

SUSAN WILD
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES: AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND EUROPE, EURASIA,
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES: HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT
LABOR, PENSION AND WORKFORCE
PROTECTION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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1607 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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ALLENTOWN, PA 18101
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400 NORTHAMPTON STREET, SUITE 503
EASTON, PA 18042
(610) 333-1170—PHONE

WWW.WILD.HOUSE.GOV

February 24, 2021

Mr. Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Re: Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's Petition to Redesignate Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value (EV) Cold Water Fishery

It is my pleasure to write in support of the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's petition to redesignate the Aquashicola Creek from High Quality Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) to Exceptional Value Cold Water Fishery (EV-CWF). The Conservancy seeks protection for this jewel of our Pennsylvania waters for several compelling reasons.

As mentioned in the original petition, submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in 2010, the upper section of the Aquashicola Creek remains relatively underdeveloped and links to several preserved tracts of land, including sections of Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, as well as runs parallel to the Kittatinny Ridge and the Appalachian Trail. The Aquashicola Creek runs through protected wetlands, and sections of the Creek have received designations as Class A Wild Trout Stream and Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream. Scientific samplings of the macroinvertebrate population have also suggested this area could be upgraded to exceptional value.

Since 2010, the contested land that of Alpine Rose that was under litigation has been settled and is now designated as part of State Game Lands 168, which is also the site where a species of dragonfly, the Brook Snaketail, was discovered for the first time in PA. One thousand acres have been added to State Game Lands 168 upstream from the property, on both sides of the creek. A major tributary, the Ross Common Creek, is located entirely within the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the boundary of which extends approximately eight miles downstream along the Ross Common and Aquashicola Creeks.

For these compelling reasons, I ask that you give the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's Petition to Redesignate Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value (EV) Cold Water Fishery your full and fair consideration. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful deliberation.

Sincerely,

Susan Wild
United States Representative (PA-07)



PennFuture

May 5, 2021

Department of Environmental Protection
Attention: Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Re: Letter of Support for Aquashicola Creek Petition for Exceptional Value Stream Redesignation

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

PennFuture is pleased to support Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's petition to upgrade the water quality designation of the Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status.

The evidence is clear that Aquashicola Creek is an Exceptional Value stream. We strongly urge the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to produce a draft redesignation recommendation report with the recommendation to upgrade Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status.

The upper section of the Aquashicola Creek is a relatively undeveloped area that includes several contiguous preserved tracts of land, including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168. The creek also runs parallel to the Appalachian Trail and Kittatinny Ridge, a world-famous Migratory Corridor of the Atlantic Flyway, and through wetlands that have special protection under Pennsylvania Code because they are home to threatened and/or endangered species of flora and fauna.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has already designated sections of the Aquashicola Creek as Class A Wild Trout Stream and Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream. Moreover, the macroinvertebrate scores from assessments conducted from the Monroe County Water Quality Study and by DEP support the criteria needed to upgrade the creek to Exceptional Value.

For all of the above reasons, we urge the DEP to immediately and thoroughly review the application in its entirety and produce a draft report with the recommendation to upgrade Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status. This petition has been waiting for DEP to take action for a decade now, and it is past time to move it forward so that users of this stream can enjoy the maximum protection possible.

Sincerely,

Abigail M. Jones
Vice President of Legal & Policy
jones@pennfuture.org

Northeast: 425 Carlton Road
Suite 1
Mount Pocono, PA 18344

Southeast: 1429 Walnut Street
Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Central: 610 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Southwest: 200 First Avenue
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Website: www.pennfuture.org



Audubon | PENNSYLVANIA

August 19, 2020

Department of Environmental Protection
Attention: Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Subject: Aquashicola Creek Petition for Exceptional Value Stream Redesignation

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

Audubon Pennsylvania is pleased to support Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's petition to upgrade the water quality designation of the Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status.

APA is the state office of the National Audubon Society, whose mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. APA achieves conservation success across Pennsylvania through the work of more than 30,000 members, 21 local chapters, and a diverse group of partners.

APA also is DCNR's External Lead for the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape and the Kittatinny Coalition. The Coalition is an alliance of organizations, agencies, and academic institutions working with municipal officials and private landowners to conserve the natural, scenic, cultural, and aesthetic resources of the Kittatinny Ridge and Corridor.

The upper section of the Aquashicola Creek is a relatively undeveloped area that includes several contiguous preserved tracts of land, including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168. The creek runs through wetlands that have special protection under Pennsylvania Code because they are home to threatened and/or endangered species of flora and fauna. It also runs parallel to the Appalachian Trail and Kittatinny Ridge, a Global Important Bird Area, headwaters to millions of people, and Pennsylvania's most climate resilient landscape.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has already designated sections of the Aquashicola Creek as Class A Wild Trout Stream and Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream. The Monroe County Water Quality Study and DEP took macroinvertebrate samples in this area that support the criteria needed to upgrade the creek to exceptional value.



Audubon | PENNSYLVANIA

For all of the above reasons, we urge the DEP to thoroughly review the application in its entirety and produce a draft report with the recommendation to upgrade Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status. This petition has been waiting in the wings for a decade now, and it is past time to move it forward so that users of this stream can enjoy the maximum protection possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Ortiz". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Senior Program Manager Landscape Conservation
Audubon Pennsylvania

June 15, 2021

Gary Walters, Chief, Division of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774



Dear Mr. Walters,

Clean Air Council submits this letter on behalf of 191 individuals who have signed on in support.

I am pleased to offer my support of the Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's petition to upgrade the water quality designation of the Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value (EV) status.

The evidence is clear that Aquashicola Creek should deserve an Exceptional Value designation. The upper section of the Aquashicola Creek is a relatively undeveloped area that includes several contiguous preserved tracts of land, including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168.

The creek also runs parallel to the Appalachian Trail and Kittatinny Ridge, a world-famous Migratory Corridor of the Atlantic Flyway, and through wetlands that have special protection under Pennsylvania Code because they are home to threatened and/or endangered species of flora and fauna.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has already designated sections of the Aquashicola Creek as Natural Reproduction Trout Stream and Class A Wild Trout Stream. Finally, the macroinvertebrate scores from assessments conducted in the Monroe County Water Quality Study and by the PA Department of Environmental Protection indicate that the stream has great potential to qualify for Exceptional Value status.

For all of the above reasons, I urge the DEP to thoroughly review the application in its entirety and produce a draft report with the recommendation to upgrade Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status. This petition has been waiting in the wings for a decade now, and it is past time to move it forward so that users of this stream can enjoy the maximum protection possible!

Signed,

Jeanne Carol Myers	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Jody Ferry	Springfield	Pennsylvania

Patrick Vogelsong	Harrisburg	Pennsylvania
Kelly A. Germann	Erwinna	Pennsylvania
Constance Garcia-Barrio	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Marcus Ferreira	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Linda Christman	Lehighton	Pennsylvania
Gerry Madden	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Albert Barney	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Joanne Pannone	Robbinsville	New Jersey
Patrick O'Donnell	Boyertown	Pennsylvania
Debra Schuler	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Brittney Coleman	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Edward C. Cramer	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Matthew McSwegan	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Donna Gayer	New Tripoli	Pennsylvania
Charles Ogle	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
David Kaufman	Bartonsville	Pennsylvania
Jane Cease	Allentown	Pennsylvania
Tom Whiteman	Whitehall	Pennsylvania
Ray Maroney	Lehighton	Pennsylvania
John Lizak	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Thom Fistner	Bethlehem	Pennsylvania
Maryanne Steinert	Northampton	Pennsylvania
Elaine Dellande	Bethlehem	Pennsylvania
Lee J. Stanley	Bethlehem	Pennsylvania
Margaret	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Abby Jones	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Lucy Freck	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Kyle Collins	Lehighton	Pennsylvania
Esther Ermlick	Palmerton	Pennsylvania
Susan Bittner	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Melanie McCarthy	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Addie Shiloh	Jim Thorpe	Pennsylvania
Rachel Val Cohen	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Mary Kupferschmid	Bethlehem	Pennsylvania
Eve Miari	Media	Pennsylvania

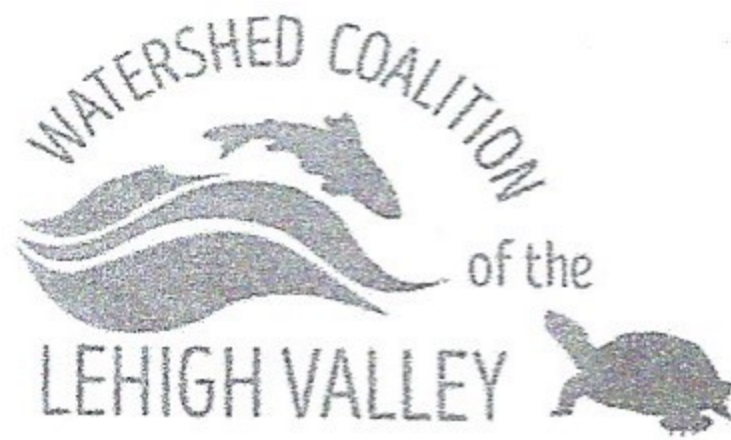
Dan Schwartz	Bath	Pennsylvania
Nancy Tate	Riegelsville	Pennsylvania
John Holt	Swiftwater	Pennsylvania
Lydia Stettler	Mount Bethel	Pennsylvania
Douglas Wiltraut	Whitehall	Pennsylvania
Mike Petrock	Coaldale	Pennsylvania
Pat Mensing	Plymouth Meeting	Pennsylvania
Walter Bilderback	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Joy Bergey	Flourtown	Pennsylvania
Joel Hecker	Bala Cynwyd	Pennsylvania
Linda Addis	Hermitage	Pennsylvania
Sheila Coughlin	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Dennis Hartenstine	Birdsboro	Pennsylvania
Patti Miller	Manchester	Pennsylvania
Paul Hagedorn	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Paul Stavros	Exton	Pennsylvania
Kelly Germann	Erwinna	Pennsylvania
Linda Granato	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Karen. Guarino Spanton	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Robert Limouze	East Fallowfield	Pennsylvania
Anna Tangi	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Doug Herren	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Don Hawkins	North Braddock	Pennsylvania
Knar Gavin	Drexel Hill	Pennsylvania
Mark Schmerling	Sabinsville	Pennsylvania
Camille Bell	Conshohocken	Pennsylvania
Rose Marie Stef	Erie	Pennsylvania
Michelle Dugan	Upper Darby	Pennsylvania
Anne Hodapp	Pitcairn	Pennsylvania
Nancy Daniels	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Margaret Reiter	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
William Loftus	Blakeslee	Pennsylvania
Gerald Kaufman	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
William Huber	Tobyhanna	Pennsylvania
Robin Longenbach	Danielsville	Pennsylvania

Rodney Stark	Pocono Lake	Pennsylvania
Patricia Wittig	East Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Michael Kenosky	Mount Pocono	Pennsylvania
Dianne Kenosky	Mount Pocono	Pennsylvania
Joseph Kenosky	Mount Pocono	Pennsylvania
Steven Foster	Cresco	Pennsylvania
Joanne Fossett	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Sarah Thompson	Long Pond	Pennsylvania
Eric Gusztaw	Effort	Pennsylvania
Chris Pessolano	Henryville	Pennsylvania
Kenneth Kochey	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Adrienne Gallagher	Sellersville	Pennsylvania
Ann Foster	Cresco	Pennsylvania
Ryan Dodson	Lancaster	Pennsylvania
Michele Frenza Fisk	Henryville	Pennsylvania
Diane Husic	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Mark Nordyke	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Deborah Emin	East Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
H. David Husic	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania
Kathy Piltz	Jim Thorpe	New Jersey
Joseph Bridy	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Jack Fossett	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Dan Kunkle	Walnutport	Pennsylvania
Tina Drake	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Chad Schwartz	Whitehall	Pennsylvania
Lehigh Gap Nature Center	Slatington	Pennsylvania
Anita Collins	Fleetwood	Pennsylvania
Sue Brubaker	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Kathlene Rohm	Bloomsburg	Pennsylvania
Nellie Gordon	Effort	Pennsylvania
Mary Santucci	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
james houghton	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Cheryl Phillips	Cresco	Pennsylvania
Mark Dodel	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Albert Barney	Kunkletown	Pennsylvania

Terrie Balko	West Newton	Pennsylvania
Louise Troutman	East Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Brian Birchak	Kutztown	Pennsylvania
Jo Weiss	Radnor	Pennsylvania
Linda Zak	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Claudia Hill	Saylorsburg	Pennsylvania
Sharon Jens	East Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Paul Grady	Tobyhanna	Pennsylvania
John Motz	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Kimberly Bubbenmoyer	Lehighton	Pennsylvania
Ron Ford	Tannersville	Pennsylvania
Ellen Solt	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Joseph Plechavy	Lehighton	Pennsylvania
Susan Gallagher	Weatherly	Pennsylvania
Eric R. Baird	Pocono Pines	Pennsylvania
Glenn Hessler	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania
Michelle Gallagher	Jim Thorpe	Pennsylvania
Kim Sellon	New Providence	New Jersey
Janine Carazo	Palmerton	Pennsylvania
Brendan Lee	Jim Thorpe	Pennsylvania
Anu Gandotra	Nazareth	Pennsylvania
Jasper Brinton	Phoenixville	Pennsylvania
Dottie Moore	Palmer	Pennsylvania
Jacob Ludwig	Jamison	Pennsylvania
Glenn Gawinowicz	Oreland	Pennsylvania
Paul Hurley	Macungie	Pennsylvania
Michael Sauers	Bloomsburg	Pennsylvania
JoAnn Williams	Media	Pennsylvania
Linda Geckle	Downingtown	Pennsylvania
Claire Cox	State College	Pennsylvania
Anna Yangi	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Richard Metz	Erdenheim	Pennsylvania
Karen Guarino Spanton	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Danya Kuperstein	Rowley	Massachusetts
James Klein	Corpus Christi	Texas

Christina Uhlir	Kutztown	Pennsylvania
Francis Fedoroff	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Robert Tuminski	Langhorne	Pennsylvania
Stan Fitzgerald	San Jose	California
Diane Olson	Santa Monica	California
Tracey Smallwood Katsouros	Waldorf	Maryland
Mark Mansfield	Geneva, NY	New York
Susan Babbitt	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Barney McComas	San Diego	California
Joe Quirk	New York	New York
John Waering	Wilkes-Barre	Pennsylvania
Patricia Fleetwood	Nashville	Indiana
DeMaris	Pen Argyl	Pennsylvania
Robert Rhodes	Mercersburg	Pennsylvania
Joseph Werzinski	New Hope	Pennsylvania
Robin Longenbach	Danielsville	Pennsylvania
Laura Donahue	Swarthmore	Pennsylvania
John T. Guandolo	Freedom	Pennsylvania
Diana Dee	Valley Glen	California
Mark M Giese	Racine	Wisconsin
Kerri Allen	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Seltzer	Parkside	Pennsylvania
Jeannie Fissinger	Levittown	Pennsylvania
Allan Freedman	Elkins Park	Pennsylvania
Annie Laurie	Dracut	Pennsylvania
Joseph McCullough	Woodlyn	Pennsylvania
Merian Soto	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Michael Seager	Mentor	Ohio
Sagar Patel	Westborough	Massachusetts
William Hewes	Simi Valley	California
Robert Tuminski	Langhorne	Pennsylvania
Larry Lambeth	Springfield	Pennsylvania
Nora Nash	Aston	Pennsylvania
Bruce M. Cratty	Akron	Pennsylvania

Rita Meuer	Madison	Wisconsin
Tameka Gibson	Marcus Hook	Pennsylvania
Stephanie Rodigas	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Janet Drew	N Beach Haven	New Jersey
Denis Giffels	brodheadsville	Pennsylvania
Dawn Tormey	Springfield	Pennsylvania
jennifer valentine	Massapequa Park	New York
Stephan Armstrong	Watsontown	Pennsylvania
Carissa Eakin	Export	Pennsylvania
Jamie Shields	Portland	Oregon
Scott Tierney	Havertown	Pennsylvania
Joseph Bridy	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Eleanor Skibo	Uniontown	Pennsylvania
Sharon Newman	West Chester	Pennsylvania
Barry Kwasny	Stroudsburg	Pennsylvania



14 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064
watershedcoalitionlv.org

Josh Lookenbill
PADEP Division of Water Quality Standards
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17105

