

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
October 15, 2015**

Present: Mike Schroeder, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Joe Connor, Alicia Norris.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. The Sept. 17 minutes were approved.
2. Mike reported that Dave Bailey has stepped down as QWA Secretary; Mike agreed to serve as Secretary Pro Tem.
3. The bulk of the meeting was given over to a discussion of riparian buffers. Alicia reported that Massachusetts requires a standard 100 foot riparian buffer. Kent and Mike noted that local conditions in the Quittapahilla watershed require narrower buffers, especially along tributaries where farmers frequently permit cattle to graze directly in streams & waterways, and often plant crops right up to streambanks, and that a 10 or 15 foot riparian buffer would be better than none at all. Joe noted that the recently passed HB 1565 changed the PA Clean Stream Law on “high quality & exceptional value” streams. Alicia raised the issue of liability in the case of big storm events, citing recent examples in Massachusetts that suggest that pushing for changes in legislation can result in unexpected tradeoffs that may put the property owner at a disadvantage financially or otherwise; she suggested that thinking about what alternatives might be needed and having assistance in place would be important in cases where property owners could be burdened by a change.
4. After a long & inconclusive discussion, it was determined that the members of the Association need to learn more about what the current DEP rule actually says and how it’s enforced.
5. It was agreed that the Association should invite Stephanie Harmon of the Lebanon County Conservation District as a special guest to our next (Nov. 17) meeting, so that members might learn more about the riparian buffer issue. Mike agreed to issue the invitation.
6. Kent reported on more than a dozen grant opportunities that might be suitable for the QWA, including Trout Unlimited’s Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant. Karen followed up by reporting on her recent attendance at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Environmental Research Consortium (PERC) in State College PA, where DEP Director John Quigley indicated via Skype that DEP has insufficient resources to meet federal EPA requirements. Kent noted that grant money will likely soon become available for PA-DEP compliance with EPA mandates and that the QWA should be ready to submit grant proposals for these anticipated forthcoming funding opportunities.
7. Kent agreed to begin writing a grant proposal for the Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant, but indicated that he would need help to complete it.
8. Alicia noted that it would be worthwhile to solicit a PA Fish & Boat Commission biologist to investigate whether trout populations are breeding in the Quittapahilla watershed, because such a circumstance would change the classification of the stream and enhance opportunities for future grant funding. Joe noted that the Regional Biologist for F&B is named Kris Kuhn.

9. Joe reported that sections of the coir fabric matting on the south bank of Quittie Creek upstream of the Pedestrian Bridge were exposed and looking barren underneath, with no soil, just rocks.
10. Mike and Joe reported on the downed trees in Quittie Creek Nature Park from the recent wind storm. Mike reported that a workday is scheduled for this coming Saturday, October 17 to clear the trails in the park. Hope was expressed that the fallen trees & limbs in the creek itself will be removed by Annville Township Public Works.
11. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem