

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
March 17, 2016

Present: Dave Lasky, Ann Lasky, Mike Schroeder, Russ Collins, Kent Crawford, Karen Feather, Joe Connor, Beth Lutz, Theo Umble

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

1. Mike provided a number of updates and announcements, to wit:
 - a. Work on Phase 2 of the Quittie Creek Streambank Restoration Project in Annvile has been delayed until after 15 June 2016 in consequence of the massive late January snowfall; the contractor being backlogged with other jobs; and state regulations prohibiting heavy equipment restoration work in waterways from March 1 to June 15, leaving insufficient time to complete the project by the March 1 cutoff date.
 - b. Preliminary planning has begun on what we are calling the "Cleona Streambank Restoration Project," envisioned as approximately 2,000 linear feet of streambank from just upstream of the Garfield St. bridge downstream to the end of Cleona Park. Rocky Powell of Clear Creeks Consulting has met with Cleona Borough officials (including Borough Manager Kerry Rohland) to discuss the project. Rocky hopes to submit a grant proposal to PA-DEP's Growing Greener program by the July deadline, by which time we will need the approval of all property owners on both sides of the stream. Hadjh Ahrns, who lives in the projected work area near Garfield St., has agreed to serve as our contact person and solicit the formal agreement of all the property owners in the area.
 - c. We still await word on the grant proposal submitted last year for Rocky to develop a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the upper mainstem of the Quittie and along Snitz Creek. Jineen Boyle at PA-DEP has indicated that she expects to hear soon.
 - d. The Association has paid \$50 for an advertisement in the banquet program for the Annual Banquet of Trout Unlimited on April 9. For the ad, Mike developed a new logo for the Association that he shared with the group (appended to these minutes).
 - e. The Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee of the Friends of Old Annvile is developing plans for a handicapped-accessible fishing area in Quittie Creek Nature Park just east of the Spruce St. Bridge, via a grant from the PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. The land is owned by Annvile Township, and Township Commissioner Jim Scott is also involved in the planning process, along with Kathy Moe of the Nature Park Committee. Mike asked if Trout Unlimited might be able to offer its advice and counsel on the specifics of the siting and design of the fishing platform. In response, Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited President Russ Collins indicated that his organization would be happy to assist in planning and implementing the project.
 - f. Upcoming events:
 - i. *Project Clean Stream*. At 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 2, as part of "Project Clean Stream" sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (<http://cleanstream.allianceforthebay.org/>), volunteers will gather in the parking lot of Yogeys Minuature Golf & Ice Cream Parlor, just off Route 422 on South 22nd St. (behind Commerce Bank and Taco Bell and directly across from the Lebanon Valley

Mall), divide into teams of 3-4 persons each, and fan out in the woods along the banks of Quittapahilla Creek to pick up trash and hunt for plastic artifacts suitable for display in the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum. Trash bags will be provided. Sponsored by the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association.

- ii. *Quittie Creek Nature Park Day of Caring Spring Cleanup.* April 23 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Meet at the main entrance to Quittie Creek Nature Park off Bachman Road next to the Raymond Swingholm Pedestrian Bridge. This annual Spring Cleanup is sponsored by the Lebanon County United Way and the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee of the Friends of Old Annville. Community volunteers will divide into crews, and help spread mulch along the trails, pick up trash, remove invasive species, and spruce up the Nature Park for the coming summer. Joe Connor suggested that special attention be given to the area east of the Spruce St. Bridge.
 - iii. *“Let’s Talk Trash!”* April 19th at 11:00 am (Chapel 101, LVC campus) Michael Schroeder, Executive Director of the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum in Annville, will offer a broad-ranging presentation on the systemic contamination of Pennsylvania’s waterways and the world’s oceans with millions of tons of plastic trash, using Lebanon County’s Quittapahilla Creek as emblematic of today’s throwaway society and an ongoing global process of environmental degradation.
- g. Stephanie Harmon of the Lebanon County Conservation District (Stephanie.Harmon@lccd.org) is soliciting volunteers to help run the stations and score the students tests for the LCCD’s upcoming Envirothons (see www.lccd.org/programs/education/). Volunteers will be on-site about a half day (times vary per event) and will require background checks by law enforcement agencies. The Envirothons are scheduled to take place in the following times and places:
- i. High Schools: April 28th at Levitz.
 - ii. Middle Schools: May 6th at Middle Creek.
 - iii. Elementary Schools: May 12th at Coleman Park
2. Mike noted a conflict with the QWA’s traditional meeting time of the 3rd Thursday of the month and the monthly meeting of the LCCD, held at the same time, and asked if there were any objections to moving the meeting date to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Hearing no objections, it was agreed by consensus to move the meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, starting in May. (In April we will again meet on the 3rd Thursday.) Mike agreed to announce the change on the “Meetings & Minutes” page of the QWA website.
3. Kent brought before the Board two items:
- a. An idea for a student research project on Quittie Creek in summer 2017 to measure dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, and other key indicators. These indicators are important because trout need cold water containing lots of oxygen. The research would provide a summer research opportunity for two Lebanon Valley College students in collaboration with LVC Associate Professor of Biology Becky Urban, and funded through a grant via an agency yet to be determined. Kent and Becky are still working out the details. Consensus was reached that this sounds like a terrific idea, and Kent was encouraged to move forward with a grant proposal. Funding will be sought for student stipends, part-time salary for Dr. Urban, multiple temperature and dissolved-oxygen recorders, miscellaneous equipment, travel, and overhead for the College. Total costs for the project are expected to be in the neighborhood of \$50,000. The Lebanon County

Conservation District and the Doc Fritchey chapter of Trout Unlimited would be asked to co-sponsor the request for funding. The results would be submitted for publication in the *Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences Journal*.

- b. A draft letter to the Area Fisheries Manager of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission requesting an electro-fishing survey in Quittie Creek, to determine whether trout are reproducing in the creek – because if it can be demonstrated that trout are reproducing, Quittie Creek will be elevated to a new and higher status in the Fish & Boat Commission’s listings that will make it eligible for additional funding opportunities. After Kent and others addressed concerns about whether the electro-fishing survey would harm the fish (it wouldn’t), consensus was reached that this was a very good idea, and Kent was encouraged to move forward with his proposal. Kent moved, and Dave seconded, a motion authorizing the QWA’s co-presidents to sign the letter once it’s finished. It was noted that the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited would be solicited to join with the QWA for this request.
4. Russ announced Trout Unlimited’s “Embrace a Stream” program that provides additional funding opportunities to improve water quality in waterways. Applications are due in September 2016 and the grants will be announced in February 2017 at the Cold Water Conference. It was agreed that the Association will ask Rocky Powell to do a walk-through of the proposed area.
5. Karen announced that on March 29 at 10 AM, the Lebanon County Agricultural Center will host a conference sponsored by the Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance and the Center for Watershed Protection that will address MS4 issues for Lebanon County municipalities, including technical experts on BMPs, logistics, priorities, etc. Persons desiring more information are encouraged to contact Karen (kfeather@lvc.edu).
6. Mike moved that the Association allocate up to \$200 for t-shirts bearing the new QWA logo to sell at Historic Old Annville Day and other community events. Dave seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
7. Joe suggested that the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee ask the PA Fish & Boat Commission to extend the zone of “delayed harvest” fishing to include all of Quittie Creek Nature Park to its upstream terminus at Willow Drive. It was suggested that Tom Risser, who owns the land on the opposite north bank, also be brought into the conversation, along with Paul “Stumpy” Graham. The suggestion was received very favorably. Mike agreed to ask the Nature Park Committee to pursue this action.
8. Beth Lutz of the LCCD summarized her work over the past month, visiting three sites, in search of farmers interested in installing riparian buffers along the Quittie mainstem and/or its tributaries. Two of those sites, along Killinger Creek, did not appear promising, but the third, along the Quittie off Syner Road, did appear promising. Beth agreed to continue conversations with the farmer and pursue this opportunity, and she was thanked by the assembled members and visitors for her excellent work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem

Appendix: The QWA's new logo:

