

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Annville Town Hall and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Joseph Connor, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Katie Hollen (LCCD), Kara Lubold (LCCD), with special guests June and Pat Welch of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy (TLVC)

The meeting opened at 7:01 PM

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus.
2. **Monitoring Program**
 - A. **Fieldwork updates.** Katie reported that our next round of fieldwork will be in June.
 - B. **Equipment updates.**
 - 1) **Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that he has unpacked and begun preparing the sensors for field deployment at our five monitoring stations.
 - 2) **ISCO auto-samplers.** Bob reported that the auto-samplers are ready to be deployed in the field in a test run. Alexis offered her parents' property on Killinger Creek at monitoring station K1 as a site to test one of the auto-samplers. Mike reported that he continues to solicit the permission of landowners at station Q1 in Cleona as another deployment site.
 - C. **Data management & Water Quality Portal updates.** Bob reported that all data collected to date is accessible on the Water Quality Portal.
 - D. **Biological monitoring.** No update.
3. **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant.** Mike reported that dates for our first two meetings with Ryan Szuch of Grow Conservation have been selected. The kickoff meeting will be held remotely on Microsoft Teams from 9-11 am on Thursday, May 22. The second meeting will be in-person in the LCCD conference room and is scheduled for Thursday, June 5 starting at 10:30 am and continuing through lunch to around 2:30 pm. Participants include Mike, Bob, Alexis, Katie, and Kara.
4. **"Digital Storytelling" Course at LVC.** Mike reported that he is in conversation with Prof Mary Pettice at LVC and Michael Cantor at the Allen Theater to nail down a date & time for a screening of student work focusing on the QWA.

5. **Projects updates.** See the Watershed Action Team meeting minutes of April 3, kindly provided by Kara Lubold, below in **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

6. **Education, outreach & special events.**

A. **Sat. March 29, Lebanon County Community Water Day.** Thanks were extended to Alexis for representing the QWA at this event.

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 Day** 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.** See Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1. Watershed Action Team, LCCD, Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – Minutes

Members Present: Bethany Canner, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Dan Kreiser, Kara Lubold, Mike Schroeder, and Maranda Smith

1. Applications

- Beck Creek 1: \$184,700.00- deferred to 2026 CAP round

2. In-Process Projects

- Hammer Creek Estates: \$250,000 of CAP funding for construction-related expenses
- Gerald Horst bridge replacement: \$23,600 of ACAP funding for design and permitting
- Syner Rd. Phase II: \$213,950 of CAP funding for construction-related expenses
- Hess: \$10,000 of CAP funding as a non-federal match commitment for NFWF INSR grant. Started seeding, construction will start in the next couple weeks.

3. Future Projects

- Gingrich Run 1: \$204,325- Board approved
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50- Board approved. **Will start construction in April/May.**
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,313.92- Board approved

4. Partner Updates

- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
 - o SESI completed the Horst bridge design and submitted for GP-11 permit.
 - o Submitted comments on DEP's draft MS4 permit.
 - o SQ1 Phase 1: LandStudies is doing maintenance under a 2-year contract.
 - o SQ1 Phase 2: Tied to bridge realignment, likely in 2026.
 - o SQ6: N Cornwall Twp has the design grant which is being held up by a property owner who is reluctant to sign the access agreement. An extension request was submitted to DEP. Consortium & DEP may investigate ways to move the grant project ahead without the landowner's agreement.
 - o Lions Lake Shoreline Stabilization: Construction is ongoing and most of the shoreline work has been completed.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Dan Kreiser
 - o Planning to submit another application for Killinger Creek project.
 - o Wengert Park: Unsure of start date.
- Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
 - o Monitoring program continues – next streamflow & water sampling fieldwork April 14 & 21.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- Solinst sensors for five monitoring stations being ordered thanks to grant from Cleona Borough Authority.
- NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant for capacity-building – reached consensus on Ryan Szuch & Grow Conservation – POWR finalizing the contract.
- Water Quality Portal update – new URL with security certificate:
<https://quittiedata.org/>
- Education & Outreach:
 - QWA represented by Alexis Biondi at Lebanon Community Water Day in Mount Gretna this past Saturday, March 29.
 - Quittie Creek Nature Park Day of Caring, 9 AM—12 noon, Saturday, April 26.
 - Space reserved at Historic Old Annville Day on Saturday, June 14.
- Next QWA meeting Tuesday, April 15.
- Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner
 - Community Water Day had approximately 90 people, in addition to the many organizations that were involved. Email Bethany with any suggestions for next year.
 - Will be working with Grow Conservation for the NFWF capacity-building grant.
 - Swatara Sojourn will be held on May 3. It will go from Jonestown to Swatara Watershed Park and will feature a talk from the Lebanon Co. Historical Society about the canal's history. (Sign up here: <https://swatarawatershed.org/swatara-sojourn/>)
- Ecosystem Planning & Resources, Bryan Seipp (provided via email 4/2/25)
 - Hammer Creek Estates: Still waiting for the state permit; EPR is currently working to pull the construction bid documents together for DFTU. Construction is still anticipated to begin in June.
 - Heisey Farm: Survey, trench investigation, stream reach and watershed assessments are complete. Existing H&H and concept design are currently in progress.
 - Historic Schaefferstown Farm: Survey trench investigation, stream reach and watersheds assessments are complete. We have started on the concept design but have not started H&H yet.
 - Fisher Farm: Still waiting to hear back from SRBC. We anticipate hearing in mid-April.
- 5. **Lebanon County Conservation District Update-** Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Maranda Smith
 - Barry Farm: Cattle crossing is being held up for GP-6 permitting.
 - Werner Farm: Grassed buffer, hoping to do plantings and livestakes along the Swatara.
 - LCCD Events page: www.lccd.org/events
 - Rain barrel Workshop- Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 pm
 - Volunteer Tree Planting- Friday, April 11 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Heidelberg Township
 - Volunteer Tree Planting- Tuesday, April 15 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Union Township
 - Tree & Plant Sale pickup- Friday, April 18 from 9:00 am- 6:00 pm



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- LCCWA Arbor Day Celebration: Friday, April 25 from 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm, Gloninger Woods Park
- Tri- County Conewago Creek Assoc: Earth Day Celebration: Sunday, April 27 from 12:00 pm- 4:00 pm, Lawn Park
- Lebanon County Tire Collection- Wednesday, April 30 from 8:00 am- 4:00 pm, Expo Center

6. Other

- CAP Watershed Action Team meeting agendas and minutes will be posted publicly starting in May. Meetings will be open to the public. Any changes to the agenda need to be made 24 hours before the meeting.
- The Hammer Creek Partnership received the Partnership Award at the 2025 ACAP conference. Congratulations to all involved!

7. Next Meeting

- Thursday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m.