

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
Community Room, Annville Free Library (in-person only)
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Present: Bob Connell, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, Alexis Biondi, Bryan Hoffman, Mia Bucher, Kara Lubold

Meeting was conducted by Katie Hollen, Acting Secretary was Kara Lubold

- 1. Minutes.** The minutes of the October 21, 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) Bill printed field safety cards with site addresses and information. Monitoring volunteers will receive cards to keep in their vehicles and with equipment.
 - 2) Katie reported that the next round of routine water chemistry fieldwork at all six monitoring sites will be conducted in December. She will email a Doodle poll to all volunteers in the next couple weeks.
 - 3) Biological Monitoring. Katie reported the biological monitoring was conducted on Thurs. Nov. 6 and Sat. Nov. 8 at all six monitoring sites. She reported that monitoring went well and Prof. Becky Urban at LVC will have her students identify macroinvertebrates in the lab and compile a report.
 - 4) Bob mentioned that S1 coordinates may need to better align with the sample location.

- B. Equipment updates**

- 1) **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, except for the sensor at Q1 (Garfield), which does not get a signal. Bob is still communicating with tech support about an external antenna. Bob will discuss antenna options with costs ranging from \$54 to \$270 with Mike upon his return. The sensor at Bachman Run experienced a battery failure on November 3, but Bob replaced one of the three batteries and it is now in working order.

2) **ISCO auto-samplers.** No updates.

C. Data management

1) **Tutorial on using qGIS.** Bob and Alyssa will hold an initial tutorial session about learning how to use the open-source qGIS software used to build our Water Quality Portal. The meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at Annville Free Library. Anyone interested in attending should contact Bob. Participants should bring a computer to the session and Bob will have flash drives to give out with the materials. Additional training sessions may be conducted virtually after the initial session.

2) **Macroinvertebrate Sampling Raw Data.** No updates.

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

A. Google Drive folder housing NFWF grant materials:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4i3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing

B. The project will be extended with an additional \$2,000 available. The group needs to decide what specific deliverables they would like before Thanksgiving. Consensus was reached that additional resources should go toward Bob's initial "report card" idea to enhance data communication. Katie will contact the consultants with the proposal.

C. Upcoming meetings:

1) Joint wrap-up meeting with QWA, the SWA, and Manada Conservancy at Manada offices in Hummelstown on Thursday, December 4, 3:30- 5:00pm.

2) QWA wrap-up meeting at LCCD, Friday, December 5, 9:00 -10:30am.

3) Closing meeting with presentations by all grant recipients, to be held virtually on December 17 starting at 12:00pm.

4. **LCCD Watershed Action Team.** The minutes of the WAT's meeting of November 7, 2025 are included below in **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

5. **Projects updates.** See **Appendix 1**.

6. **Media & website.** No updates.

7. **Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates.** Bryan Hoffman reported a meeting with Cleona Borough and North Cornwall Township about SQ6 (floodplain restoration project from Dairy Rd to Mill St). Preliminary designs need to go to the state by end of month and

then will be in a waiting period until the new MS4 permit is released. The draft MS4 permit changes the emphasis from nutrient reduction to volume reduction.

8. Education, outreach & special events.

- A. STEM night at Annville Elementary School.** Bob and Mia reported a positive response from both students and parents. The crayfish and watershed model were a big hit.
- B. Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum.** Katie reported that this year's Watershed Forum took place on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Millersville University in Lancaster. A discussion occurred with the group about the first talk, which was about dam removal and legacy sediments. Bill provided information about heavy metal detection in other counties.
- C. Possible field trips** to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station. No updates.
- D. Geological Survey field trip.** Survey staff are offering a 2-hour personalized tour of the PA Geological Survey office in Middletown in December. An email is circulating about three potential dates.

- 9. Matters Arising.** Bill discussed storm response via our sensor network and testing high storm events. He created a PowerPoint which was distributed to attendees after the meeting. Water level and possibly velocity can be predicted with our data to guide storm sampling activities.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Hollen and Kara Lubold.

Appendix 1. Watershed Action Team Meeting Minutes, Nov. 7, 2025



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Friday, November 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bethany Canner, Abigail Harvey, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Mike Schroeder, Bryan Seipp, Maranda Smith, and Rich Starr

1. Applications

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

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. Construction should be completed by the end of November.
- Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: \$27,313.92 of CAP funding.
- Gingrich Run 1: \$204.325 of CAP funding for streambank restoration and stabilization, concrete dam removal. Submitted for permitting at the end of September.
- Snitz 2: \$241,385.50 of CAP funding for streambank protection, constructed wetland and riparian buffer. Construction is complete, plantings still in progress.

