

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
415 Franklin Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY
February 19, 2026

The meeting was held on Thursday, February 19, 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, William Harner, Bradley Mitchell, Ben Mummert, Heather Novack, Andy Parker, and Avery Walters

Staff Present Kathy Russell

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA –

PRESENTATIONS – None

STAFF REPORTS

Administrator –

- The Statement of Financial Interest forms will be submitted to the borough and townships accordingly.

Budget & Finance -

Bills & Receipts

Checking Account:

Sentinel (2026 meeting dates ad) -\$142.43
SEK (audit services) -\$965.00
Carlisle Garden Club (garden maintenance) -\$300.00
Administrator fee -\$360.00
Total Bills -\$1,767.43

Checking Account Deposits:

Cumberland County (reimb. for the Land Partnership Grant)+\$2,264.22
Leah and Kenneth Nader for the Friends account +\$500.00
North Middleton Township +2,000.00
Plan review fee +\$400.00
Friends Donation +\$100.00
Total Deposits +\$5,264.22

Interest +\$191.98

Andy made a motion to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,767.43. Bob seconded the motion and the motion carried

- Transfer of Treasurer duties – Andy and Avery will meet on Thursday, February 26th to change signatory on bank account and add Avery to the account.
- Signatory authority – Bill, Brad completed 2/10
- PayPal account has been closed and funds have been deposited in our PNC account.

ALLARM – Nitrates are still being reported at high levels.

Brad reported that the MS4 rules are being modified.

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

Budget Report – Andy emailed board members a copy of the proposed 2026 budget. (more comments under new business)

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.
 - Final invoice paid (still waiting for dye breakthrough), Arranging meeting with Todd and YBP Quarry
- POWR/NFWF Grant – Land Studies project
 - Recommendations Made
 - Additional funds were received to extend the grant to further refine and give us some additional help in identifying potential grant sources.

- Andy contacted Cameron and CPC. They will support, but not take an active role.
- It is up to CVTU and LRA to pursue and implement grants.
- Bridge inspection by Brehm Lebo revealed items that need to be addressed:
 - Recommendation to address rust on rail beams which requires a permit.
 - Volunteers addressed some items that did not require permits.
- Land Studies made some ecological restoration recommendations:
 - Get rid of stuff not natural to the greenway
 - Go after weeds
 - Plant trees
 - Work on plans for waterway – adding structure.
- Waiting for the final report.
- A possible grant to pursue is the Oak Hill Fund – Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- Cumberland Valley Visitor's Bureau also has grants available.
- South Mountain Partnership – mini grants – conservation.
- Could we partner with Carlisle War College and Dickinson College?

Audit – Andy Parker

- Suralink for the 2025 Audit is now open.
 - Audit is scheduled for March 30, 2026.
 - Engagement letter signed.
 - Andy is still gathering information and reconciling.

Information and Education – Heather Novack

- Recent press releases, Facebook page updates, Next-Door – Bob – continues to be updated.
- Website and Facebook updates
- Monitor website inquiries – Heather/Avery
- Earth Day (Brad / Andy) - 4/25 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Rebecca at the Carlisle Borough office is doing an excellent job. Walk to the mural and back. Station stops. Native plant invasive species control. Lunch? Catered? food truck? Scavenger hunt. Plant, bird identification station.
Name: Earth Day at the Letort, Letort Nature Trail Walk
Partners: CCC, Central PA Conservancy, CVTU, others? Flyers
Next mtg: 2/23 10:00 am – Teams
 - Dedication of the mural and plantings.
 - Kelly Curtis and a new environmental person will develop flyers for posting for this event at all township websites.
 - Ben can provide a floating platform to Vince's Meadows and have a cookout.
 - Ben suggested having a tree give away to entice participation.
 - CPC is interested in supporting this event.
 - CVTU has not responded.
 - Andy spoke with Anna Yelk at CPC / CCC – She committed the CPC but didn't mention the CCC.Brad and Andy will bring up these suggestions at the meeting on Monday, February 23.

Nature Trail – Ben Mummert

- Trail vegetation management and planting schedule
 - Ben reported that a Cumberland Valley FFA volunteer event is scheduled for Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m. (approximately 12-14 volunteers) tree planting, trash pickup, etc.
 - Bill and Heather volunteered to assist with this event.
- Drainage along South Spring Garden Street – Andy will follow up with South Middleton
- 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 make plans to have the willow tree removed.
- Homeless encampment Cleanup – Avery will walk the trail this weekend and report if needed.

Long Range Planning & Easement – Bradley Mitchell / Bob Ackerman

- Sally Shambaugh CPC Easement Transfer – Ben will follow up.
- Bylaws review – Bob and Brad are working on minor language changes.

Stream Ecology – Andy Parker

- Andy spoke with Lane, Director of ALLARM, he will schedule a tour of their facility in the spring.

Project Review – Andy Parker

- Ahold Delhaize Solar Development – Andy will review this plan.

Old Business -

- Memorial Bench – No update
- Quarry Development –
 - Andy spoke with Kelly Curtis at SMT – Zoning variance has been pulled.
 - Todd to discuss hydrogeology of the area.
- Frog & Switch Redevelopment – 2/5 BOC Appeals meeting – Andy, Brad – Appeal upheld – will not be subject to new ordinance and will be allowed to cure the application as submitted. Trail linkage / planning meeting scheduled with REC on 3/16 at 4:00 pm.

- Vacant representative positions –North Middleton, Middlesex
- Cumberland Valley HS Future Farmers of America public service project potential date: 4/16 after 3:00 pm.
- Erich Messerschmit Memorial – Tree Planting and Plaque
- 2026 Budget – Several changes were suggested. Andy will revise the budget and email a revised version.
- Choose Clean Water Conference – May 18-20 Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.
- SMP winter partnership meeting – Brad, Bob, and Andy attended.

New Business

- Drones / donkeys
 - Illegal drone activity by Mike Swartz.
 - Heather has a copy of the drone video.
 - After the meeting, Ben spoke with Adriana at Red Circle Performance Pre-Owned (Mike Swartz's business). She was genuine in taking notes for Mike, about the law and not taking the drone back to the Nature Trail. Communicating the latter adds straightforward ground for simple trespass charges.
 - Ben thought it was best to get a message to Mike immediately because we haven't turned it over to the FAA or State Police, first.
 - If Mike is indignant or reoffends, FAA and/or State Police will take it even more seriously because he knew better and had a warning.
- Letter of Support to Cumberland County Planning Commission for SRBC Farmland Preservation Grant
- Modifications to Middlesex Data Center Overlay District under consideration
- Tri county Watershed Associations Meeting – Shippensburg March 10th at 5:30

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, March 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. William E. Harner

3/19/26

Dr. William E. Harner, Secretary

Date Adopted