QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Community Room, Annville Free Library, and remotely on Zoom

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Present: Michael Schroeder (President), Alexis Biondi, Bob Connell, Karen Feather, Bryan Hoffman, Katie Hollen, Bill Osburn, Bryan Seipp (EPR), with special guest Mark Magness of Common Ground Earth

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting were circulated electronically before the meeting and approved by consensus. They are housed 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)** Katie had scheduled monitoring fieldwork for Jan 20 and Jan 21, but inclement weather compelled a change to Jan 22 and Jan 28. On Jan 22, Katie, Lydia & Bob conducted fieldwork at Q1, Q2, and K1. Inclement weather intervened again on Jan 28 and the second day of fieldwork was postponed.
     - **2)** On Jan. 16, Katie announced that the LCCD will be participating in the Stroud Water Research Center's Winter Salt Snapshot on Friday, Jan. 30 and asked for volunteers to collect grab samples at 20 sites, mainly from the Swatara and Quittapahilla watershed and test them at the LCCD for conductivity and chloride.
     - **3)** Bill's printed field safety cards with site addresses and information for monitoring volunteers to keep in their vehicles and with equipment are yet to be distributed.
   - **B. Equipment updates**
     - **1) Solinst Sensors.** Bob reported that he replaced the dead battery in the Solinst sensor at BM1. He also reported that the Solinst sensor at K1 is generating weird numbers and that he is investigating Mike reported that he ordered the antenna from Solinst for the sensor at Q1 at a total cost of $304 and that it should arrive soon.
     - **2) ISCO auto-samplers.** No updates.

C. **Data management updates**

1) **Workshops on using qGIS.** Bob reported a successful initial in-person qGIS workshop held at his house from 6-8 pm Tues Jan 13, with Mike, Katie, and Gary Zelinske participating. On Mon Jan 19, Bob sent out an invitation to participate in two additional qGIS workshops. His email invitation read in part:

> "Thanks for participating in the first QWA GIS workshop last Tuesday. I hope you've had a chance to "experiment" with qGIS and explore since then. We still have more to discover. Based on what you are interested in learning, potential topics are:
>
> - using data from the Quittie Data Portal to build informative maps of water quality
> - make maps you can use in reports or put online
> - find additional map layers online
> - tailor map data to the Quittie using clip, buffer, dissolve and other geoprocessing tools
> - make a map-based website using qGIS
> - use the qGIS phone app (Q Field) to display and collect data in the field."

Bob suggested we meet twice more in the Annville Free Library from 6-8 pm and included a "WhenIsGood" link for folks to select the dates that would work for them.

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

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

A. Google Drive folder housing NFWF grant materials: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7HIh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4j3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing

B. The grant has been extended into January with an additional $2,000, with a focus on developing a "report card" for Quittapahilla watershed to be targeted to the general public that answers the question, "How is the Quittie doing?" On Jan. 13, a remote meeting was held with consultants Ryan Szuch and Katie Ombalski and QWA members Bob Connell, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, and Mike Schroeder. The consultants presented various options for such a "report card" using reports and templates developed by other watershed associations and using the criteria developed by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative. Robust discussion followed. Ryan will develop and circulate a draft report card in the coming days. The grant period will close at the end of January.

C. Mike reported on the "Community Watershed Organization Consultant Project

Showcase Webinar" organized by Tali MacArthur and POWR held on Wed. Dec. 17 with all grant recipients and community partners. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/a0oXTwM2wOQ?si=fjDngpXk7u0--pgA

4. **Projects updates.**
   - **A.** On January 14, Rich Starr of Ecosystem Planning & Restoration (EPR) and Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting (CCC) led a 2-hour remote meeting focused on planning restoration work in 2026 in the Quittapahilla and neighboring watersheds. Rich's meeting agenda and meeting notes, and Rocky's summary of ongoing and envisioned projects in 2026, are included below in **Appendix 1** to these minutes.
   - **B.** Mike reported that he held two remote meetings in late December with Bryan Seipp of EPR related to future projects in the watershed.
     - **1)** The first meeting on Tues Dec 23 focused on EPR's ongoing and projected projects in Lebanon & Lancaster counties, including with the Hammer Creek Watershed Association (see https://lancasterwatersheds.org/hammer-creek-watershed/ and https://lancasterwatersheds.org/wp-content/uploads/Hammer-Creek-Watershed-Assessment.pdf), the LCCD, and the QWA. Bryan suggested a follow-up meeting with Mark Magness of Common Ground Earth (CGE, at https://www.commongroundearth.org/about), who has expressed interest in partnering with the QWA to administer future grants.
     - **2)** The second meeting on Tues Jan 30 with Bryan and Mark focused on a general introduction to CGE's history and ongoing work. Mark expressed interest in partnering with the QWA to administer grants moving forward.

5. **LCCD Watershed Action Team.** The minutes of the WAT's meeting of January 8, 2026 are included below in these minutes in **Appendix 2**.

6. **Acting Treasurer's report.** See below in **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

7. **Media & website updates.** Mike reported that he continues to update the website and post on social media focusing on the QWA Monitoring Program.

8. **Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium updates.** Bryan Hoffman reported that the Consortium met earlier today and is largely frustrated and flummoxed by PA-DEP's long delays in responding to Consortium queries and requisite submissions. Nearly a year ago, the

Consortium submitted its next 5-year Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) to PA-DEP, for which it is still awaiting comments & feedback. As noted in previous meetings, DEP's main objective has shifted from sediment reduction (in the previous 5-year period) to volume reduction (in the next 5-year period).

9. **Education, outreach & special events.**
   - **A.** Mike reported that at the prompting of Tali MacArthur at POWR, he has registered the QWA as a participant in the Choose Clean Water Conference, May 18-20, 2026, at Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square in Lancaster; see https://www.choosecleanwater.org/our-conference
   - **B.** Mike reported that he has registered the QWA for several upcoming tabling events, including Friends of Old Annville's Historic Old Annville Day (9 am—2 pm Sat June 13, 2026,) and two weeks later, from 1 -5 pm on July 4, 2026, at the America250 Celebration at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center.
   - **C.** **Possible field trips** to the City of Lebanon Authority's (COLA's) Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Cleona Pumping Station. No updates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder
Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix 1, Item 1: Meeting agenda for Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Projects Planning Meeting for 2026

Jan 14, 2026
Rich Starr, Vice President, Ecosystem Planning & Restoration

Invited:

- Rocky Powell, Clear Creeks Consulting, LLC
- Bryan Seipp, Ecosystems Planning & Restoration
- Maranda Smith, LCCD
- Russ Collins, DFTU & QWA
- Abigail Harvey, TLVC
- Ned Gibble, TLVC
- Daniel Kreiser, Land Studies
- Reid Garner, Spring Hill Partners
- Kara Lubold, LCCD & QWA
- Katie Hollen, LCCD & QWA
- Mark Magness, Common Ground Earth
- Mike Schroeder, QWA & LCCD

1. Current Projects
   a. Beck Creek 6
   b. Snitz Creek 2
   c. Bachman Run – Gary and Gerald Horst Properties (Permitted 12/2025 and 01/2026)
   d. Snitz Creek 4
   e. Killinger Creek – Huber and Burkholder Properties (Permitted 4/06/2024)

2. Recommended Future Projects
   a. Beck Creek 1 – Failed Dam Repair and Gully Restoration
   b. Snitz Creek 4B – Stream Restoration
   c. Snitz Creek 5 (Reach 7) – Stream Restoration
   d. Snitz Creek 6 (Reach 8A) – Stream and Floodplain Restoration
   e. Snitz Creek 7 (Reach 8B) – Stream Restoration and Dam Removal
   f. Snitz Creek 16 – Stream Restoration
   g. Snitz Creek 18 and 19 – Stream Restoration and Dam Repair
   h. Killinger Creek – Kreider Property Stream and Floodplain Restoration

3. 2026 and 2027 Priority Projects

4. Monitoring
   a. WQ

b. Biological
c. Periodic Reconnaissance Surveys
d. Post-Construction

5. Funding
   a. PADEP Growing Greener Plus - GGP
   b. PADEP 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program - 319
   c. PADEP Water Quality Improvement Grants - WQI
   d. Department of Community & Economic Development – Watershed Restoration and Protection Grants - DCED
   e. LCCD Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program - ACAP
   f. LCCD Lebanon County Countywide Action Plan - CAP
   g. PA Fish and Boat Commission Grants
   h. Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grants
   i. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grants
   j. The Conservation Fund (TCF)

6. Future Opportunities

Appendix 1, Item 2: Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Projects Planning Meeting – Detailed Information

January 14, 2026
Drafted by Rocky Powell

Current Projects

Beck Creek 6

1) Channel Construction – Completed
2) Wetlands Construction – Completed
3) Wetland Water Quality Impoundment - Completed.
4) Grading and stabilization of Upland Habitat Areas - Completed.
5) LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025
6) Container Grown Plant Installation - Completed
7) Live Stake Installation – February 2026
8) Addressing LCCD Concerns about Wetland Impoundment
   a) Wetland Outlet Pipe clogging with debris (e.g. straw, corn husks) causing overflow – Debris Fence at Outlet Pipe, Bring Embankment to design grade to prevent overflow
   b) Potential for erosion along Outfall Channel – Armor channel bottom with stone
   c) Lack of grass and aquatic vegetation establishment due to goose damage – Install goose netting along aquatic bench, reseed bench and bare areas

9) As-Bult Survey and Plans
10) Pollutant Reduction Model
11) Operation, Maintenance and Repair Plan (OMR)
12) Final Report

Snitz Creek 2

1) Channel Construction – Completed
2) Wetland Construction – Completed
3) LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025
4) Container Grown Plant Installation – Completed
5) Live Stake Installation – January 7, 2026
6) As-Bult Survey and Plans
7) Pollutant Reduction Model
8) Operation, Maintenance and Repair Plan (OMR)
9) Final Report

Bachman Run – Gary and Gerald Horst Properties

1) E&S Permit Application – Approved by LCCD 5/28/2025
2) PADEP Water Obstruction & Encroachment Permit - Approved - 12/31/2025
3) PADEP General Permits (GP-6) for Livestock Crossings - Approved - 12/31/2025
4) USACOE 404 Permit – Pending Site Walk 1/22/2026
5) Finalizing Construction Bid Documents
6) Scheduling Pre-Bid Site Walk for Construction Contractors Mid-Late February
7) Prepare Growing Greener, 319, Grant Applications for Construction Funding for 2026 submittal and PA Fish & Boat Commission, CAP and ACAP for 2027 submittal with Planned Construction in Fall 2027 or Spring 2028
    a) Stream Channel and Floodplain Construction Cost Estimate – Pending Bid Proposals
    b) Steckbeck – Estimated Cost of Culvert Installation and Engineering Services – $144,764.00
8) Final Report

Snitz Creek 4A

1) Preliminary Design in Progress
2) Scheduling Landowner Meeting for Late February – Early March
3) Final Design – Mid March to Late April
4) Proposed H&H – May
5) Permitting – May – September (This will require a Grant Extension)

Killinger Creek – Huber and Burkholder Properties (Permitted 4/06/2024)

1) Preparing Grant Applications - Phase 1 – Construction and Post-Construction Monitoring
2) NFWF 2026 Small Watershed Grant - $650,000.00
    i. Proposal Due Date Thursday, April 2, 12:00 PM ET
    ii. Proposal Review Period April – August 2026

iii. Awards Announced September 2026 (anticipated)

3) CAP 2027 Grant Request - $100,000.00
4) ACAP 2027 Grant Request - $186,024.00
5) Project Cost - $936,024.00
6) Planned Construction Summer – Fall 2027

Recommended Future Projects

Beck Creek 1 – Dam Repair and Gully Restoration

1) Existing Conditions
   a) Old dam and pond on the property part of the Cold Spring Water Supply for Cornwall Borough. Intentionally breached when it was no longer needed. Over the years, the condition of the breach gap has deteriorated.
   b) Current conditions include severe and active head-cuts, erosion along the near vertical left and right cut faces of the breach gap, and large trees growing along the top of the embankment. The combination of the eroding cut faces, and the large trees will lead to catastrophic failure of the sections of the embankment nearest the breach gap. Both situations will contribute a significant volume of sediment to downstream reaches along Beck Creek.
   c) The head-cuts migrating upstream through the breach gap and across the old pond bottom will erode and drain the high value emergent and scrub-shrub wetland along the old the pond bottom.
   d) Downstream of the dam is an incised channel with eroding banks and undercut trees along the banks.
2) Project Elements
   a) Stabilize Pond Embankment (50 LF)
      i. Remove large trees from the top of the embankment.
      ii. Widen breach gap to reduce the potential for future erosion by grading the cut faces to a more stable angle of repose and stabilizing with grasses and coir matting.
      iii. Remove old-drain pipe.
      iv. Stabilize active head-cut in the breach gap by backfilling head-cut with a layer of clay, a layer of compacted soil backfill and installing a boulder cascade outlet channel.
   b) Stabilize Unstable Channel Downstream of the Dam (150 LF)
      i. Raise streambed with a layer of compacted soil backfill and install a riffle-pool sequence.
      ii. Grade and stabilize eroding banks along the channel in areas where there are no large bank trees.
      iii. Plant streambanks with native trees and shrubs.
3) Landowners – Joshua and Carla Formanek have approved the project

Snitz Creek 4B – Stream Restoration

1) Existing Conditions
   a) Unstable – Eroding banks ± 90% of reach; Moderately incised channel due to historic bed degradation; historic livestock impacts, no buffers.
2) Project Elements
   a) 1,189 LF
   b) Grade banks and excavate a floodprone bench along entire channel length.
   c) Establish riparian buffer with native trees and shrubs
   d) If future land use includes livestock grazing install fencing along both banks.
3) Landowners – Glenn and Linda Krall

Snitz Creek 5 (Reach 7) – Stream Restoration

1) Existing Conditions
   a) Unstable – Moderately incised with eroding banks along 45% of reach length; leaning and fallen trees throughout; numerous moderate – large debris jams, lower section large trees blocking channel and causing channel diversions; Multiple, large mid-channel bars. Eroding banks adjacent to ballfield.
2) Project Elements
   a) 410 LF of 892 LF Reach
   b) Remove debris jams and fallen trees.
   c) Grade eroding banks along narrower sections, rebuild eroding banks with toe wood and soil lifts along wider sections.
   d) Install imbricated rock walls along outside of bends adjacent to ballfield.
   e) Establish 25 foot riparian buffer along edge of ballfield.
3) Landowner – Approach Cornwall Lebanon School District for approval

Snitz Creek 6 (Reach 8A) – Stream and Floodplain Restoration

4) Existing Conditions
   b) Unstable – Eroding banks ± 90% of reach; Incised channel due to historic bed degradation; tortuous meanders; historic livestock impacts; aggradation ups of old dam on Quinn Property.
5) Project Elements
   f) 2,425 LF
   g) Restore channel as a stable C4 channel by excavating a floodprone bench along entire channel length and raising stream bed to reconnect channel with floodplain.
   h) If future land use includes livestock grazing install fencing along both banks.
   i) Establish a riparian buffer a minimum of 35 feet along both banks.
6) Approach - Trustee for William C. Freeman and PNC Bank for project approval

Snitz Creek 7 (Reach 8B) – Stream Restoration and Dam Removal

1) Existing Conditions
   a) Unstable – Incised to moderately incised channel with eroding banks ± 45% of reach; Leaning and falling trees. Old concrete and timber dam at upstream end of reach. Storm flows eroding along the side-walls of dam spillway. Hole along right side of dam is leaking water. Rip-rap along spring channel.

2) Project Elements
    a) 314 LF
    b) Remove dam and repair spillway walls
    c) Grade stream banks
    d) Plant native trees and shrubs.
3) Approach Landowner - Quinn Creek Partners LLC for project approval
4) Note – Snitz Creek 5, 6 and 7 could be combined into a single 3,149 LF project.

Snitz Creek 16 – Stream Restoration

1) Identified as highest priority project in Snitz Creek subwatershed
2) Existing Conditions
    a) Upper Section – Moderately stable – Minor, localized erosion.
    b) Lower section – 970 LF Unstable – Deeply incised channel with severely eroding high banks ± 65% of total reach length; aggradation 20%
3) Project Elements
    a) Stabilize eroding banks with a combination of grading and installation of toe benches with soil lifts to create a bankfull bench along the toe of the higher banks.
    b) Install toe benches along overwide sections to narrow baseflow channel and improve sediment transport.
4) Landowners - Perlmutter, Morrisey and Juppenlatz. Two of three landowners signed on for project. Resolution of issues with third landowner required prior to moving forward.

