

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
415 Franklin Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
October 16, 2025

The meeting was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the Stuart Community Center. Andy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members / Reps Present Bob Ackerman, Michael Jean, Ben Mummert, Andy Parker, and Avery Walters

Member/Rep Absent William Harner, Bradley Mitchell, and Heather Novack

Staff Present Kathy Russell

ANNOUNCEMENTS – We welcomed Leigh Espy to our meeting. Leigh is considering applying for the open LRA Carlisle Borough Representative position.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA –

Ben made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Avery seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Andy reported that the ALLARM water quality report is still showing nitrates above ideal limits. Andy will meet with Olivia at ALLARM to discuss nutrient trends. Is this a spike or long-term trend. If this is a trend, we may want to acquire a grant to come up with a plan on what the sources are.

PRESENTATIONS – None

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator – The state has finally approved our report submission for Act 205.

Budget & Finance - Michael Jean

Bills & Receipts

At our September meeting, Michael requested that Ben present an invoice with description to the board for approval for the interpretive sign charges. Ben subsequently submitted a spreadsheet after our September meeting via email showing a detailed description of purchases to be reimbursed. The board approved these purchases and Michael issued a check to Ben in the amount of \$4,093.07.

Checking Account:

Beginning Balance	\$4,332.51
Administrator fee	-\$360.00
SEK (audit)	-\$885.00
Bank fee credit	+\$33.00
MMA transfer	+\$6,000.00
Penn Prime (insurance)	-\$1,416.66
Marcus Eberly (trail maintenance)	-\$250.00
Ben Mummert (Land Partnership Reimbursements)	-\$4,093.07
Ending Balance	\$3,360.78

MMA

Beginning Balance	\$74,783.99
Transfer to checking	-\$6,000.00
Interest	\$256.24
Ending Balance	\$69,040.23

TOTAL FUNDS \$72,401.01

PayPal \$1,550.00

A PayPal donation is still pending. Andy will get together with Luke Schaffner and Curtis Stevens to see if they can work together toward a resolution with PayPal. PayPal has been removed from our website.

Michael made a motion to pay the bills totaling \$7,004.73. Avery seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Since this is Michael's final meeting with the LRA, he turned all the financial documents over to Andy until a replacement Treasurer is appointed. Michael will also have his name removed from our checking account.

Michael is unable to find a plan review fee deposit for one of the plan reviews. Andy will investigate it and review the Members 1st statements.

Andy reported that we received South Middleton's 2025 contribution of \$6,000.00 and an invoice from ALLARM for the water quality monitoring for \$1,000.00.

Michael cautioned the board that we should not be receiving any cash payments/receipts. The auditors would like to have two board members on every transaction. A paper trail must be established on all transactions.

- Land Partnership Grant Close-out
- Settlement of Insurance and Audit Payments has been completed
- Transfer of Treasurer duties – Andy, Ben, and Avery will share Treasurer duties until the end of the year when a new Treasurer can be appointed.

Budget Report – No report

Friends of the Letort –

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

Grants – **Bob Ackerman**

- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Grant - source tracing – No report.
 - Bob will follow up with Todd Hurd at Shippensburg University.
- POWR/NFWF Grant – Plan from Land Studies is due in December – Andy will follow up with Land Studies
- Dickinson Grant – Project complete
 - anti-graffiti protection coating will be installed within the next few days.
 - Ben made a motion to preapprove spending up to \$400.00, if needed, to rent a lift for this project. Bob seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- New grant opportunity - Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative (ATCCC) – (new initiative that provides a free, one-year long timeline of free tools and technical assistance to support locally led conservation efforts. The initiative is ready to help community teams identify and implement a conservation project that will address community needs through developing a concrete plan and support implementation of the plan.)
 - This year's grant is due October 31st.
 - We can consider this grant for 2026.

Information and Education – **Heather Novack / Bob Ackerman**

- Recent press releases, Facebook page updates, Next-Door – Bob – continues to be updated.
 - Report of homeless encampment near overpass (Southwest side)
- Website and Facebook updates – Heather continues to request photos from board members.
- Monitor website inquiries – Heather/Avery – Andy will contact Curtis Stevens to get everything transferred.

Nature Trail – **Ben Mummert**

- Bridge maintenance – Andy plans to clear bridge decks of fallen leaves a debris.
- Trail vegetation management and planting schedule
- Mowing needed – Ben plans to do some mowing, spread seeds, and monitor the trail.
- Drainage along South Spring Garden Street – Andy will follow up with South Middleton Township.
- Letort Garden maintenance – Treat patch of Canada thistle, Winter: remove willow, treat ivy, bittersweet, winter creeper, vinca, garlic mustard, etc. (maybe treat invasive vine in woods between Letort and Goodyear Parks)
 - Ben will treat the area between the garden and the fishing deck.
 - Ben will remove the weeping willow.
- Andy received a report of an overhanging tree (between Letort and Goodyear Park).
 - Andy investigated and determined that no action is needed at this time.
 - Maybe address this tree and other invasives this winter.
- Report of homeless encampment near I-81 (“seemed a little sketchy” “It didn’t feel safe”)
 - Ben will be walking the trail with Stephanie Williams to close out the grant. He would like to offer some suggestions/solutions on how to handle the encampment issue. A brief discussion was held on what can be done:
 - Find another location for them?
 - The consensus opinion is to put together an intervention to redirect to another location.
 - Do we have Zero tolerance / 2-week tolerance / act policy?
 - Compile resources
 - Reach out to law enforcement to check what our options are.
 - Confront behavior? Dangerous!
 - They are not interested in being rescued.
 - Contact Carlisle Borough / Carlisle Community Cares
 - Are these encampments on LRA’s property?
 - Public safety?
 - Liability issues?
 - Live and let live?

Long Range Planning & Easement - Andy Parker

- Sally Shambaugh CPC Easement Transfer- No response from Sally. Andy will follow up.

Stream Ecology – (need new chair)

- Biddle Mission Park Riparian Buffer construction underway, October completion.
 - No plantings on the banks / banks are exposed.
 - We may want to make a comment to the Borough.

Project Review –

- Several old plan reviews have come back up.

Old Business

- Memorial Bench – Bob will follow up with South Middleton on proposed bench placement.
- Quarry Development – No report
- Frog & Switch Redevelopment – No report
- Cumberland County Representative – Ben has been re-appointed.
- Vacant representative positions – Carlisle, North Middleton, Middlesex.
 - Hopefully, Leigh Espy will be appointed for Carlisle Borough
 - Bob has a friend from North Middleton who may be interested.
- 2026 Funding requests were sent (SMT, MT, and CB acknowledged receipt)

New Business –

- Cumberland Valley HS Future Farmers of America public service project – 4/9, 14, 15, and 16.
 - We have expressed an interest.
 - They also have dates in November, April, and May
 - Possibly to clean up between Letort and Goodyear Park.
- POWR Watershed Mapping Resources – Webinar 10/29 at 6:00.
 - Andy plans to attend
- Curtis Steven sent a notification that the Carlisle Borough is asking for volunteers for stenciling of storm drains on November 12 & 13.

Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Avery seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the Letort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. William E. Harner

Dr. William E. Harner, Secretary

11/20/25

Date Adopted