

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
415 Franklin Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
January 15, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the Stuart Community Center. Brad 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** – As our new Chairman, Brad gave us a brief background on his work history. He hopes to make the LRA more effective and aligned with what we want to do as a community organization. He attended the Cumberland County Planning Commission today.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA** –

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

**PRESENTATIONS** – None

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Administrator** –

- Kathy sent out a thank you letter for the donation received in December.
- The Statement of Financial Interest forms were distributed to LRA board members for completion. If the member is no longer on the board or absent from the meeting, Kathy sent their forms via email.

**Budget & Finance** -

**Bills & Receipts**

**Checking Account:**

PennPrime Liability Insurance (1<sup>st</sup> installment – due 1/1) ..... -\$1,450.00  
Administrator fee ..... -\$360.00  
Total Bills ..... \$1,810.00

Two checks were received:

1. \$2,264.22 from Cumberland County for reimbursement for the Land Partnership Grant
2. \$500.00 from Leah and Kenneth Nader for the Friends account

These deposits will be recorded in the minutes in February.

**PayPal** \$1,550.00

Andy is working with Curtis Stevens, Luke Shaffner, and Kathy to resolve this matter.

Andy made a motion to approve the payment of the bill totaling \$1,810.00. Avery seconded the motion and the motion carried

- Transfer of Treasurer duties – Andy is working with the bank to provide all documentation needed for the transfer.

**Budget Report** – Andy emailed board members a copy of the proposed 2026 budget.

**Friends of the Letort** – Kathy Russell

Database of Friends for Volunteer Opportunities – Kathy will continue to maintain this list.

**Grants** – Bob Ackerman

- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Grant - source tracing.
  - This grant is administratively complete
- POWR/NFWF Grant – Land Studies project
  - Recommendations Made – Next Steps – One last meeting,

**Audit** – Andy Parker

- Suralink for the 2025 Audit is now open.
  - Andy is cleaning up the books from 2025.
  - Andy will be submitting documents – due in May.
  - Audit is scheduled for March 30, 2026.
  - Bob submitted our by-law to PennDOT.
  - Bob volunteered to review the by-laws and make a mild review of the by-law and suggested our Counsel also review.

**Information and Education – Heather Novack**

- 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.
  - Officers will be updated on the site
  - Heather needs a head shot of Avery and Leigh to post on our site.
  - Heather reported on comments that were posted on Jack the donkey – burrs on his coat and frozen water.
- Monitor website inquiries – Heather/Avery

**Nature Trail – Ben Mummert**

- Trail vegetation management and planting schedule
  - Ben reported some graffiti on the embankment of the bridge.
  - So far, the mural is untouched.
  - Ben is working with Nicolette at Giant to coordinate a cleanup and planting event.
  - Heather suggested the possibility of getting a recycled plastic bench placed by Giant.
    - Ben will give Heather Nicolette's contact information.
- Drainage along South Spring Garden Street –
- Letort Garden maintenance – Winter: remove willow, treat ivy, bittersweet, winter creeper, vinca, garlic mustard, etc. (maybe treat invasive vines in woods between Letort and Goodyear Parks).
  - Andy and Avery will work on this project.
- Homeless encampment Cleanup
  - Avery reported an email was received on the homeless encampment and trash.
  - Avery will respond to this email thanking them for input and stating we are attempting to clean up the area.
  - Avery will walk along the trail and inspect the encampment area.

**Long Range Planning & Easement – Bradley Mitchell / Bob Ackerman**

- Sally Shambaugh CPC Easement Transfer –
  - CPC holds a conservation easement on Ms. Shambaugh's property (South side of Spring Garden Street).
  - CPC is no longer interested in holding this easement
  - Sally must agree with the transfer to the LRA and have it notarized; however, she is not engaging.
  - Ben will follow up with Ms. Shambaugh.

**Stream Ecology – Andy Parker**

- Andy communicated with Olive at ALLARM regarding the nitrates.
  - They have begun using the more accurate TNT methodology
  - Concentration results were higher at sites 3 and 10.
  - They will continue for a few months using both methods to try and normalize the data.
- Andy is working with ALLARM to schedule a tour.
  - ALLARM is working to schedule a date in the spring when students will be going out to do monitoring where we can join them and then return to their lab for a tour.
- POWR – Ben reported they have been working with Land Studies and their professional designers and consultants, on watershed, wetland, and waterway restoration projects.
  - \$20,000 worth of work.
  - Will extend work another two months.
  - \$2,000 for another meeting.
  - Andy would like to get recommendations on what grants to pursue to do the recommended actions.
- Avery brought up the matter of stocking on the Letort.
  - 11 more exemptions for stocking class A streams have been announced.
  - This exemption would allow public stocking.
  - Does the LRA want to take an organized stance on the stocking issue to our stream?
  - After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to table this matter for the next meeting.

**Project Review – Andy Parker**

- Rise Dispensary Redevelopment / parking modification – Andy reviewed and commented.
- Ahold Delhaize Solar Development (plans not received yet)

**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.
  - This item can be removed from the agenda.
- 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.
  - Brad will check with NMT to make sure they are getting the word out about this vacancy.
- Cumberland Valley HS Future Farmers of America public service project potential dates: 4/15, 16; or 5/5,6.
  - Andy will work with Ben to get a date scheduled.
- Erich Messerschmit Memorial – Tree Planting and Plaque – planned for spring.
- New Standing Committee Chair Assignments:
  - Long Range Planning – Bradley Mitchell / Bob Ackerman
  - Nature Trail – Ben Mummert
  - Greenway – Ben Mummert
  - Grants – Bob Ackerman

- Public Information – Heather Novack
- Project Review – Andy Parker
- Audit – Andy Parker
- Stream Ecology – Andy Parker
- Friends – Kathy Russell

**New Business**

- CVTU Event calendar (CVTU, CPC, LRA cooperation) – No report
- 2026 Budget –
  - Andy emailed members a proposed budget.
  - We will discuss and approve at the February meeting.
- Choose Clean Water Conference – May in Lancaster (any interest in presenting?)
  - Brad may attend
- Banking changes with new officers (need meeting minutes)
  - Kathy will forward meeting minutes to Andy.
- New Middlesex Township Manager Zachary Zook (Eileen Gault remains Secretary/Treasurer)
- SMP winter Partnership Meeting – 9:00 AM January 30, Chambersburg
  - Brad, Andy, and Bob plan to attend.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ben seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the Letort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

*Dr. William E. Harner*

Dr. William E. Harner, Secretary

2/19/2026

Date Adopted