

CREATION OF THE
QUITTAPAHILLA
WETLAND
PRESERVE

The Establishment of Quittapahilla Wetlands Preserve

The attached documents trace the creation of the wetland at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC).

1. The first document is a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This was the initial grant for \$14,000.00 dollars. The four page narrative was submitted to DCED and was titled; "Educational Wetland on the Quittapahilla Creek".
2. Next comes a letter from the LCCTC's Solicitor, Harry Reed on February. He indicated that a resolution must meet with the approval of the Joint Operating Committee and the six Superintendants of the School Districts in the county. This was accomplished by Steve Kachniasz and David Lasky individually discussing the wetland with the Superintendants and members of the Joint Operating Committee, made up of representatives from the School Boards of each School District.
3. Then an article in the Patriot News indicates that the six Superintendants supported the proposal to create an educational wetland.
4. A letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informed Steve Kachniasz that the wetland restoration project had been approved for funding. The Letter from DEP requested that either Steve Kachniasz or Dave Lasky get bids from contractors to create the wetlands.
5. A response from David Lasky to DEP indicated that we received two bids and our steering committee recommended that we accept the bid by John Reigel. Attached is his bid submission for \$46,900.00. John Reigel then completed the work to create the wetland.

The steering committee that included: Candace Falger, Stephanie Harmon, Ralph Heister, Cynthia Ortega, Beryl Stoddard, and David Lasky. The committee met for almost nine months before the wetland was finally completed.

This provides the history of the creation of the educational wetland at the LCCTC. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

David Lasky, President
Quittapahilla Watershed Association
610 East Walnut Street
Annville, PA 17003



Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Strategic Planning and Operations Office
Community Revitalization Program Unit

June, 2000

David I. Lasky, Chairman
QUITTAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
610 East Walnut Street
Annville, PA 17003

Dear Grantee:

I am pleased to inform you that your application for grant funding has been approved in the amount of \$14,000. Enclosed is a contract for the **Community Revitalization Assistance Program**, your assigned contract number is 99-192-2590, which should be used in all future correspondence with the Department concerning this project.

Please carefully review the contract and contract provisions, which contain important details concerning your responsibilities in connection with this funding approval. Please pay particular attention to the requirement that the grant award must be spent according to contract guidelines and, if applicable, the requirement that all projects receiving awards of \$100,000 or more must have a separate audit completed within 120 days following the contract expiration date. Because the grant funds provided are State funds, the Department cannot accept "Single Audits." If you have any questions regarding the audit requirements, please contact the Budget and Fiscal Division at 717-783-8173.

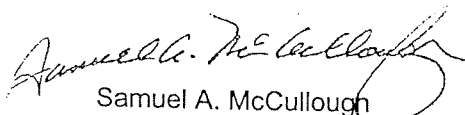
The contract must be signed and dated by two officials or authorized representatives of your organization/municipality and include their official titles. When executed, a complete copy of the signed contract will be sent to you for your files. It is important to note that this contract is not binding on the Commonwealth until this document has been fully executed and authenticated by all required signatures and that any costs incurred prior to that time are at the risk of the grantee. Please contact Oliver Bartlett, Operations Manager in the Community Revitalization Program Unit at 717-787-7402 if you have any questions regarding the contract or any of its provisions.

Also enclosed is a Payment Requisition for the total amount of your grant. Please complete the requisition along with authorized signature and return it with your signed contract.

Return all documents to Oliver Bartlett, Strategic Planning and Operations Office at the address listed below.

Once again, congratulations on the approval of grant funding and, most importantly, on your efforts to improve the quality of life in your community.

Sincerely,


Samuel A. McCullough
Secretary

Enclosures

cc: File

NARRATIVE

Appendix A.B
99-192-2590

Educational Wetland on the Quittapahilla Creek

The Quittapahilla Creek's head waters form east of the City of Lebanon and flow westward through Lebanon, Cleona and Annville before draining into the Swatara Creek. The Swatara Creek Watershed has been classified as a high-priority watershed according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Degraded Watershed List. The Quittapahilla Creek, as part of the Swatara Watershed, shares the same high-priority classification.

The urbanized portion of the Quittapahilla Creek corridor provides the community with an esthetically pleasing green-space that bisects the city of Lebanon and continues on through or along the municipalities of North Cornwall, Cleona, and Annville. A major problem with this water body has been seasonal flooding. Substantial runoff from the city and suburban areas is directly discharged into the creek causing sudden fluctuations downstream in Cleona and Annville.