3. Partner Updates

- Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
 - o Still waiting on new MS4 permit.
 - o Lions Lake Shoreline Stabilization: Livestakes will be replaced in winter.
 - o SQ6: LandStudies is continuing the design. Consortium is planning landowner meetings to get input on design but they do not anticipate major design changes. Plan should be submitted for permitting at the end of the month.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Abigail Harvey
 - o Successful Annville STEM in the Community Night with QWA.
 - o Planning to review a grant application for Killinger with Rocky next year.
 - o Wengert Park: Still trying to establish a Friends group. Seeding and spraying the slope. Abigail will send invoices to Kara when she receives them.
- Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
 - o See Appendix 1.
 - o Mike mentioned the currently available PFBC funding. Rich said EPR is available to work on designs in the Quittie watershed and that he and Bryan will work with QWA.
- Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner
 - o NFWF capacity-building grant is wrapping up, with final meetings in December.
 - o Artist-in-Residence program is over, but the artist offered to hold more nature journaling workshops if SWA covers travel expenses.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

- EPR, Bryan Seipp/ Rich Starr
 - o Hammer Creek Estates: Ten contractors attended a pre-bid construction meeting.
 - o Heisey Farm: Landowner approved the 30% design with a few minor tweaks. Will schedule a pre-application meeting with DEP soon.
 - o Historic Schaefferstown Farm: Design moving forward. Board is fully supportive.

- 4. **Lebanon County Conservation District Update**
 - 2026 CAP funding grant was submitted.
 - Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum: Millersville University, Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Register here: <https://forms.gle/iGP6ekRgehYYseuw7>
 - Webinar Wednesday: Lawn Conversion and Conservation Landscaping. Kara will share link.
 - o [Course: Webinar Wednesday - Lawn to Habitat Conversion](#)
 - LCCD and the Hammer Creek Partnership hosted a successful legislative tour on October 28.

- 5. **Next Meetings 2025**
 - Thursday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m.



Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

QWA Monthly Update - Mike Schroeder, QWA President, 11/7/2025

1. Monitoring Program

- Routine fieldwork. Katie Hollen coordinated our routine fieldwork 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.
- Biological monitoring. Katie reported our next round of biological monitoring is slated for Thurs. Nov. 6 and Sat. Nov. 8 at all six monitoring sites. The Nov 6 monitoring went well at Q1, S1, and BK1, with Katie and Lydia Mohn of the LCCD and volunteers Bob Connell, Rick O'Leary, Michael Schroeder, Tony Shaw, and Gary Zelinske. She further reported that Prof. Becky Urban at LVC has identified a student, Levi, who is eager to identify macroinvertebrates in the lab.
- ISCO auto-samplers. Our two units, Kay and Lee, are now ready to deploy for a high-rain event, with a forecast of 1-3 inches in 24 hours.
- Hand-held sonde unit, still under warranty, was repaired again by the manufacturer.
- Solinst sensors for five monitoring stations are actively recording data, with the partial exception of the sensor at Q1, an issue Bob Connell is working to resolve. The data flows directly to the QWA's cloud-based platform, at <https://quittiedata.org/>
- Safety meeting. The QWA held a special meeting on safety on Tues Oct 21 in the hour prior to our regular meeting. Notes on that meeting, and minutes of our regular meeting, are housed on the Meetings & Minutes page of the QWA website, at <https://www.quittiecreek.org/>

2. NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant. We are reaching the end of the process, with drafts of a new logo and promotional materials delivered by the consultant on Oct 20. Those materials are housed in this shared Google Drive:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7Hlh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4j3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing, including various types of literature focused on volunteer recruitment. Remaining meetings:
- 3:30-5 pm Thurs Dec 4 in-person SWA-Manada-QWA wrap-up meeting at the Manada Conservancy's office in Hummelstown
 - 9-10:30 am Fri Dec 5 wrap-up meeting with QWA (remote, possibly in-person at the LCCD office)
 - 12-1:30 pm Wed Dec 17: "Consultant Project Showcase Webinar" final wrap-up summit meeting with grant recipients (remote)

3. Education & Outreach

- On Fri Oct 24, Mike presented on our Monitoring Program and Water Quality Portal to residents of Cornwall Manor for "Water Week," organized by Daphne Messersmith and the Tree & Environment Committee.
- On Thurs Nov 6 from 6-8 pm, Bob Connell and Mia Bucher represented the QWA at the STEM in the Community at Annville Elementary School.
- Lancaster-Lebanon Watershed Forum, 8:30 am to 12 noon Sat Nov 15; see <https://www.lccd.org/events/watershed-forum>

4. Projects Update: forthcoming from Rocky Powell

5. Next QWA meeting 7 pm Tues Nov 18, Community Room, Annville Free Library