

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Community Room, Annville Free Library, and Remotely Via Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Present: Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Bill Bauersfeld, Hunter Benasutti, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, Gary Zelinske

This regular meeting followed a special meeting on safety issues from 6:00 to 6:50 pm. The notes of that meeting are included below in [Appendix 1](#).

1. Minutes. The minutes of the September 16, 2025 meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus. They are housed, along with all other extant QWA meeting minutes, on the Meetings & Minutes page of our QWA website, at <https://www.quittiecreek.org/calendar.html>

2. Monitoring Program

A. Fieldwork updates.

- 1)** Report on fieldwork safety meeting held in the previous hour (see Appendix 1).
- 2)** Katie reported that our routine fieldwork was undertaken on Mon. Oct. 20 and Tues. Oct. 21 at all six monitoring sites with volunteers Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Bill Osburn, Michael Schroeder, and Gary Zelinske.
- 3)** Biological Monitoring. Katie reported our next round of biological monitoring will take place on Thurs. Nov. 6 and Sat. Nov. 8 at all six monitoring sites. She will email participants with further details. She further reported that Prof. Becky Urban at LVC has identified a student, Levi, who is eager to identify macroinvertebrates in the lab.

B. Equipment updates

- 1) Multiparameter sonde.** Katie reported that the handheld device for the multiparameter sonde has been repaired and returned to us, all under warranty.
- 2) Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that the Solinst sensors continue to record data at five of our monitoring sites and upload that data directly into our Water Quality Portal, with the partial exception of the sensor at Q1, which for some reason transmits its data intermittently. Bob is working on a solution with Solinst tech support.
- 3) ISCO auto-samplers.** These are now ready to deploy. Discussion was held on where we should deploy them and under what circumstances. Consensus was

reached that we should deploy just one of them at first, at Q1, when the weather forecast calls for a rain of around 1-2 inches. It was also agreed that we should deploy them only during daylight hours.

C. Data Management

- 1) Tutorial on using qGIS.** Bob offered to hold an initial tutorial session for folks interested in learning how to use the open-source qGIS software used to build our Water Quality Portal. He will send out a poll to those who express interest to determine the best time to meet.
- 2) Macroinvertebrate Sampling Raw Data.** No update on the effort to secure the raw macro data from LVC graduate Charles Katona.
- 3) Job description for LVC interns.** In previous meetings, discussions were held on securing the services of LVC student interns in the following areas: (1) Macroinvertebrate sample analysis, (2) Data management, (3) Marketing, and (4) Literature review and “report cards” on the Quittie data. At this meeting, consensus was reached that we should hold off on specific job descriptions for student interns until we have the time & resources to supervise them effectively.

3. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant.

- A.** Google Drive folder housing NFWF grant materials:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4j3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing
- B.** Mike reported on a meeting with our consultants held yesterday, October 20. Present: QWA members Michael Schroeder, Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold; and consultants Becca Hanlon (media specialist), Katie Ombalski, and Ryan Szuch. The meeting focused on various kinds of promotional literature developed by the consultants; these items are housed in a folder titled “Deliverables Oct 20” nested within the Google Drive folder linked above. These deliverables consisted of the following:
 - QWA Brand Guide
 - Water Monitoring Data Management Volunteer Job Description
 - Water Monitoring Field Volunteer Job Description
 - Secretary Volunteer Job Description
 - New logo, in color & black-and-white
 - "The Quittapahilla Creek needs our community's retirees!" in a blocky PDF file
 - Same title & content but snappier looking, designed in Canva

Discussion followed. Consensus was reached that the new logo is on the right track but still needs work. Mike said he'd work on it in the coming days. He also asked the members present to please review these materials and offer any suggested changes to the language or presentation.

C. Upcoming meetings:

- 1) Wrap-up meeting with QWA, remote, 9:00 -10:30 Friday, Dec. 5
- 2) Closing meeting with presentations by all grant recipients, mid-December.

4. LCCD Watershed Action Team. The minutes of the WAT's meeting of October 2, 2025 are included below in [Appendix 2](#) to these minutes.

5. Projects updates. See the reports in item no. 4, above.

6. Media & website. Mike reported that he continues to post on Facebook about the QWA's monitoring program and continues to keep the website updated.

7. Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates. No report beyond what appears in item no. 4, above.