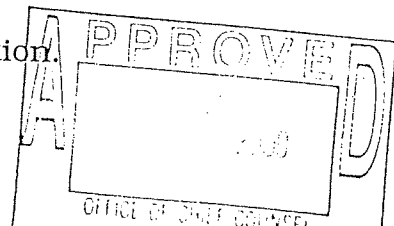
The Quittapahilla Watershed Association, as a subgroup of the Swatara Creek Watershed Association, is a 501(C-3) non-profit organization. The Quittapahilla Watershed Association has been actively involved with efforts to clean up the watershed which lies entirely within Lebanon County. The Quittapahilla watershed covers 36,612 acres. Agriculture makes up the greatest land use. Approximately 30% (11,350 acres) is in residential use. This number will undoubtedly grow as land-use patterns continue to shift from rural to urban.

We are proposing a project that will provide wetland restoration at the head waters. It is our hope that these wetlands will serve as a storm water basin, nutrient containment reservoir and sediment trap during peak discharges, thus alleviating the severity of flooding. In addition to protecting the environment, an educational function will be provided through mulched footpaths and/or observation bridges so that the public has access to the area to make them more aware of the importance of wetlands. Students and organizations shall assist in the planting of wetland species appropriate to this environment. Over time, the area will be monitored for natural succession as wetland species emerge. Signs will be erected for public awareness.

The proposed site is an area of county and school-owned land near the head waters of the Quittapahilla, just east of Lebanon. This would be a strategic location for a wetland restoration project for several reasons:

1. It is located at the head waters in an area of high commercial/residential use.
2. It is centrally located for public observation/education.

1 OF 4



App. A+B
99.192-2590

3. A palustrine emergent, unconsolidated, bottom, permanently flooded, diked impoundment wetland already exists on the site. The Lebanon County Career and Technology Center has given their approval for the project. The County Commissioners of Lebanon given their approval for the project as well.

This watershed restoration project directly relates to the categories set forth by DEP's Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan, by addressing agricultural, construction, urban runoff, and stream hydrology. The project will greatly benefit the watershed and the community.

As part of the educational thrust, we also plan to have trees adjoining the wetland that could be used to display to the community, the type of trees that are suitable for their property. The trees would be an integral part of the educational program providing guidelines for identification, proper installation and maintenance for students and community.

Implementation Plan:

A. Goals/Objectives for wetlands restoration:

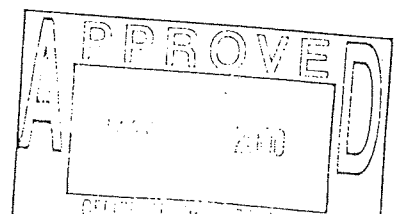
1. Reduce the effects of flooding caused by urban runoff.
2. Development of educational programs by science teachers in local schools.
3. Improve water quality through sediment and nutrient reduction.
4. Provide a riparian buffer
5. Community involvement through recreation and education.

B. Expected Outcomes/Results:

1. flood protection
2. wetlands restoration
3. educational programs in schools and for the community including:
 - a. wetland succession model for the classroom
 - b. head waters macro-invertebrate study
 - c. proper selection of plantings for properties
4. sediment load reduction
5. nutrient level reduction
6. formation of local partnerships

C. Project Participants/Agencies:

Quittapahilla Watershed Association
Lebanon County Career and Technology Center
Lebanon School District
Lebanon Valley College
Lebanon County Conservation District
Lebanon County Commissioners



App. A & B
99-192-2590

Lebanon County Extension Service
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Swatara Creek Watershed Association
Trout Unlimited, Doc Fritchey Chapter
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

D. Milestones/Tasks: Timeline:

- Month 1: Preliminary study, planning and design
Aquatic macro-invertebrate study
Water quality testing
- Month 2: Calculate discharge rate of affected area
- Month 3: Begin wetland restoration
- Month 4: Planting of native species
- Month 6: Begin constructing footpaths
- Month 8: Wetland restoration project ready for public
- Month 9: Continue planting: Succession/natural history study
- Month 12: Calculate discharge rate of affected area
Aquatic macro-invertebrate study
Water quality testing
- After Month 12:
On-going educational programs and site monitoring

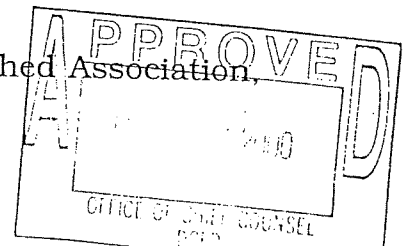
E. Partners:

Education will be an integral component in wetland development: Ralph Heister, a biology teacher in the Lebanon School District has already completed stream monitoring projects within the watershed for Aquatic macro-invertebrates and water chemistry. Dr. Paul Wolf and Professor Candace Folger of the Lebanon Valley College have also completed stream monitoring projects within the watershed for Aquatic macro-invertebrates and water chemistry. These individuals have agreed to continue their study in the proposed wetland.

Dr. David Putnam of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to help with the restoration design. He has been working with us for the past two years on watershed projects. Additionally, Karl Lutz, of the PA Fish and Boat Commission will work with us. He has assisted us in stream bank stabilization through an adopt-a-stream grant and could assist in obtaining any permits that might be necessary for this project. Dr. Robert Bauer, a master gardener, will help with the selection and planting of trees.

Mrs. Cynthia Ortega, Career and Technology Center, will participate in all aspects of the project. She will supervise the planting of the trees adjoining the wetlands.

Mrs. Jo Ellen Litz, President of the Swatara Watershed Association,



3 of 4

App. A. B
99-192-2590

will work on the planning of the project. She has been involved in a similar proposal and is familiar with the surveys that were done on the site.

Our volunteers have contributed well over 1200 hours to our projects in 1999 and we feel that these valuable conservation-minded partners from a variety of organizations stand ready to help with this project as well.

F. Project Budget

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION:

Foot paths/ boardwalks for observation \$ 500.

INFRASTRUCTURE/ SITE PREPARATION:

Grading/ landscaping- this includes preparation and purchase of trees and plants \$6000.

OPERATING COSTS/ WORKING CAPITAL:

Promotion/ Public Relations/ Advertising \$ 500.

RELATED COSTS:

Professional Services/ Consultants \$5000.

Preliminary study, planning and design

Environmental Assessment \$ 500.

Aquatic macro-invertebrate study

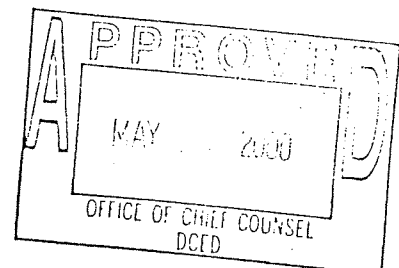
Water quality testing

Calculations of discharge rate of affected area

Contingencies \$1500.

This item is for unforeseen needs in any of the above categories

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST: \$14,000.



H of 4

BUZGON DAVIS

LAW OFFICES
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

BERNERD A. BUZGON
HARRY W. REED, JR.
TIMOTHY J. HUBER
EDWARD J. COYLE
MARY H. BURCHIK
SCOTT L. GRENOBLE
CHAD M. TEMPLIN
JOHN W. DITZLER
KELLEY S. GILLETTE

525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 49
LEBANON, PA 17042

PHILIP S. DAVIS
(1942 - 1995)
RICHARD W. DAVIS
(1964 - 1997)

PHONE: (717) 274-1421
FAX: (717) 274-1752
E-MAIL: buzgon @ leba.net

February 13, 2001

RE: QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED EDUCATIONAL WETLANDS PROJECT RESOLUTION

Stephen Kachniasz,
Administrative Director
Lebanon Co. Career & Technology Center
833 Metro Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

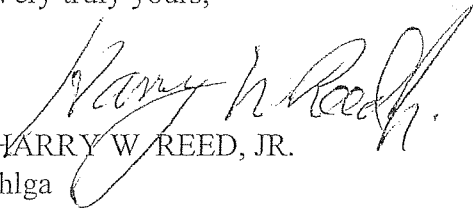
Dear Mr. Kachniasz:

Enclosed with this letter please find the Proposed Resolution to be presented to the Joint Operating Committee on the Wetlands Project. If this Resolution meets with the approval of the Joint Operating Committee and the six Superintendents, I will prepare similar Resolutions for the six School Districts, the Lebanon County Area Vocational School Board (i.e. the 54 member board), and the Authority. The reasons why this Resolution must be passed by all of these entities are because:

1. All of the entities must recognize that by approving the Project, we are creating a situation where this five acres will be unsaleable. In the past, we had negotiated about the sale of this land, as a portion of a larger tract, and were attempting to obtain several million dollars from K-Mart in return for the total parcel of land. The creation of the Wetlands Projects will eliminate this type of option in the future.
2. We are creating an easement on the part of the project participants to create, construct, restore and maintain the Wetlands property. The creation of such an easement, inconsistent with other uses of the land, must be approved by all of these entities.
3. The passing of the Resolution will be helpful to the Quittapahilla Watershed Association in its efforts to obtain state and federal funding for the project.

If anyone has any questions concerning this Resolution, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry W. Reed, Jr.", written in dark ink.

HARRY W. REED, JR.

/hlga

Enc.

CTC considers educational-wetlands idea

BY BARBARA MILLER
OF OUR PALMYRA BUREAU

A site once eyed for a K-Mart could become an educational wetlands under a plan suggested by the Quittapahilla Watershed Association.

The association has received approval for a \$14,000 grant, with more funding pending, and wants to create a wetlands learning area on about three acres between the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center and Route 422. The land is owned by the school and is downstream from the Quittapahilla Creek headwaters.

While CTC officials endorse the concept, there is a catch: Solicitor Harry Reed Jr. told the school's joint operating committee Tuesday that if the land becomes a wetlands, it probably can't be sold in the future.

The CTC had been asking about \$2 million for the property in the mid-1990s when negotiations were taking place with K-Mart, said Stephen Kachni-

asz, CTC director.

"We wanted more than what they were willing to pay," Reed said.

No one else has expressed interest in the land since then, Kachniasz said.

Reed warned that anyone who would want to fill in the wetlands for future construction would need a special encroachment permit, and said it was "unlikely" that such a permit would be granted.

Since the easement would create "such a cloud on title" of the land, Reed recommended the CTC seek approval for the project from its authority: all six sponsoring school districts in the county and the 54 county school board members.

The project would make the land, as a practical matter, virtually unsellable, Reed said.

Watershed officials say anyone wanting to develop the land would face a difficult time getting a permit, even without the wetlands project.

CTC teachers and staff see merit in the proposal, and the

six superintendents of the county school districts recommend it, said Superintendent Marsha Zehner of Annville-Cleona School District.

David Lasky, watershed president, said this would be the group's first major project aimed at education. Ensuring that the land remains a wetland area also would help to curtail flooding in the county, he said.

Science teachers from the six school districts are being recruited to design educational programs for the wetlands. There would be no ongoing costs to the schools, and the watershed association would seek grants if costs would arise.

Members of the joint operating committee were asked to discuss the proposal with their home school boards and superintendents and come back ready to vote on the project next month.

If the committee approves, work could begin in spring.

Barbara Miller may be reached at 832-2090 or barbmiller@patriot-news.com.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8775
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8775
August 6, 2001

Bureau of Watershed Management

717-787-6827

Mr. Steve Kachniasz, Director
Lebanon Vocational Technical School
833 Metro Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

Dear Mr. Kachniasz:

The Department is pleased to inform you that the wetland restoration project proposed on Lebanon Vocational Technical School property has been approved for funding. We appreciate your and the community's interest in Pennsylvania's wetlands, and look forward to construction.

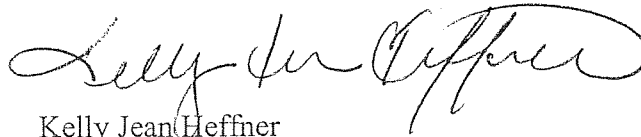
The next step in the process is to retain a contractor to build the wetland. This can be done either through the school or the watershed group. We will forward a site plan, technical specifications, general instructions for contractors, and a lump sum bid form. The contractor should use the site plan, technical specifications, and follow the general instructions for contractors to prepare price quotations. We suggest having each contractor fill out the lump sum bid form to simplify the evaluation of proposals from more than one contractor. You and Dave Laskey can discuss who should do the contracting.

In the meantime, as the representative for the landowner, we would appreciate your acknowledgment of the points below. There are two copies of this letter provided. Your signature at the space provided will serve as an acknowledgment of these points. Please sign both copies, return one to the Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control (envelope enclosed) and keep the other for your records.

1. The restored wetland will become jurisdictional for wetland protection and regulatory purposes and shall remain as wetland.
2. If you or any subsequent owner desires to work in the wetland, permits will be required both from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
3. For project monitoring purposes, the Department will have access to the site during normal business hours for a period of five years. Field visits will be coordinated with you.

The Department sincerely appreciates your support in making this project possible. Thank you for all your time, effort and commitment to the resources of the Commonwealth. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 717-787-6827.

Sincerely,



Kelly Jean Heffner
Permitting Section
Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control

Signature

Date

bcc: Heffner
Laskey ✓
File S07D38-001
Reading File

KJH/sr