Snitz Creek 18 and 19 – Stream Restoration and Dam Repair

1) Existing Conditions
    a) Upper Section - Unstable - Eroding banks ± 100% of right bank; Upper section has significant bed aggradation 65%, resulting from the backwater and flattened gradient caused by Stefanides dam. Numerous moderate to large sized debris jams are blocking the channel on Shulte and upper Stefanides Properties. The dam failed in 2021 and has been temporarily repaired. Downstream of dam the left bank is stable.
    b) Lower Section – Unstable – Eroding banks ± 70% of reach; widespread aggradation 40%. Earthen and rubble berms and rip-rap along banks; two sections of split flow with vegetated islands on Ehrgood Property. Gabion baskets installed along left bank on Schulte Property to protect new sanitary sewer.
2) Project Elements
    a) 3,130 LF
    b) Grade eroding banks
    c) Install toe benches along overwide sections
    d) Develop stable meander geometry
    e) Install Toe Wood/Soil Lifts to reconstruct banks
    f) Instream structures - Constructed Riffles, Boulder Runs; J-hooks, cross-vanes
    g) Repair failed dam
    h) Construct small by-pass channel along floodplain for fish passage

3) Upper Reach Landowners – Ehrgood, Stefanides, Shulte, Target, Lowes. Four of five landowners signed on for project. Resolution of issues with fifth landowner required prior to moving forward.
4) Lower Reach Landowners - Showalter, ABE Associates, North Cornwall Township & Zimmerman
5) Work with North Cornwall Township to bring other landowners on board and resolve landowner issues.

Killinger Creek – Kreider Property Stream and Floodplain Restoration

1) Project Elements
   a) 1,714 linear LF
   b) Install toe benches along overwide sections;
   c) Develop stable meander geometry;
   d) Install Toe Wood/Soil Lifts to reconstruct banks;
   e) instream structures - Constructed Riffles, Boulder Runs; J-hooks, cross-vanes
   f) Spring Refugia Channels – 282 LF;
   g) Wetlands Restored & Created – 5.64 acres;
   h) Riparian Buffer Established – 5.64 acres.
2) Work with Dave Kreider, Landowner to obtain approval for project

2026 and 2027 Priority Projects

Monitoring

a. WQ
b. Biological
c. Periodic Reconnaissance Surveys
d. Post-Construction

Funding

k. PADEP Growing Greener Plus - GGP
l. PADEP 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program - 319
m. PADEP Water Quality Improvement Grants - WQI
n. Department of Community & Economic Development – Watershed Restoration and Protection Grants - DCED
o. LCCD Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program - ACAP
p. LCCD Lebanon County Countywide Action Plan - CAP
q. PA Fish and Boat Commission Grants
r. Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grants
s. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grants
t. The Conservation Fund (TCF)

Appendix 1, Item 3. Quittapahilia Creek Watershed Project Planning Meeting Notes

Rich Starr, EPR
January 14, 2026

Attendees:

Richard Starr (EPR), Kara Lubold (LCCD), Mark Magness (CGE), Maranda Smith (LCCD), Mike Schroeder (Quittapahilla Watershed Assoc), Reid Garner (Springhill Partners), Rocky Powell (CC), Katie Hollen (LCCD), Darren Heisey (Steckbeck), Bryan Seipp (EPR), Dan Kreiser (LSI), and Russ Collins (DFTU)

Purpose:

The meeting purpose was to identify, discuss, and prioritize projects within the Quittapahillia Creek watershed for 2026 and 2027 funding.

Key Meeting Notes:

- Meeting topics covered: current projects, recommended future projects, and 2026 and 2027 priority projects. Other topics on agenda that were not discussed due to lack of time: monitoring and funding. These will be discussed at next meeting. Meeting agenda is attached.
- Meeting was recorded in Teams. Meeting video and transcript is available upon request. A condensed transcript is attached.
- Rocky Powell presented on current projects and recommended projects. See attached "Quittapahillia Creek Watershed Project Planning Meeting – Detailed Information.
- 2026 and 2027 Priority Projects Discussion
    - The original approach, as agreed by stakeholder committee, was to focus first on highest loading subwatersheds (Snitz, Killinger, Beck, Bachman). Then sork upstream to downstream within each, to avoid sending sediment into newly restored reaches.
    - PADEP staff supported the top-down approach, as close as possible, but explicitly advised not to turn away willing landowners.
    - Current funding environment has changed. There are more funding programs, each with distinct scoring criteria; high loading tributaries do not always score best under those criteria.
    - Funding limits and opportunistic landowner interest led to projects being implemented throughout the watershed, which will likely continue especially with current funding project criteria.

        - Limits on grant award amounts require more than one funding source to construct projects.
        - CAP and ACAP funding is shifting more towards ag BMPs but can be excellent match for restoration project grants.
        - MS4 funding can be a strong source of funding once the MS4 permit is approved.
        - When prioritizing projects, keep in mind PADEP regulator's preference for LSR projects.
        - Strong agreement that funding and completing construction on already permitted projects (especially Bachman, Killinger, and Snitz 3) must be a near term focus to show funders that design/permitting investments lead to built projects.
        - Must still pursue design and permit projects in 2026 to avoid gap years in project construction.
    - Tentative Priority Projects
        - Construction Projects
            - Bachman Run – Designed and permitted; expensive, but a top priority for construction.
            - Killinger Creek Phase 1 – Designed and permitted; priority contingent on reestablishing landowner support and closing the funding gap beyond NFWF.
            - Snitz Creek 3 – Permitted, but likely behind Bachman and Killinger in priority.
    - Tentative Design and Permitting Projects
        - Meeting time lapsed before a final list could be complied. Team members agreed to provide potential projects by January 30 to the team.
        - Projects suggested during the meeting:
            - Snitz 4B (to pair with 4A).
            - Select Snitz or Killinger reaches from recommended project list.
    - Beck Creek, between Colebrook and Royal Roads. The creek is running dry for unknown reasons, but there is speculation on some possible reasons. Project could be priority if investigations show clear ecological/regulatory needs.