8. Education, outreach & special events.

A. Water Week at Cornwall Manor, 10 AM, Fri. Oct. 24. Mike will be presenting on the QWA's Monitoring Program and Water Quality Portal as part of "Water Week" organized by Daphne Messersmith, Chair of the Tree & Environment Committee at Cornwall Manor.

B. Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum. Katie reported that this year's Watershed Forum will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Millersville University in Lancaster; for details, see the LCCD website, at <https://www.lccd.org/events/watershed-forum>

C. Possible field trips to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1. Notes on Special Meeting on Safety Issues

Quittapahilla Watershed Association
Drafted by Michael Schroeder, President
October 21, 2025

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Bill Bauersfeld, Hunter Benasutti, Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, Gary Zelinske

The discussion was framed around the following issues raised before the meeting in an email circulated by Bob Connell:

1. Open discussion about the risks of bodily harm associated with our fieldwork:
 - A. Cars & traffic
 - B. Deep, fast-moving water
 - C. Tick bites & toxic plants
 - D. Tripping & slipping hazards
 - E. Eye safety working with acids
 - F. Others
2. Suggestions for safety procedures and/or equipment
 - A. Cars & traffic in places like K1 along Killinger Road:
 - 1) Have available & wear safety vests (LCCD has donated safety vests)
 - 2) Deploy 3 medium-sized orange traffic cones with heavy bottoms along roadways where we'll be working
 - 3) For K1:
 - a) Talk to S Annville Twp & N Londonderry Twp about a safety sign on Killinger Rd.
 - b) Ask townships to reduce speed limit to 35 mph in that section
 - c) Talk to Western Lebanon Regional Police Dept & tell them when we'll be doing fieldwork
 - d) Prepare & distribute a small laminated card with street addresses of each monitoring site
 - B. Deep, fast-moving water
 - 1) Have an extra safety person in a team of at least 3
 - 2) Wear life vests
 - 3) Use safety rope
 - 4) Establish maximum stage level for each monitoring site
 - 5) Use our best judgment and reschedule if water level is too high
 - C. Tick bites, biting & stinging insects, toxic plants

- 1) Make fieldworkers aware of types of toxic or dangerous plants (poison ivy, poison hemlock, giant hogweed, jimsonweed, poison sumac, multiflora rose)
 - 2) Ticks can be tested for Lyme disease – ask Lydia at LCCD
 - D. Tripping/slipping hazards
 - 1) Use walking stick, esp. when entering & exiting stream
 - E. Eye safety working with acids
 - 1) Wear eye goggles
 - 2) Have freshwater flush bottle always available
 - F. Keep a first-aid kit handy during all fieldwork activities
 - G. CPR training recommended
 - H. Others
- 3. Develop a one-page description of what volunteer monitoring involves so new recruits know what to expect
 - 4. Develop and use a volunteer release from liability form
 - 5. Protection for property owners in the event of a QWA volunteer injury on their property

Appendix 2. Watershed Action Team Meeting Minutes, Oct. 2, 2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bethany Canner, Russ Collins, Reid Garner, Hannah Hartman, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Mike Schroeder and Maranda Smith

1. Applications

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

2. In-Process Projects

- Hammer Creek Estates: \$250,000 of ACAP 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. The project was paused earlier in the year because of high flow. Construction just re-started and has a mid-November expected completion date.
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,313.92. Kara reported a lot of invasives coming up last time she was there. Will be spraying and seeding in October. The project should be completed in late December.
- Gingrich Run 1: \$204,325- CAP-streambank restoration and stabilization, concrete dam removal. Kara reported the design is mostly complete and the project should be ready to go in for permitting.
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50- CAP- streambank protection, constructed wetland and riparian buffer

3. Completed Projects

- Heisey: \$241,065- HUA, cattle walkway & fencing (replacing HCE)
 - o Largely completed, but still some cattle walkways to do this fall.
- Hess: \$10,000- Non-Fed match commitment for NFWF INSR grant
 - o Buffer planting scheduled for Oct 14.

4. Partner Updates

- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
 - o SQ1: Much of the maintenance budget for Phase 1 has been spent on trash removal. Mike inquired about how the trash removal works and if this was a possible community engagement opportunity. Darren will give Mike a contact from LandStudies to ask. Phase 2 is still scheduled for 2026 with bridge realignment.
 - o SQ6: LandStudies is continuing the design. The project size has been expanded with the addition of a new landowner at the downstream end of the reach.
 - o Lions Lake Shoreline Stabilization: Fall overseeding and winter livestock replacement.
 - o Still waiting on new MS4 permit.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- Held their 25th Anniversary Sustainability Fair on September 27.
 - Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
 - See Appendix 2.
 - Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner
 - Revealed the [illustrated map](#) from their Artist in Residence at Dam Bridge Challenge on September 20. SWA will be selling prints of the map.
 - Co-hosted a mobile seminar at the Greenways & Trails summit, where SWA led a paddle and talked about the history of the Swatara and current projects.
 - Attended the statewide Water Trail meeting with PEC, which featured a presentation about the PA Outdoor Corps. Through the Corps, young adult and youth groups can provide manual labor for projects. The Corps is accepting project applications for next year through October 17.
 - SWA will be presenting at Cornwall Manor's "Water Week" on October 23.
 - NFWF capacity-building grant is wrapping up, with a final meeting sometime in December.
 - Spring Hill Partners, Reid Garner
 - Hoffman Farm and Snitz Trib at Ironmaster Rd are on hold while funding sources are pursued.
 - Reid will connect with Maranda about the Heidelberg Ave site upstream of Schaefferstown.
5. Lebanon County Conservation District Update
- Municipality outreach: Cleona Borough responded with potential projects.
 - Environmental Conservation grant: Application period opened 7/10/25. More information on website: [Projects — Lebanon County Conservation District](#)
 - Webinar Wednesday: CAP-funded agricultural project highlights from Berks, Centre, and Lancaster Counties. [Course: Webinar Wednesday – CAP-Funded Agricultural Project Highlights from Berks, Centre, and Lancaster Counties 10.1.25](#)
 - LCCD did a final construction check on Snitz 2 and Beck 6. Beck 6 is completely constructed and Snitz 2 is almost completely constructed. Both will be planted with trees and shrubs within the next few weeks.
 - Two LCCD tree plantings: Oct 17, 12 PM – 3PM in S Annville Twp; October 27, 12 PM – 3PM in Heidelberg Twp. Sign up here: <https://khollen.wufoo.com/forms/kw5pg2p047vuq6/>
6. Next Meetings
- Friday, November 7, at 9:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 1. Provided by Mike Schroeder via email 10/2/2025

QWA Monthly Update for the LCCD Watershed Action Team

Michael Schroeder, QWA President

Thurs Oct 2, 2025

1. Monitoring Program

- Fieldwork. Katie Hollen announced that the next fieldwork days are Mon Oct 20 (at Q1, Q2, K1) and Tues Oct 22 (at S1, BK1, BM1), both days starting 8 am in the LVC Bio lab and ending around 1 pm with delivery of samples to DEP lab in Harrisburg.
- ISCO auto-samplers. Our two units, Kay and Lee, are now ready to deploy for a high-rain event.
- Hand-held sonde unit, still under warranty, was sent to the manufacturer for servicing yet again (Katie)
- Solinst sensors for five monitoring stations are actively recording data, which is being directed to the QWA's cloud-based platform, at <https://quittiedata.org/>

2. NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant. We are reaching the end of the process, with several deliverables forthcoming soon from the consultant, including various types of literature focused on volunteer recruitment. Remaining meetings:

- 3-4 pm Mon Oct 20 (remote)
- 9-10:30 am Fri Dec 5 wrap-up meeting with QWA (remote)
- Mid-December final wrap-up summit meeting with grant recipients (probably in-person, LCCD office)

3. Education & Outreach

- Successful outreach event at The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's Sustainability Fair Sat Sept 20 at Coleman Park –table staffed by Bob Connell, Mike Schroeder, and new volunteer Mia Bucher
- Daphne Messerschmidt & the Tree & Environment Cmte at Cornwall Manor are organizing a "Water Week" in the last week of October with Bethany Canner of the Swatara Creek Watershed Assoc and me presenting on "Where does our water come from and how is it doing health-wise? Where does our 'used water' go (sewage treatment plant)? and What's the condition of the water around us? (Furnace Run, Snitz Creek, source through The Woods past the tennis courts and beyond)"

4. Projects Update: forthcoming from Rocky Powell



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

5. Next QWA meeting 7 pm Tues Oct 21, Community Room, Annville Free Library