

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
415 Franklin Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
December 18, 2025

The meeting was held on Thursday, December 18, 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, Leigh Epsy, Bradley Mitchell, Ben Mummert, Heather Novack, Andy Parker, and Avery Walters

Member/Rep Absent

William Harner

Staff Present

Kathy Russell

ANNOUNCEMENTS – We welcomed Leigh Epsy to our meeting as the new Carlisle Borough Representative.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA –

Heather made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bradley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS – None

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator – Kathy sent out two thank you letter for the two donations received in November.

Budget & Finance –

Bills & Receipts

Checking Account:

Plan review fee	+\$100.00
LRA Donations (3)	+\$1,150.00
Memorial Bench transfer to SMT	\$1,500.00
Final SRB Tracing Grant payment	-\$5,000.00
Administrator fee	-\$360.00

PayPal \$1,550.00

PayPal has changed their authentication again. Andy is working with Curtis to resolve this matter.

Andy made a motion to approve the payment of the bill totaling \$360.00. Ben seconded the motion and the motion carried

- Transfer of Treasurer duties – This matter was deferred to later in the meeting.

Budget Report – No report

Friends of the Letort –

Database of Friends for Volunteer Opportunities – The database will continue to be updated.

Grants – Bob Ackerman

- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Grant - source tracing.
 - Final invoice paid (\$5,000.00)
 - Receipts will be submitted to SRBC
 - Still no dye breakthroughs
 - Still working with Franklin & Marshall College
- POWR/NFWF Grant – Plan from Land Studies is due in December.
 - Land Studies issued the final draft of their findings report.
They are recommending:
 1. Evasive species management and native plant establishment within the watershed (from Letort Park upstream to the quarry)
 2. Add habitat structures
 3. Wetland enhancement – remove reed canary grass seed bank
 - They are still working on funding sources.

Audit

- Suralink for the 2025 Audit is now open.
 - Audit is scheduled for March 30, 2026.
 - Andy is working on gathering documents to submit.

Information and Education – Heather Novack / Bob Ackerman

- Recent press releases, Facebook page updates, Next-Door – Bob – continues to be updated.
- Website and Facebook updates – Heather continues to request photos from board members.
- Monitor website inquiries – Heather/Avery
 - Our goal is to discontinue this site when it expires and work on getting an updated site.
 - Avery is working on organizing and hopes to complete it soon.

Nature Trail – Ben Mummert

- Trail vegetation management and planting schedule
 - Ben, Andy, and 5 other volunteers visited a nursery that is going out of business.
 - They filled a 26' tractor trailer with many trees.
 - The trees are stored over the winter until they can be planted.
- Drainage along South Spring Garden Street – South Middleton Township intends to complete work in the spring (Bonnybrook next year)
- 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).
- Report on homeless encampment near I-81. Discuss with the Comfort Inn, Lots of trash.
 - Ben reported that everyone was evicted from the area and moved to shelters.
 - We need to take steps to clean the area and ensure that no encampments will appear in the future.
 - We will make plans to use a track loader to push the debris to the public works yard dumpster.

Long Range Planning & Easement - Andy Parker

- Sally Shambaugh CPC Easement Transfer – No update.

Stream Ecology – (need new chair)

- Elevated nitrates due to reagents. Consideration of a different test method (at higher cost)
 - ALLARM has offered to use a different, more expensive test method which would cost us an additional \$300.00 per year.
 - After a brief discussion by the board, Ben made a motion to advise ALLARM that we would like to accept their offer to proceed with the more precise testing methodology. Bob seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Our ALLARM bill per year will go from \$1,000.00 to \$1,300.00.
 - After a few months using this new testing, we will determine if we want to continue with this pricier option.
 - After the holidays, Andy will meet with Lane, the Executive Director, with ALLARM to view their facility and discuss the testing process. Andy will set up and advise board members when the meeting is scheduled.

Project Review –

- Rise Dispensary Redevelopment / parking modification – Andy will review this plan.

Old Business -

- Memorial Bench –
 - A check was sent to South Middleton Township to cover the cost of this bench.
 - Bob will work on the language for the memorial plaque.
- Quarry Development – No report
- Frog & Switch Redevelopment – Andy has communicated with the Cumberland County Planning Commission who could not provide much information but agreed to keep us in the loop.
- Vacant representative positions – North Middleton and Middlesex.
- Cumberland Valley HS Future Farmers of America public service project potential dates: 4/15, 16; or 5/5,6.
- Insurance renewal application submitted.
 - No cyber or crime coverage
 - Cost - \$4,350.00
- Erich Messerschmit Memorial – Tree Planting and Plaque – planned for spring
- Slate of Officers for 2026 – Ad Hoc Nomination Committee
 - Bob presented the new slate of Officers for 2026 as follows:
 - Chairman – Brad Mitchell
 - Vice Chairman – Ben Mummert
 - Secretary – Bill Harner
 - Treasurer – Avery Walters
 - Assistant Treasurer – Andy Parker
 - Bob made a motion to accept this slate of officers; Heather seconded the motion and the motion carried.

New Business

- Hunting inquiry – Ben responded to this inquiry stating “No, the LRA has limited property and does not permit hunting”.
 - Ben would like to revisit this matter when Bill Harner is present to give his perspective.
- CVTU Event Calendar (CVTU, CPC, LRA cooperation)
 - Andy will email CVTU and advise that we would like to participate.
 - Several suggested items to add to the calendar would be mural dedication, Earth Day, and Arbor Day.
- 2026 Budget – Andy is sorting through 2025 and he will present a new 2026 budget to be voted on in January.

Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brad seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the Letort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. William E. Harner

Dr. William E. Harner, Secretary

1/15/26

Date Adopted