

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
December 18, 2014**

Present:

Mike Schroeder, Alan Wood, Joe Connor, and David Bailey

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

1. Joe Conner and Mike Schroeder reported that Russ Collins of Doc Frichey Chapter of Trout Unlimited was attempting to establish a student chapter at LVC. The purpose is to generate student interest in the activities that Trout Unlimited supports.
2. Mike reported that Dave Lasky had received an inquiry from an Eagle Scout regarding a project for a badge; a project on riparian buffers was recommended, along with waiting for spring.
3. Mike reported that the stream restoration project is progressing. Weekly photo updates are being posted on the website (Homepage > Photos > Restoration 2014-15).
4. Allen Wood noted that the live stakes are being installed incorrectly by the contractor. They should be driven deeper into the soil and the buds must be pointing in the right direction. Allen also provided photos and an illustration indicating the proper depth to ensure the maximum number of surviving stakes. Mike agreed to provide the information to the contractor with a request to correct the installation.
5. Mike reported on a meeting in Harrisburg with representatives of POA-DEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, Clear Creeks Consulting, Lebanon Valley Conservancy, and the Watershed Association. A synopsis and follow-up email by Rocky Powell are appended to these minutes. In brief, PA-DEP recommended against large-scale wet-pond BMPs within the City of Lebanon, instead favoring more diverse, and smaller-scale BMPs. The DEP also recommended that the Association work to improve the Quittaphahilla's main tributaries using the existing recommendations in Powell's 2006 report, and coordinate efforts with the City of Lebanon to enable assist with their efforts to comply with the MS4 requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bailey, Secretary

APPENDIX: Synopsis of Dec. 10 meeting and follow-up summary & recommendations

1. Synopsis of meeting at the DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave. in Harrisburg, on 10 December 2014.

Present:

Scott Heidel, DEP Water Program Specialist scheidel@pa.gov
Jeremy Miller, DEP-SCRO (permitting) jeremm.lle@pa.gov
Jason Shirey, DEP-SCRO (permitting) jshirey@pa.gov
Doug Goodlander, DEP-BCR dgoodlande@pa.gov
Jineen Boyle, DEP regional advisor jiboyle@pa.gov
Aaron Ward, DEP (urban BMPs) award@pa.gov
Pat Strong, Army Corps of Engineers pat.strong@usace.army.mil
Ned Gibble, Lebanon Valley Conservancy egibble@verizon.net
Rocky Powell, Clear Creeks Consulting clearcreeks@zoominternet.net
Christopher Stepp, Bayland Inc. (assoc. with Rocky) csteppe@baylandinc.com
Mark Secrist, US Fish & Wildlife Service mark_secrist@fws.gov
Michael Schroeder, Quittapahilla Watershed Association schroede@lvc.edu
David Lasky, Quittapahilla Watershed Association lasky@lvc.edu

1. Scott Heidel called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.
2. Rocky Powell offered a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the nature and characteristics of the Quittapahilla watershed; the history of his work in the watershed over the past 15 years; and the reasons behind the current need for the wet-pond BMPs discussed in his 2006 report. The presentation lasted until around 11:50, at which time discussion ensued.
3. A consensus emerged among the assembled among the DEP representatives that the large-scale wet-pond BMPs being advocated in the presentation were probably not the most effective way to improve the water quality of the watershed, particularly in urban spaces like the City of Lebanon, and that in Lebanon City smaller-scale, more localized, and more diverse BMP projects should be developed and implemented.
4. Recommendation was also made by the DEP representatives to pursue and develop the smaller-scale tributary streambank stabilization, fencing, and BMP projects specified in Powell's 2006 report, particularly for Brandywine Creek and Snitz Creek but for other tributaries as well.
5. It was further recommended that the Association & CCC work with the City of Lebanon and other municipalities via the Lebanon County Planning Department to develop and apply for grant funding for projects relating to MS4 compliance issues.

2. Follow-up email by Rocky Powell to PA-DEP, Dec. 10:

Great meeting! We really appreciate the time you took to meet with us. More importantly we appreciate the frank discussions and positive recommendations.

We met for lunch after we left and hammered out a plan of action to move forward. We propose to:

1. Prepare WIPs for the major rural subwatersheds. This will allow us to get funding for and implement Ag. BMPs and stream restoration/wetland creation projects we have already identified and prioritized along those tributaries.
2. Determine where the City of Lebanon is with developing their MS4 required WIP.
3. Schedule a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Lebanon. This meeting would include the Director of Public Works for the City, the Director of Planning and Members of the Planning Board for Lebanon County.

The objectives of the meeting would include:

- a. Determining how the City plans to fund and implement projects to meet the obligations of the MS4 program.
- b. Offering support in the form of the information gathered during our watershed assessment.
 - b. Recommending that a more detailed assessment be conducted of the City's waterways to identify pollutant source "hot spots" and potential opportunities for implementing site-specific SWM retrofits..
 - c. Determining how public-private partnerships for managing SW runoff from larger privately owned parcels could be incorporated into their WIP.
 - d. Recommending that, where feasible, they incorporate into their WIP those regional BMP sites where storm water wetlands, not wet ponds, could be designed to maximize water quality benefits while addressing all permitting concerns.
4. Move forward to obtain funding and implement those stream restoration projects already identified along Quittapahilla Creek.

We'll definitely be in touch in the up coming months.