology Professor Dr. Becky Urban sometime this coming winter.
 - C.** Mike reported that on Wed. Nov. 15, Tony Shaw, a biologist who retired from PA-DEP, offered instruction in techniques for macroinvertebrate sampling that was filmed by Bob Connell. Bob then created a short, 12-minute training video that Mike put on his YouTube channel and linked from the Monitoring page of our QWA

website (<http://www.quittiecreek.org/monitoring.html>, direct link to the video here: https://youtu.be/5iH1VjL_irU).

- D. On Friday, Nov. 17, Katie Hollen sent out the following email to our Monitoring Program volunteers: *Hi all, We are scheduling our water-quality sampling dates for December a few weeks in advance so you can mark your calendars! :) Let's plan for monitoring on Tuesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 6. If we don't complete all 6 sites in those 2 days, our backup third day will be Monday, December 11. I'm hoping if we get 5-6 volunteers on the first two days, we won't need the third. Plus, the more volunteers we have, the faster it goes, which means less time in the cold!! Tuesday, December 5, 8:00 a.m. - Collect water-quality samples, Quittie Creek mainstem stations: We need at least one person to help load our equipment, which is stored at Lebanon Valley College in the Neidig-Garber Science Center, and calibrate our sonde in the lab. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the municipal parking lot at the corner of North White Oak Street and East Lebanon Street. Then, we will go to Station Q1 (Quittapahilla Creek at Garfield Street) for our first sample collection around 9:00 a.m. We will collect water samples, take a sonde reading, and take a streamflow measurement. Then, we will do the same at Station Q2 (Quittapahilla Creek at Palmyra-Bellegrove Road). Wednesday, December 6, 8:30 a.m. - Collect water-quality samples, Quittie Creek tributary stations: Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the ball fields parking lot on Dairy Road about ½ mile south of US 422. Plan for a long day of work. The order of work will be: Snitz Creek, Beck Creek, Bachman Run, Killinger Creek. Both Tuesday and Wednesday, we need someone to deliver the samples to the DEP laboratory on the north side of Harrisburg: Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Laboratories, 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9332. Phone: 717-346-7200. Please let me know if you are willing to deliver samples for us. Please let me know if you can help any of those days, or if you have any questions.*
- E. Mike reported that our Monitoring Program Data Manager Alyssa Bellucci has created a series of folders in GoogleDrive to house our accumulating monitoring data.
- F. Mike reported that a virtual meeting of our Monitoring Program team leaders is being scheduled for the second week of December, and will include (1) Data Manager Alyssa Bellucci, (2) Equipment Manager Kara Lubold, (3) Field Coordinator Katie Hollen, (4) Communications Coordinator Michael Schroeder, (5) former Monitoring Program Coordinator J. Kent Crawford, and (6) LVC Biology Professor Becky Urban.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem