

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Kara Lubold (LCCD), Gary Zelinske

The meeting opened at 7:01 PM

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the Feb. 18, 2025 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus.
2. **Monitoring Program**
 - A. **Fieldwork updates.** Katie reported that she expects to send out invitations soon for our next round of fieldwork in April.
 - B. **Equipment updates.**
 - 1) **Solinst Sensors.** Mike reported the very good news that the Cleona Borough Authority has agreed to purchase five Solinst sensors and ancillary equipment from Solinst, Canada, for our five monitoring sites, for a total of \$9,279. The QWA will assume responsibility for paying the annual fee for data cloud storage service for an estimated \$290 per year (as noted on Solinst's "Proforma Invoice # Q000122910": "Estimated Annual SIM Card Dataplan for five (5) Levelsender Setups/Misc. Charges": \$58 each x 5 units = \$290).
 - 2) **ISCO auto-samplers.** Kara and others reported that the testing of the two auto-samplers in her garage with Katie, Bob, and Mike on Friday, Feb. 28 went very well. Both units appear to be in good working order. The internal batteries need replacing, and the battery terminals now need resoldering, but overall the units appear to work great. Mike will contact a property owner adjacent to monitoring site Q1 to ask about deploying one auto-sampler on their property before a predicted high-rain event. Kara found this link to the owner's manual for the units:
<https://www.manualslib.com/manual/1631682/Teledyne-6712.html?page=21#manual>
 - C. **Data management & Water Quality Portal updates.** Bob and Mike reported that they met earlier today with Leb Co Planning Dept Director Julie Cheyney and members of her staff to discuss trying to integrate the monitoring data we are generating into the county's collection of data. Further discussions are planned.

D. Biological monitoring. No update.

- 3. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant.** Mike reported that yesterday, Mon. March 17, a remote meeting was held among QWA representatives Bob, Kent, Alexis, Alyssa, Kara, Mike, and Tali MacArthur at POWR to discuss the six proposals received for the NFWF grant. Immediately prior to that meeting, the six QWA members identified above met remotely to discuss the six proposals. After discussion, consensus was reached that our first choice was Grow Conservation with Ryan Szuch. The group agreed on a number of follow-up questions to ask Mr. Szuch, including: (1) can a “report card” on the Quittie’s relative state of health be included among the list of deliverables?, (2) does Grow Conservation have the bandwidth to take on this project?, and (2) can they provide a rough timeline and list of specific deliverables?
- 4. Digital Communications Course at LVC.** Mike noted that the course was ongoing, reported that he has been interviewed by students four times so far. Katie said she has been interviewed several times.
- 5. Projects updates.** The following updates were provided by Rocky Powell at the March 6 Watershed Action Team of the Leb. Co. Conservation District. See also the minutes of the Watershed Action Team of Feb. 7, 2025, courtesy of Kara Lubold, below in these minutes in **Appendix 1.**

Rocky Powell, March 6, 2025. Update on 2025 CAP Projects Grant Applications.

Grant Application and Supporting Documentation (Project Descriptions, Stabilization Concepts, Contractor Budgets) for Proposed Design, Permitting and Construction Projects submitted to LCCD 1/30/2025.

- *Project 1 - Gingrich Run 1 – Reiner Property Gully Restoration.* Project Funding Approved for \$204,325.00. Resource Restoration Group (RRG) to start Topographic Survey as soon as DFTU-RRG Contract Executed.
- *Project 2 - Beck Creek 1 – Formanek Property Breached Dam and Gully Stabilization.* Project Funding for \$184,700.00. On hold until 2026.
- *Beck Creek Project 6.* PADEP-DFTU Funding Contract finalized. DFTU-Resource Restoration Group Contract to be completed next two weeks. Pre-Construction Meeting: March 7, 2025. Construction will start on or about April 1, 2025.
- *Snitz Creek Project 2.* Funding: Growing Greener: \$481,563.00 (Approved). ACAP: \$241,385,50 (Approved). CAP: \$241,385,50 (Approved). Cornwall Borough: \$100,000.00 (Approved). Total Approved: \$1,064,849.00.

Community meeting to update landowners held Feb. 26, 2025. Contract agreement PADEP-DFTU pending. Construction will start on or about April 7, 2025.

- *Snitz Creek Project 3.* On-hold at present. Funding: EPA 319: \$457,727.00 (Pre-selected for further review by EPA; approval anticipated October 2025). PennVest: \$313,552.00 (May 2026 application / fall 2026 decision / construction winter 2026-Spring 2027). Project cost: \$771,279.00 (Construction cost adjusted 9.1% for project delay).
- *Killinger Creek Project.* NFWF Grant Application submitted November 5, 2024 for Phase 1 Construction and Phase 2 Design and Permitting. Bryan Seipp contacted NFWF for feedback. Grant not approved. Debriefing with NFWF staff March 2025. Reapplying for NFWF Grant 2026.
- *Bachman Run Project.* (1) Final Grading Plans – CAD Drawings - Complete. (2) CCC/EPR initiating Materials Quantity Estimates. (3) Final Design Report: Completed. (4) Permit Applications in progress with submittal mid-March. (5) Steckbeck: Draft Culvert Design: Completed. Permit application submitted to PADEP. (6) EPR Final Hydraulic Analysis: Completed.
- *Snitz Creek Project 4.* CCC Preliminary Stream Design in progress. EPR Preliminary Plans for SWM Pond I in process.

6. Education, outreach & special events.

- A. Sat. March 29, Lebanon County Community Water Day,** Mount Gretna Fire Hall; see <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/news/lebanon-county-community-water-day-set> Mike noted that he will be out of town on that date. Alexis kindly agreed to represent the QWA at this event. For the flier, see **Appendix 2.**
- B. Friday, April 25, Arbor Day Celebration,** 4-6 PM, Gloninger Woods Park 115 S 22nd St., Lebanon, PA 17042, sponsored by the Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance in collaboration with local conservation partners. The event will feature a tree planting demonstration, food trucks, a seedling giveaway, and a tour of the Quittapahilla restoration project at 22nd St. The rain date is May 2.
- C. Saturday, June 14, Historic Old Anville Daym** 9 AM—2 PM. Mike reported that he has submitted a vendor application for the QWA.
- D. Possible field trips** to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station. Mike reported that he has been in touch with LebTown reporter Margaret Hopkins regarding the City of Lebanon Authority's wastewater treatment plant, about which she has written several

articles, and that a tour of that facility might serve as a useful educational program. Bryan kindly offered to offer a tour of the Cleona Borough Pump Station

7. Media & website. No update.

8. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates. No report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1. Watershed Action Team, LCCD, Meeting Minutes, March 6, 2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – Minutes

Members Present: Russ Collins, Hannah Hartman, Abigail Harvey, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Dan Kreiser, Kara Lubold, Rocky Powell, and Mike Schroeder

1. In-Process Projects

- Dan Kreiser was introduced as a new member of the Action Team, representing TLVC. Dan is the new co-chair of TLVC's watershed committee and works for LandStudies.

2. Applications

- Gingrich Run: \$204,325.00- Board approved
 - o Will start in the next few weeks, once the contract between RRG and DFTU is signed.
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50- Board approved
 - o Construction should start the first week in April.
- Beck Creek 1: \$184,700.00- on hold
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,558.00
 - o Construction should start in late summer or early fall.
 - o Action team approved submitting the project for approval at the March LCCD Board meeting for \$27,313.92. (Only \$27,313.92 of CAP funding is available, which is \$244.08 less than the requested amount.)

3. In-Process Projects

- Hammer Creek Estates: \$250,000 of CAP funding for construction-related expenses
 - o In permitting.
- Gerald Horst bridge replacement: \$23,600 of ACAP funding for design and permitting
 - o SESI is submitting the permit application for review.
 - o Russ said DFTU is waiting on a \$6,000 invoice that was submitted to LCCD. Kara will look into it.
- Syner Rd. Phase II: \$213,950.00 of CAP funding for construction-related expenses
 - o In permitting (cleared PFBC, but waiting on DEP). Hoping for permits in April.

4. Partner Updates

- Clear Creeks Consulting, Rocky Powell
 - o See Appendix 1.
- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
 - o DEP released draft MS4 permit on Jan 18, 2025, which was discussed at last month's Consortium meeting. The Consortium will submit comments (comment period ends on 3/19), including the concern about the switch from sediment reduction to



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

volume management. Also, the tool that will determine what value DEP will assign to future projects is not yet available.

- SQ1: Consortium (via N Cornwall Twp) has a two-year maintenance contract with LandStudies for trash cleanup and invasive species management at Phase 1. Phase 2 is still planned to be part of the bridge replacement in 2026.
- SQ6: Still waiting for one landowner agreement. Will be submitting a one-year grant extension request.
- Lions Lake Bank Stabilization: Under construction. Will be doing additional stabilization at the northwest end of the lake, which was a change to the project after concerns were noted at the pre-construction meeting.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Abigail Harvey & Dan Kreiser
 - Watershed committee is being reinvigorated with Ned Gibble and Dan Kreiser as co-chairs, with a goal of supporting clean water efforts and administering projects as capacity allows. (Rocky & TLVC will discuss TLVC being the applicant again for Killinger. Conversations with NFWF should clarify why the project was not funded. It was suggested to submit one grant application for Phase 1 construction, or submit two separate applications for Ph. 1 construction and Ph. 2 design & permitting.)
 - Table at Community Water Day in Mt. Gretna on March 29.
- Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
 - See Appendix 2.
- Trout Unlimited, Russ Collins
 - Historic Schaefferstown Farm: Trenching will be underway tomorrow. Coordinating with landowners upstream of HSF who are interested in stream improvements.
 - Heisey: Close to the permitting stage.
 - Fisher, Wine, and Kline: Working on design.

5. Other

- 2024 updated CAP reporting and snapshot: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/water/bwrnsm/bay-restoration/healthy-waters-pa/countywide-action-plans.html#accordion-36ccb2b383-item-69800465b9>
- USGS geonarrative for the Swatara Creek supergauge: <https://geonarrative.usgs.gov/using-continuous-water-quality-to-guide-conservation-efforts/>
- PA National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI): <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/national-water-quality-initiative/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-national-water>

6. Next Meeting

- Thursday, April 3, at 9:00 a.m.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 1. Rocky Powell updates, Clear Creeks Consulting, March 6, 2025

2025 CAP Projects Grant Applications

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Project Funding Approved for \$204,325.00

Resource Restoration Group (RRG) to start Topographic Survey as soon as DFTU-RRG Contract Executed

Project 2 - Beck Creek 1 – Formanek Property Breached Dam and Gully Stabilization

Project Funding for \$184,700.00 – On Hold until 2026

Beck Creek 6

PADEP-DFTU Funding Contract finalized.

DFTU-Resource Restoration Group Contract to be completed next two weeks.

Pre-Construction Meeting – March 7, 2025

Construction will start on or about April 1, 2025

Snitz Creek 2

Snitz Creek 2 Funding

Growing Greener – \$481,563.00 (Approved)

ACAP – \$241,385.50 (Approved)

CAP – \$241,385.50 (Approved)

Cornwall Borough – \$100,000.00 (Approved)

Total Approved – \$1,064,849.00 (Approved)

Community Meeting to Update Landowners held February 26, 2025

Contract Agreement PADEP-DFTU Pending

Construction will start on or about April 7, 2025

Snitz Creek 3

Snitz Creek 3 - On Hold

319 – \$457,727.00 (Pre Selected for Further Review by USEPA – Approval anticipated October 2025)

PennVest – \$313,552.00 (May 2026 Application/Fall 2026 Decision/Construction Winter 2026-Spring 2027)

Project Cost – \$771,279.00 (Construction Cost Adjusted 9.1% for Project Delay)



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Killinger Creek

NFWF Grant Application submitted November 5, 2024 for Phase 1 Construction and Phase 2 Design and Permitting.

Bryan Seipp contacted NFWF for feedback. Grant not approved. Debriefing with NFWF staff March 2025. Reapplying for NFWF Grant 2026.

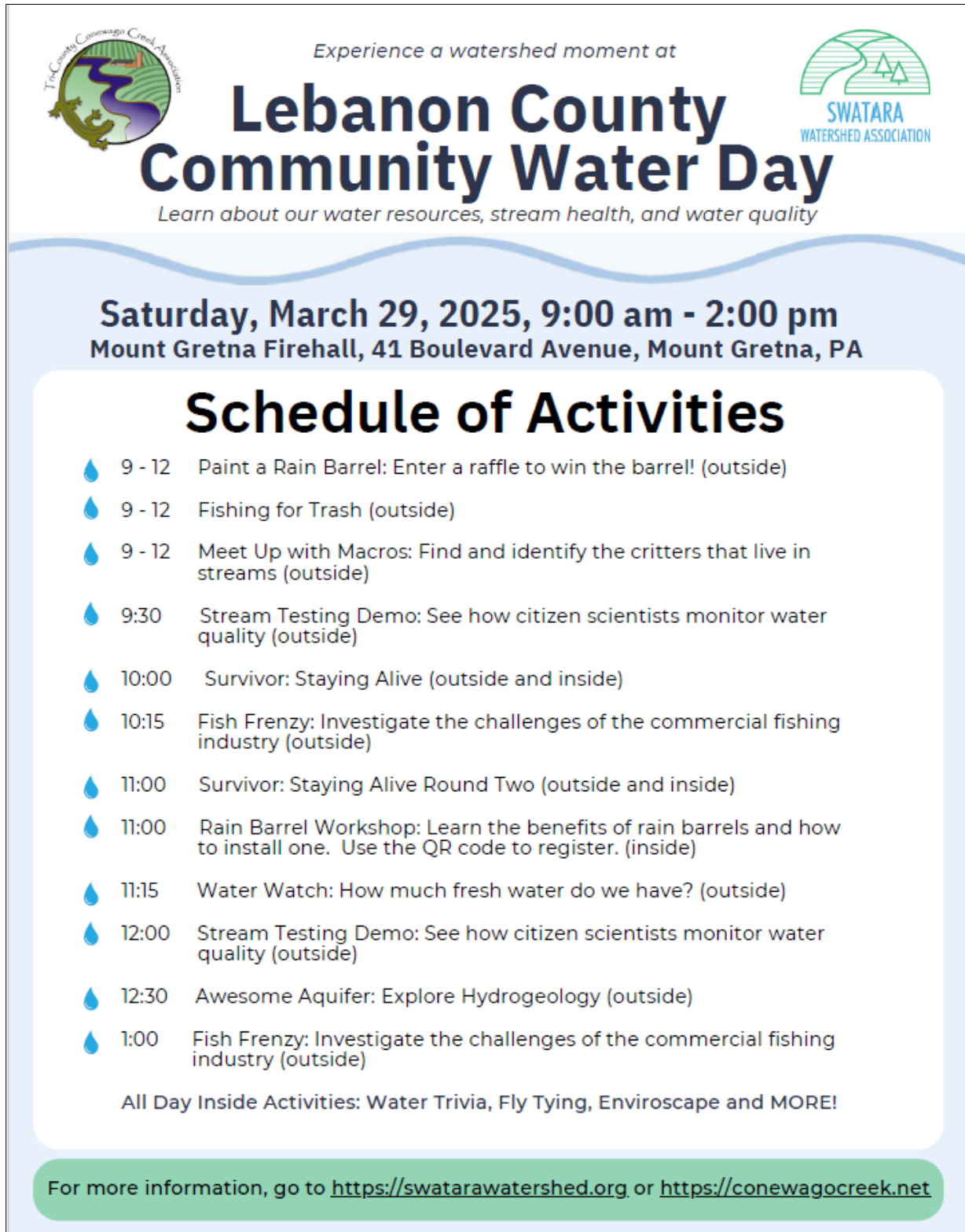
Bachman Run

1. Final Grading Plans – CAD Drawings - Complete.
2. CCC/EPR initiating Materials Quantity Estimates.
3. Final Design Report – Complete.
4. Permit Applications in progress with submittal mid-March.
5. Steckbeck – Draft Culvert Design – Completed. Permit application submitted to PADEP.
6. EPR Final Hydraulic Analysis - Complete.

Snitz Creek 4

1. CCC Preliminary Stream Design in progress
EPR Preliminary Plans for SWM Pond I in process.

Appendix 2. Flier for Lebanon County Community Water Day, Sat. March 29



The flier features a header with logos for the Tri-County Conewago Creek Association and the SWATARA Watershed Association. The main title is 'Lebanon County Community Water Day' with a subtitle 'Learn about our water resources, stream health, and water quality'. The event details are 'Saturday, March 29, 2025, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm' at 'Mount Gretna Firehall, 41 Boulevard Avenue, Mount Gretna, PA'. A central section titled 'Schedule of Activities' lists 14 activities with water drop icons. A green banner at the bottom provides website links for more information.

Experience a watershed moment at

**Lebanon County
Community Water Day**

Learn about our water resources, stream health, and water quality

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Mount Gretna Firehall, 41 Boulevard Avenue, Mount Gretna, PA

Schedule of Activities

- 9 - 12 Paint a Rain Barrel: Enter a raffle to win the barrel! (outside)
- 9 - 12 Fishing for Trash (outside)
- 9 - 12 Meet Up with Macros: Find and identify the critters that live in streams (outside)
- 9:30 Stream Testing Demo: See how citizen scientists monitor water quality (outside)
- 10:00 Survivor: Staying Alive (outside and inside)
- 10:15 Fish Frenzy: Investigate the challenges of the commercial fishing industry (outside)
- 11:00 Survivor: Staying Alive Round Two (outside and inside)
- 11:00 Rain Barrel Workshop: Learn the benefits of rain barrels and how to install one. Use the QR code to register. (inside)
- 11:15 Water Watch: How much fresh water do we have? (outside)
- 12:00 Stream Testing Demo: See how citizen scientists monitor water quality (outside)
- 12:30 Awesome Aquifer: Explore Hydrogeology (outside)
- 1:00 Fish Frenzy: Investigate the challenges of the commercial fishing industry (outside)

All Day Inside Activities: Water Trivia, Fly Tying, Enviroscape and MORE!

For more information, go to <https://swatarawatershed.org> or <https://conewagocreek.net>