

**June 17, 2010**  
**Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Association**  
**Annville Township Building**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present :** Barb Haak, David Lasky, Tom Kotay, Eugene Graham, Brett Long, Travis Steiner, Lisa Steiner, Gary Grieve-Carlson

- 1. April Meeting Minutes.** Barb Haak moved to approve the April 2010 minutes; seconded by Gary Grieve-Carlson and carried unanimously.
- 2. Treasurer's Report.** Barb Haak gave treasurer's report. QCWA original funds will be moved to M&T bank when paperwork is finalized.
- 3. Review of Website Upgrades/Change.** David Lasky reported that Stan Furmanak is continuing to make changes to the QCWA website. Website includes history, members list, meeting dates, maps and geomorphic assessment, reports, photo galleries, grants/projects pages, and links. David Lasky stated that Stephanie Harmon recommended placing the meeting minutes on the website. It was agreed that Stan Furmanak (the current webmaster) should be included on the meeting minutes distribution list so minutes can be placed on website.
- 4. QCWA Liability Coverage.** The QCWA Board has coverage for Board functions. However, the organization does not have coverage for QCWA activities. Patrick Freer is investigating coverage for the Conservancy with the Watershed Association being covered as part of the policy. The liability of private landowners for accidents occurring on their property during recreational or volunteer activities was discussed. It was determined that this should be investigated further (i.e. is there a state law protecting private landowner's from such lawsuits).
- 5. Game Commission Plantings.** The plantings are doing well in the Lebanon Valley College greenhouse. All but a few of the bareroot plantings have sprouted. Planting locations and timing was briefly discussed. It was agreed that the tentative planting time would be sometime in late September or early October to coincide with LVC student volunteer availability.
- 6. Raush Creek Stream Liming Project.** Brett Long briefly discussed the Raush Creek Stream Liming Project being planned by the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The chapter plans to have volunteers from Fort Indiantown Gap deliver limestone sand to the headwaters of the abandoned mine drainage impacted Raush Creek in State Gameland 211 with helicopters. Brett stated that student volunteers would be helpful to help shovel limestone sand close to the stream from the dumpsites. Brett stated that he would forward information to David Lasky to inquire about volunteers when the times and dates are finalized.

## 7. Reports on Quittie Projects.

- A. **Snitz Creek Wetland Restoration Project.** Tom Kotay discussed a Wetland Restoration project planned along Oak Street at Snitz Creek Park. Stakeholders are attempting to start the project this summer but will start next spring if necessary. This project will create approximately four acres of functional wetland. The goal of this project is to provide a wetland bank for future transportation projects as well as provide a valuable environmental and recreational resource to the community.
- B. **Quittie Nature Park Stream Restoration.** (No change from last month) David Lasky reported that project is moving forward.
- C. **Wetland Project (BMP 3).** David Lasky reported that this project was reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps concurred with the current project design and recommended minor modifications. Skelly and Loy is attempting to finalize plans by late July.
- D. **Day of Caring:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at Quittie Creek Nature Park. We had 51 people for the day of caring in the Quittie Creek Nature Park and the extension. This group mulched trails, removed invasive plants, planted trees, and removed trash. Up at Yogies we had an additional 25 people removing trash. Travis Steiner reported that a full dumpster of trash was removed from Yogies in addition to a few soaked mattresses. Prior to the Day of caring, 2 people went down the Quittie in a canoe and cleaned up trash in the stream and one person cleaned up the trash on Mount Pleasant Road near #422.

**9. Oral History Project.** A digital camera to tape local residents with stories about the Quittie/Annville was purchased. Work on the oral history project continues. Contact David Lasky if you have ideas about who should be interviewed or can volunteer to help conduct interviews.

**10. Proposal to Downgrade Hammer Creek Chapter 93 Classification.** The state is currently reviewing a proposal to downgrade Hammer Creek's classification from a High Quality Coldwater Fishery to a Coldwater Fishery. David Lasky wrote a letter to the Environmental Quality Board protesting the downgrading of Hammer Creek. The Watershed Organization has conducted numerous projects to improve the water quality of Hammer Creek and believes it is discouraging for the state to downgrade a resource that the Organization has spent so much time trying to protect. The downgrading would loosen permitting requirements in the watershed.

## 11. Upcoming Events.

**A. PennFuture Clean Water Breakfast.** PennFuture is hosting a series of breakfast meetings for local government officials and citizens to learn more about Pennsylvania's commitment to clean water here at home and downstream in the Chesapeake Bay.

This process cannot happen without your input. Join us for a FREE breakfast, and hear more from state and local officials on how you can be involved. Please RSVP.

<http://my.pennfuture.org/site/Calendar/1072089233?view=Detail&id=105821>

8:00- 10:00 a.m.

Hilton Garden Inn Hershey  
550 East Main Street  
Hummelstown, PA 17036

**B. Bog Turtle Workshop.** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Pennsylvania has started the Bog Turtle Initiative in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The initiative involves enrolling properties that have bog turtles or bog turtle habitat (in close proximity to known sites), under the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). We are currently pursuing properties where the owners are interested in permanent easements. The rates within the range of the bog turtle range from \$3,900 - \$12,000 an acre, depending upon the county. Also included in the permanent easement is payment for restoration of the habitat. This is an unheard of opportunity for the recovery of the bog turtle.

If you are interested in more information about the program, please join us at the Berks County USDA-NRCS Office at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA. The NRCS/USFWS meeting will be Wednesday July 7 from 10-12 at the USDA-NRCS Berks County Office at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA.

**C. Kings Gap Wetland Restoration Workshop.** You are invited to participate in the Kings Gap Wetland Restoration Workshop, to be held August 10-11, 2010 at The Nature Conservancy's Forest Pools Preserve and Kings Gap State Park.

If interested in attending, please e-mail Tracy Coleman at [tcoleman@tnc.org](mailto:tcoleman@tnc.org) for more information. The registration deadline is July 6, 2010.

**12.** The meeting was adjourned before 8:00 P.M.

The next Quittapahilla Watershed Association meeting is scheduled for Thursday night at 7:00 P.M. August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Annville Town Hall.