LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
415 Franklin Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORIT9Y
March 20, 2025

The meeting was held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the Stuart Community Center. Andy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members / Reps Present	Bob Ackerman, William Harner, Michael Jean, Bradley Mitchell, Ben Mummert, Heather Novack, Andy Parker, and Curtis Stevens
Member/Rep Absent	Don Ward
Staff Present	Kathy Russell

PRESENTATIONS – York Building Products - Quarry Development – see comments below under "New Business".

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Curtis Stevens presented his resignation letter from the LRA board effective March 31, 2025.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA –

Michael questions the order of the meeting agenda. After a brief discussion, Bob made a motion to suspend the usual order of business and take public comment next. Heather seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – We welcomed Chad Greenlee to our meeting as a visitor. Chad is not representing Trout Unlimited, but he is a member of the Cumberland Valley TU Board. Chad stated that CVTU owns a 10-acre parcel on South Spring Garden Street. He is working on a proposal to install two Brush Deflectors in the Letort. All materials will be on-site and free. He will need to acquire a GP-1 permit for this project. One deflector will be placed on the TU property and Chad will request our permission to place another defector on the LRA property on the opposite stream bank. The goal is to create a free wood structure to provide fish habitat and natural diversity for trout and bug habitat. He has a project plan which he will provide to us.

Andy made two comments:

(1) We have a POWR grant where TU is the primary beneficiary and CPC and LRA are other stakeholders to look at the habitat from I81 upstream, which would include this area. We want to make sure Chad's project doesn't conflict with this grant plan.
(2) Deflectors can push water into the opposite bank and cause erosion.

Michael suggested that this request be tabled until Chad can return and provide additional information and detailed plans for his project.

Minutes: Curtis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Bob seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Administrator –

- Kathy is still waiting for Statement of Financial Interest forms from Don Ward and Mark White. All other Statements of Financial Interest forms have been forwarded to their respective municipalities, borough, and county.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial / Budget

Monthly Financial
The memorandum of bills is as follows:

Unpaid Bills requiring approval:

Administrator - Services	-$360.00
Unpaid Bills Subtotal.....	**-$360.00**

TOTAL BILLS and FEES: ..... -$360.00

Michael made a motion to approve the bills totaling $360.00, Ben seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ben and Andy opened a PNC bank account - $2,300.00 has been deposited (North Middleton contribution / plan review fee).

Andy received a "replacement" check from Middlesex, which Andy will deposit.

Andy will close all accounts from Members 1st and transfer to PNC.

PNC strongly recommends that we discontinue using checks to prevent fraud. It was suggested we get a debit card.

***Financial Summary* –**

The Treasurer's Report was not updated this month due to the fire at Curtis's home. The hard copies of LRA documents that Curtis had have all been destroyed by the fire. Fortunately, Curtis has saved most of the documents on the cloud.

***Treasurer's Report*:**
***BANK ASSET ACCOUNTS*:**
BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT (07)

Closing Account Balance $19,862.88

BUSINESS SAVINGS *ACCOUNT* (00) GENERAL FUND

Closing Account Balance $47,210.75

BUSINESS MONEY MARKET SAVINGS, FRIENDS OF THE LETORT

Closing Account Balance $16,087.77

BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS, RESTRICTED FUND -01

Closing Account Balance $100.78

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #51 (29 Month) (Matures 03/17/2027)

Closing Account Balance $5,718.26

TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS ON DEPOSIT: $88,980.44

Friends of the Letort –

- Database of Friends for Volunteer Opportunities – continues to be updated.

Grants – ***Bob Ackerman***

- Cumberland County Land Partnership grant – Status – Ben
  - Letort Greenway - 6/25 extension
  - Interpretive Sign Ideas
- CAEDC Local Share Accounts Grant – Replacement of Bonnybrook Bridges – Status – Andy
  - Andy received letters from the state saying we are likely to be required to use prevailing wage when we get to construction.
  - We will need to bid out the construction – 3 bids are needed.
- CCCD Mini Grant – Source Tracing – Status - Bob
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Grant — to expand source tracing. – Status - Bob
- NFWF Grant awarded to POWR – Help CVTU/CPC/LRA to implement the Coldwater Heritage Program – Status – Andy & Ben
  - Consultant Selection
  - Two proposals received – Down Stream Strategies and Land Studies. Andy reviewed the proposals, and he is leaning toward Land Studies.
  - Section is to be made by 3/31/25.

Audit – ***Curtis Stevens –*** SEK has opened the audit portal for the 2024 audit.

- No action taken since February.

Information and Education* – *Ben Mummert / Bob Ackerman

- Recent press releases, Facebook page updates, Next-Door –
- Website and Facebook updates –
  - Heather will be combining our Facebook page with the Friends page.
  - Heather requests that everyone take photos when walking or working on the trail.
- Heather built a free site.
  - There is a minimal fee to get rid of the branding.
  - The yearly cost for our own site would be $203.00 + tax versus $360.00 for Cross and Crown.
  - Since we've already paid Cross & Crown for this year, Heather suggested we consider dropping Cross and Crown and do our own site.

Nature Trail – ***Ben Mummert***

- Trail vegetation management and plant schedule – Ben
- Letort Garden –
  - Need to remove 2 walnut seedlings once the ground thaws.
  - Spring garden cleanup 3/29 at 9:30 a.m.
- I-81 Bridge Graffiti – Bob
- Tree removal – Thanks to Michael for removing a tree.

Long Range Planning & Easement - Andy Parker

- Sally Shambaugh CPC Easement transfer – Ben spoke with her and they just need to get documents notarized.

Stream Ecology – (need new chair)

- Trash in the Letort between E. High Street and Biddle Mission Park – Curtis

Project Review

- Smith Farm – Zenith Apartments, S. Spring Garden St, SMT – Andy reviewed and commented.

Old Business

- Carlisle School District (Letort Elementary School) Nature Center and Environmental Program.
  - CASD is moving forward with closure of Letort Elementary School commencing in the 2028/2029 school year.
  - Curtis will draft a Letter of Inquiry
- Insurance Renewal – executed
- 2025 Budget
- Memorial Bench – Bob and Andy will discuss after the meeting.
- Giant Company, 20-25 volunteers for Friday, April 4 – stream cleanup at Letort Park.

New Business –

- Matt Steiman, Dickinson College Farm, contacted the Authority. A student group (13) wants to volunteer for trail/stream cleanup.
  - Biddle Mission Park
  - Post Road and Harmony Hall Road
- Discussion concerning shifting our webhosting from Cross & Crown to doing it ourselves. Discussed above under Information and Education.
- CCCD Rain barrel workshop 4/19.
- We will have to find another treasurer to replace Curtis.
  - If Michael decides to take the secretary position, Bob will consider taking the treasurer position.
- Bradley volunteered to review LRA CDs and determine if the material should be saved on a flash drive.

Bonnybrook Quarry (the operation formerly known as “Union Quarries,” now owned by York Building Products, a Stewart Company)

- Two weeks ago, Andy shared a private meeting with representatives of the quarry including Joseph Clark, General Counsel to the Stewart Companies.
- Attorney Joseph Clark had reserved time to present for the Board this evening but around 5PM he requested we remove that item. He will follow up when he feels prepared to present.
- To the best of our understanding, Andy and members of the Board discussed likely dramatic changes involving the quarry.
- LRA understands that the quarry’s hopes center on reversing the direction of surface mining on account of long-recognized geologic complications that it encounters to the south.
- As understood, the quarry may extend new operations to the north after buying the undeveloped 75-acre “Limestone Creek” subdivision tract (permitted in 2007 but presently woodland).
- Meanwhile, LRA understands that York Building Products would dispose of about 100 acres to the south, no longer expecting to mine there, and opting to sell a tract.
- While geological factors appear to render mining uneconomical, members discussed how that part of the landscape along South Spring Garden Street and stretching almost to Petersburg Road has extraordinary significance to the health and character of the iconic and exceptional Letort Spring Run greenway.
- LRA discussed, however, grave concerns about the uncertain future for those nearly one hundred acres of present farmland, fencerow, and forest at the Letort’s headwaters,
- LRA understands that some designs on residential subdivision are already in motion. The Authority hopes that how it navigates this situation can avoid and mitigate harm associated with developing plans for any land uses at odds with the public interests at stake.
- LRA members resolved to make a priority of this topic. The Authority expects to advocate for the Letort Spring Run on such consequential issues which involve space for influence. It will act, especially, in the interest of available win-wins that advance shared interests for conservation, community, citizens, and companies.
- Members discussed organizing a committee tasked with collaborating on the topic and ensuring that each Authority member is appropriately informed and engaged.

Curtis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the Letort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Curtis R. Stevens

Curtis Stevens, Secretary

4-17-2025

Date Adopted