<u>Action Items</u>:

1. Prepare meeting notes and provide to team. (EPR)
2. Team members to provide priority design/permit design project to team by Jan 30.
3. Schedule a follow up meeting to finalize project prioritization. (EPR)
4. Coordinate priority projects and funding options with Hammer Creek Core Planning team.
5. Rocky Powell & Bryan Seipp (with others) to refine grant strategy for Bachman and Killinger construction (DEP programs, NFWF, Fish & Boat, etc.).

6. Rocky Powell, Dan Kreiser, and Maranda Smith (and others as needed) meet to coordinate on Killinger Phase 1: confirm landowner status, applicant roles, and realistic construction timeline if funded.
7. LCCD staff continue investigating Beck Creek low flow reach and coordinate with DEP on expectations and options.
8. Add MS4/TMDL municipal funding to the working funding matrix

Appendix 1, Item 4: Quittie Project Planning Meeting – Condensed Notes from Teams Meeting Transcript

January 14, 2026,
Online via MS Teams
Facilitated by Rich Starr

1. Purpose and desired outcomes

- Align partners working in the Quittapahila watershed on priority projects for 2026–2027 and identify suitable funding sources.
- Honor the watershed implementation plan (WIP) focus on high-loading tributaries while adapting to current funding criteria and landowner realities.
- Begin coordination with Hammer Creek partners to avoid conflicts in funding requests (e.g., 319 projects in each watershed).

Core outcomes targeted

- Tentative list of:
    - Construction priorities (already designed/permitted).
    - Design/permitting priorities for 2026.
- Initial alignment of those priorities with feasible grant programs (DEP 319, Growing Greener, NFWF, CAP/ACAP, MS4/TMDL funds, others).

---

2. Current projects – brief status (heavily reduced)

2.1 Back Creek 6

- Construction essentially complete; remaining task is live staking to be finished by mid-February.
- Some follow-up work planned on:
    - Clogging outlet pipe.
    - Outfall channel erosion.
    - Vegetation loss from geese.
- As-built survey delivered; modeling, O&M, and final report are in progress.

2.2 Snitz Creek 2

- Construction complete, including live staking in early January.
- As-built data going to EPR; pollutant reduction modeling and closeout documentation underway.
- Cornwall Borough's land purchase and construction contribution support its MS4 obligations and provide a model for future municipal partnerships.

2.3 Bachman Run

- Designed and fully permitted (ENS, DEP; Corps permit expected after upcoming site walk).
- Cost is high due to DEP-driven design changes; likely one of the most expensive stream projects in the watershed.
- Bid documents are being finalized, with a pre-bid site walk targeted for mid–late February.

2.4 Snitz 4A/4B

- Snitz 4A is in design; a downstream segment on the Crow property is now identified as Snitz 4B.
- Planned schedule: landowner meeting late Feb/early March; final design in spring; permitting into late 2026, with a one-year grant extension requested.

2.5 Killinger Creek – Phase 1

- Design and permits were completed in 2024.
- Farm is being sold to Brent Copenhaver, so landowner support must be re-confirmed; previous contact (Brian Kendall) has passed away.
- Total cost is roughly $936k; NFWF small watershed grants cap at $750k, with earlier plans to use CAP/ACAP for the gap now uncertain due to those programs' ag-BMP focus.

Key point: The group agreed these projects are largely in the pipeline, and the main strategic question is how to fund the shovel-ready work (especially Bachman and Killinger) while setting smart design priorities for the next two years.

---

3. Planning framework and high-priority subwatersheds

3.1 Basis for prioritization (WIP and earlier studies)

- Two foundational analyses guided the WIP and original management plan:
    - Penn State water quality model (Dr. Barry Evans).
    - Sediment budget by Skelly & Loy funded by USFWS.
- Both identified:
    - Mainstem Quittapahila as the largest sediment/nutrient source, with ~30% of load from the upper basin (City of Lebanon and upstream farms).
    - Among tributaries, Snitz Creek as the highest-loading subwatershed, followed by Killinger (including Gingrich), then Beck, then Bachman.

3.2 Original implementation strategy vs reality

- Original approach agreed by stakeholder committee:
    - Focus first on highest-loading subwatersheds (Snitz, Killinger, Beck, Bachman).
    - Work upstream to downstream within each, to avoid sending sediment into newly restored reaches.
- Reality:
    - Funding limits and opportunistic landowner interest led to projects scattered throughout the watershed.
    - DEP staff supported staying as close as possible to the top-down approach but explicitly advised not to turn away willing landowners.
    - Some funding reviewers have criticized deviations from the formal WIP sequence, even with that DEP guidance.

3.3 Changing funding and land use context

- Today there are more funding programs, each with distinct scoring criteria; high-loading tributaries do not always score best under those criteria.
- Example: SRBC's groundwater-recharge-focused mapping favors areas around Snitz, not necessarily the Snitz subwatershed itself, for certain grants.
- Snitz Creek is undergoing significant development, reducing agricultural acreage and potentially limiting ag BMP project opportunities compared to other basins.

---

4. Future projects and strategic issues

4.1 Rocky's recommended project set (very condensed). Rocky's list largely keeps the focus on Snitz and Killinger while responding to specific landowners and risk conditions.

- Beck Creek 1: Small but worthwhile project with both water quality and public safety benefits; funding has slipped from 2025 to 2027.
- Snitz 4B (Crow property): Degraded reach (~90% unstable) just downstream of Snitz 4A; concept is bank grading and small flood benches, with fences if livestock return.
- Snitz 5 (Cornwall-Lebanon School): Unstable reach below Route 419, affecting school ball fields; strong candidate for municipal/educational partnerships.
- Snitz 6 (former Freeman tract): Highly eroding, incised reach with prior livestock impacts; subdivision plans complicate timing but it fits the top-down Snitz logic.
- Snitz 7: Short reach below Snitz 6 with a failing timber dam; recommended actions are dam removal and short-reach restoration. Snitz 5–6–7 could be combined into a single larger project to appeal to funders.
- Snitz Reach 16A ("Project 11"): Highest-loading Snitz reach, with tall eroding banks threatening sheds and an in-ground pool; two of three landowners are on board, but the third controls the entire right bank.

- Snitz 18–19: Complex reach with a failed diversion structure and multiple interested owners, but a key right-bank owner (Lowe's landlord) rejected agreement language; combining upper and lower 19 into one project and engaging North Cornwall Township is recommended.
- Killinger Phase 2 (Crider): Downstream continuation of Phase 1 with strong restoration potential; partners want to keep this in the queue but focus near term on Phase 1 construction.

4.2 Beck Creek low-flow concerns

- DEP and others have raised concerns that Beck Creek is intermittently dry between Colebrook Road and Royal Road, affecting two golf courses.
- Field observations show:
    - Good flow above Colebrook Road, with noticeable reduction below.
    - Extensive reed canary grass on farms, which may exacerbate water loss where flows are already marginal.
    - Many ponds divert water but tend to return it via outlets; primary issues may be localized losing reaches or other hydrogeologic factors.
- District has invested CAP funding in manure storage and BMPs in this reach, and is continuing to investigate causes and DEP expectations before suggesting Beck work as a higher priority than known sediment "hot spots."

4.3 Funding and permitting themes

- Construction vs design:
    - Strong agreement that funding and completing construction on the already permitted projects (especially Bachman, Killinger, and Snitz 3) must be a near-term focus to show funders that design/permitting investments lead to built projects.
- Permit fees and municipal role:
    - DEP's fee structure now classifies natural channel projects differently than "stream restoration," leading to large permit fees for some projects and dependence on municipal applicants to access waivers (e.g., South Annville for Bachman).
- CAP/ACAP:
    - These programs are shifting toward ag BMPs, making them less reliable for stream restoration construction, especially where direct contracting is constrained.
- MS4:
    - DEP's draft new MS4 permit moves from load-based to volume-based crediting; until the final permit and conversion rules are clear, municipalities are cautious about investing in new watershed projects for MS4 credit.
- NFWF:
    - Small watershed grants are capped at $750k, so large projects like Killinger Phase 1 will require multiple funding sources.

5. 2026–2027 priorities and action items

5.1 Tentative priorities

Construction (shovel-ready) – highest importance

- Bachman Run – Designed and permitted; expensive, but a top priority for construction once a multi-source funding package is assembled.
- Killinger Creek Phase 1 – Designed and permitted; priority contingent on re-establishing landowner support and closing the funding gap beyond NFWF.
- Snitz Creek 3 – Permitted and long delayed; important to move forward when funding allows, but likely behind Bachman and Killinger in immediate queue.

Design/permitting – 2026 focus (to be finalized)

- Partners did not finalize a list during the meeting; instead they set up a process to select a small set of 2026 design priorities.
- Candidates include:
    - Snitz 4B (to pair efficiently with 4A).
    - Selected Snitz or Killinger reaches from Rocky's list.
    - Potential Beck work if investigations show clear ecological/regulatory need.

5.2 Agreed process and tasks

By January 30, 2026 – all partners

- Email the group (reply-all to agenda email) naming 2026 design/permitting candidates, with:
    - Location/reach.
    - Rationale (benefits, WIP alignment, landowner willingness, likely funding program fit).

Follow-up meeting (early February)

- Review submitted candidate projects and:
    - Select one or more 2026 design/permitting priorities.
    - Revisit Rocky's monitoring discussion and map monitoring to project clusters.
    - Refine funding strategies for Bachman and Killinger construction.

Specific action items

- Richard Starr
    - Circulate concise written notes plus links to the recording and AI notes.
    - Add MS4/TMDL municipal funding to the working funding matrix.
    - Schedule the follow-up prioritization meeting.
- Rocky Powell & Brian (with others)
    - Refine grant strategy for Bachman and Killinger construction (DEP programs, NFWF, Fish & Boat, etc.).
- Rocky, Dan, Maranda (and others as needed)
    - Meet to coordinate on Killinger Phase 1: confirm landowner status, applicant roles, and realistic construction timeline if funded.
- District staff (Maranda, Katie, Carl)

- Continue investigating Beck Creek low-flow reach and coordinate with DEP on expectations and options

Appendix 2. Watershed Action Team Meeting Minutes, Jan. 8, 2026

Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bethany Canner, Russ Collins, Reid Garner, Hannah Hartman, Abigail Harvey, Darren Heisey, Katie Hollen, Kara Lubold, Rocky Powell, Mike Schroeder, and Rich Starr

1. 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
   - Wengert Memorial Park Seeded Slope: $27,313.92 of CAP funding. The first attempt at the seeded slope was not entirely successful. LandStudies is coming up with new proposal and maintenance plan. TLVC will keep Kara updated.
   - Gingrich Run 1: $204.325 of CAP funding for streambank restoration and stabilization, concrete dam removal. DEP said the project needs an Individual Permit. There have been discussions with S Annville Twp about being the permit applicant.

2. Completed Projects
   - Syner Rd. Phase II: $213,950 for construction-related expenses
   - Snitz 2: $241,385.50 for streambank protection, constructed wetland and riparian buffer
   - Heisey: $241,065 for HUA, cattle walkway & fencing
   - Hess: $10,000 for a non-federal match commitment for NFWF INSR grant

3. Partner Updates
   - Clear Creeks Consulting, Rocky Powell
     - See Appendix 1.
   - Lebanon Consortium/MS4, Darren Heisey
     - Still waiting for the next MS4 permit.
     - SQ6: Submitted for permitting in December.
     - SQ1 Phase 2: Scheduled for late 2026 or early 2027. Rocky mentioned the presence of a spring downstream of the bridge on the left edge of the stream and expressed concern about the spring channel being impacted by the project. Mike will look into sending a letter to the Consortium.
   - Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Abigail Harvey
     - Planning for a Water Week in the fall. Will be reaching out to partners in February/March.
     - Will be applying for Killinger Creek grant.
     - 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner will be March 19 at Hebron Banquet Hall.
   - Quittapahilla Watershed Association, Mike Schroeder
     - See Appendix 2.

1

- Bryan Seipp set up a meeting with the nonprofit Common Ground Earth about potentially administering grants.

- Swatara Watershed Association, Bethany Canner
  - NFWF capacity-building grant extended through January. Will be planning a kickoff event along with the sojourn in May.
  - Applied for a Marcellus Shale Grant for improvements at Swatara Watershed Park, including adding trails and live staking.
  - Will have a table at the Volunteer Fair at the Lebanon Valley Mall on January 24 from 10 AM – 1 PM.
  - Drafting a letter to encourage municipalities to review zoning ordinances to prepare for data centers in Lebanon County.
- Trout Unlimited, Russ Collins
  - DFTU will hire a bookkeeper this month to assist with processing grants.
- EPR, Rich Starr
  - New engineer, Jim Morris, will be the lead engineer for the projects.
  - Hammer Creek Estates: Construction will begin in February.
  - Heisey Farm: Pre-application meeting went well. Project will meet Waiver 16 requirements. Putting together detailed designs.
  - Historic Schaefferstown Farm: Hoping for 30% designs by the end of January, and to then be ready to schedule a pre-app meeting.
  - Musser Farm: Putting together SRBC proposal for design. Common Ground Earth will be the applicant.
  - Barry Farm: LandStudies showed ponding could occur with some of the changes requested by the landowners. Jim is in contact with LandStudies about how to address ponding issues. The next step is to send notice to DEP with design changes, and Rich is hopeful that a permit package will be ready this month or next.
- Spring Hill Partners, Reid Garner
  - Hoffman Farm: Applied for ACAP funding for vegetation management and will be going to LCCD Board for approval.
  - Snitz Trib at Ironmaster Rd: Applying for an SRBC Consumptive Use Grant. Reid will reach out to Rich for input on quantifying groundwater recharge.

4. **Lebanon County Conservation District Update**
   - CAP 2026 Award
     - Total award: $624,483 ($114,269 allocated for projects within the Hammer Creek Watershed. The remaining $510,214 can be used anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.)
     - Briefly reviewed details of projects applied for in the 2026 CAP grant request.

5. Next Meetings 2026
   - February 5 — 9:00 am
   - March 5 — 9:00 am
   - April 2 — 9:00 am
   - May 7 — 9:00 am
   - June 4 — 9:00 am
   - July 2 — 9:00 am
   - August 6 — 9:00 am
   - September 3 — 9:00 am
   - October 1 — 9:00 am
   - November 5 — 9:00 am
   - December 3 — 9:00 am

Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 1. January 8, 2026 Watershed Action Team Projects Update – Quittapahilla Creek Projects, provided by Rocky Powell, 1/8/2026

Beck Creek 6

Channel Construction – Completed
Wetlands Construction – Completed
Wetland Water Quality Impoundment - Completed
Grading and stabilization of Upland Habitat Areas - Completed
LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025
Container Grown Plant Installation - Completed
Live Stake and Live Branch Installation – February 2026
Currently Addressing LCCD Concerns
- Wetland Outlet Pipe clogging with debris (e.g. straw, corn husks), causing overflow
- Potential for erosion along Outfall Channel
- Lack of grass and aquatic vegetation establishment due to goose damage

As-Built Survey and Plans – Pending

Snitz Creek 2

Channel Construction – Completed
Wetland Construction – Completed
LCCD Final Construction Inspection – 9/30/2025
Container Grown Plant Installation – Completed
Live Stake Installation – January 7, 2026
As-Bult Survey and Plans – Pending

Bachman Run – Gary and Gerald Horst Properties

E&S Permit Application – Approved by LCCD 5/28/2025
PADEP Water Obstruction & Encroachment Permit - Approved - 12/31/2025
PADEP General Permits (GP-6) for Livestock Crossings - Approved - 12/31/2025
USACOE 404 Permit – Pending
Finalizing Construction Bid Documents
Scheduling Pre-Bid Site Walk for Mid-February
Prepare Growing Greener, Fish & Boat Commission, CAP and ACAP Grant Applications for Construction Funding for 2026 submittal with Planned Construction in 2027
- Stream Channel and Floodplain Construction Cost Estimate – Pending Bid Proposals
- Steckbeck – Estimated Cost of Culvert Installation and Engineering Services – $144,764.00

Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Snitz Creek 3 (Permitted 6/14/2023)
319 Construction Grant Application Submitted – 6/06/2024
GGP Construction Grant Application Submitted – 6/06/2025
319 – $457,727.00 (Approved – 10/20/2025)
GG – $330,408.00 (Approval – Late Winter – Early Spring 2026)
Cost – $788,135.00
Planned Construction Mid-Summer – Early Fall 2026

Snitz Creek 4
Conducted Site Walk on 12/23/2025 to Introduce EPR's new Engineer to Project
Existing Conditions Hydraulic Analysis received from EPR; Preliminary Design in Progress
Scheduling Landowner Meeting for Late February – Early March

Killinger Creek – Huber and Burkholder Properties (Permitted 4/06/2024)
NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grant for Phase 1 Construction and Phase 2 Design and Permitting - Materials and Application submitted 11/04/2024.

- Phase 1 – Construction Grant Request - $936,024
- Phase 2 – Design and Permitting Grant Request - $266,966

Grant not approved - Debriefing with NFWF staff March 2025 – Funded projects emphasized miles of riparian buffers. Recommended reapplying 2026 for Small Watersheds Grant (SWG).
Preparing Grant Applications - Phase 1 – Construction and Post-Construction Monitoring

- NFWF 2026 Small Watershed Grant - $650,000.00
- CAP 2027 Grant Request - $100,000.00
- ACAP 2027 Grant Request - $186,024.00
- Project Cost - $936,024.00
- Planned Construction Summer – Fall 2027

2025 CAP Projects Grant Applications
Grant Application and Supporting Documentation (Project Descriptions, Stabilization Concepts, Contractor Budgets) for Proposed Design-Build 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 complete Project by June 2026
- PADEP comments on GP-3 Permit - DEP indicates Project must go through Individual Permit Process. Permit cost and timing a problem.

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

- Project Funding for $184,700.00 – In 2025 - deferred until 2026. Hannah Hartman confirmed in 12/2025 that Project will not be funded for 2026 due to large number of funding requests.

Lebanon CAP Watershed Action Team

Appendix 2. QWA Monthly Update for the LCCD Watershed Action Team, provided by Mike Schroeder, QWA President, 1/8/2026

1. Monitoring Program
    A. Routine fieldwork. Katie Hollen is organizing our January monitoring fieldwork; the dates will be announced soon.
    B. Equipment updates. Ordered & received an antenna for the Solinst sensor at Q1 in Cleona, total cost $304.56. Bob Connell is installing.
    C. Data management: qGIS workshop led by Bob Connell and Alyssa Bellucci scheduled for 6-8 pm January 13 at the Annville Free Library. Those interested in participating should contact Bob ahead of time for instructions on downloading qGIS into their computer before the workshop. Bring your computer! Additional training sessions may be conducted remotely after the initial session.

2. NFWF Small Watershed Planning and Technical Assistance Grant. All relevant materials are housed in this shared Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QB5EM-7HIh-2Ysp4n_Hxv4i3a_pVNg1H?usp=sharing. You are invited to review and offer any suggested edits or changes to any of this material. Goal is to get it all finalized and ready to print & distribute by the end of January. The grant has been extended into January with an additional $2,000. Focus in this final round will be on developing a "report card" for the watershed. Remote meeting with Grow Conservation scheduled for 11 am Tues Jan 13.

3. Education & Outreach
    A. Upcoming second visit to the PA Geologic Survey headquarters in Middletown, courtesy of Al Guiseppe, Geoscience Manager of the Geologic & Geographic Information Services Division at the PA Geological Survey (nested inside the DCNR). 10 am-12 noon, Friday January 23 (signed up to date: Alyssa Bellucci).
    B. QWA will participate in a capacity-building effort at the Choose Clean Water Conference in May in Lancaster thanks to Tali MacArthur at POWR; more details are forthcoming.

4. 2026 projects. Bryan Seipp and Rich Starr of EPR are organizing a remote meeting with Rocky Powell sometime next week to map out grant applications & projects for 2026.

5. Next QWA meeting: 7 pm Tues Jan 20, Community Room, Annville Free Library

Appendix 3. Acting Treasurer's Report, Dec. 31, 2025.

Background: QWA President Michael Schroeder has served as QWA Acting Treasurer since late 2020. As part of our strategic planning process with the NFWF grant, discussions were held on the QWA's checking account with M&T Bank in Lebanon, which piggybacks on The Lebanon Valley Conservancy's (TLVC's) bank account. This is because the QWA has no formal institutional existence and is thus unable to open its own bank account. The QWA's banking relationship with TLVC was inherited from QWA founder Dave Lasky and has remained unchanged since at least the early 2010s. Recently, QWA member Alexis Biondi was appointed to TLVC's Board of Directors. Discussions about this issue among QWA members resulted in a consensus that the QWA should formalize its banking relationship with TLVC. As the first step in that process, Mike submitted an Acting Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2025. That report is included below in Appendix 3 to these minutes. A meeting with members of TLVC's Board is being planned for February.

Acting Treasurer's Report , Michael Schroeder
President, Quittapahilla Watershed Association
December 31, 2025

The QWA's bank account at M&T Bank piggybacks on the bank account of The Lebanon Valley Conservancy.

We had three expenditures in 2025, in two checks from the QWA account:

1. $154.95, check #1015, April 7, 2025, reimbursement to Cleona Borough Authority for service contract for Solinst sensors for monitoring (five sensors purchased thanks to a generous grant of $9,279 from CBA, which purchased the sensors using its EIN and granted them to the QWA).
2. $145.15, check #1016, Dec. 26, 2025, reimbursement to Michael Schroeder for sieve bucket purchased from Forestry Suppliers on Aug. 20, 2025 using his credit card
3. $304.56, also check #1016, Dec. 26, 2025, reimbursement to Michael Schroeder for Solinst antenna for monitoring station Q1, purchased from Solinst on Dec. 25, 2025 using his credit card (one check issued to Michael Schroeder for $145.15 + $304.56 = $449.71)

Beginning balance, January 1, 2025:	$3,022.03
Expenditures in 2025:	- $154.95
	- $145.15
	- $304.56
Ending balance, Dec. 31, 2025	$2,417.37

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Schroeder, QWA President and Acting Treasurer