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

The Aquashicola-Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy is petitioning the EQB to redesignate the upper reaches of the Aquashicola Creek, from the headwaters to the confluence with Buckwha Creek, from its current designation of HQ-CWF to Exceptional Value. This redesignation is supported by the presence of exceptional value wetlands, designated as such due to the presence of threatened/endangered plants and animals. The stream's watershed is still undeveloped, and includes preserved lands including the Cherry Valley National Wildlife refuge and state gamelands; sites of specific historical significance are also present. A portion of stream itself has been designated by the PA Fish & Boat Commission as a Class A Wild Trout Stream and Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream. And the biological data collected by local experts and by the PADEP itself support this upgrade.

Recent developments that further support the Exceptional Value designation include the preservation of land in the watershed, the finding of a rare species of dragonfly, and the settlement of the Alpine Rose litigation, which fundamentally threatened the health of the watershed as a whole, and of the creek specifically.

The Aquashicola-Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy is a member of the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, and at our July 8th, 2020 Board Meeting, the WCLV Board of Directors unanimously voted to support this petition.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kennedy
President, WCLV

The Coalition is a non-profit organization, and works to enhance the efforts of the local watershed associations in the Lehigh Valley.



NORTH POCONO C A R E

Citizens Alert Regarding the Environment

123 Bear Lake Road, Thornhurst, Pennsylvania 18424

e-mail: N.P.CARE@att.net

phone: 570.472.3274

July 20, 2020

Michael (Josh) Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

The Board of Directors of North Pocono C A R E voted unanimously to support the classification and subsequent designation of the upper section of Aquashicola Creek from High Quality Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) to Exceptional Value (EV). The application of the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy is strengthened by the additional acreage in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the addition to the State Game Lands, which is subject to sound water quality protective measures, and recent biological assessments by Monroe County and the Department of Environmental Protection. These and many other factors are favorable for EV designation.

North Pocono C A R E as well as our underlying municipalities are pleased that our watershed, the upper Lehigh River, received an EV designation approximately 10 years ago, giving over 219 stream miles the highest level of protection. These streams continue to maintain their exceptional quality thanks to the efforts of the Department. We hope for the same for the upper section of the Aquashicola Creek.

Thank you for this opportunity to support the redesignation application of the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Smith

Barbara L. Smith
President

North Pocono C.A.R.E. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the environment in the North Pocono area. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

SAVE CARBON COUNTY
Fighting the PennEast Pipeline
P.O. Box 176
Kresgeville, PA 18333

 "Stop the Fracking Pipeline"

3/10/20

Mr. Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

We are pleased to support the petition by the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy to change the designation of Aquashicola Creek from a High-Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQ) to Exceptional Value (EV). The requested segment would be from the source to the confluence with Buckwha Creek. We agree that these waters should be given the highest level of protection.

We want to protect this valuable resource which is still relatively undeveloped and links contiguous preserved tracts of land including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168. The creek also runs parallel to the Kittatinny Ridge, a world famous Migratory Corridor and the Appalachian Trail.

Thank you for your consideration.



Linda Christman, President
Save Carbon County



Ross Township Historical Society
A Non - Profit Organization

rosstwppahs@gmail.com

570-992-6151

Remembering our past * Discovering and celebrating our history * Preserving our historical heritage

March 5, 2020

John Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

The Ross Township Historical Society is pleased to support the petition proffered to your Department by the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Water Conservancy to change the designation of Aquashicola Creek from a High Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQ) to Exceptional Value (EV). The requested segment would be from the source to the confluence with Buckwha Creek. We agree that these waters, which pass through some of our most significant township historical sites, should be given the highest level of protection. As guardians of our Township's history, the change in designation will further the Ross Township Historical Society's mission to "*Remember our past* Discover and celebrate our history*and Preserve our historical heritage.*"

We wish to join the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Water Conservancy's efforts to protect this valuable resource in our community.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Villoresi

Kathryn Villoresi
Ross Township Historical Society

Cc: Aquashicola/Pohopoco Water Conservancy
Society files



Gary Walters, Division of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774

Dear Mr. Walters,

Delaware Riverkeeper Network submits this letter on behalf of 216 individuals who have signed on in support.

Over a decade ago, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) supported a petition submitted by the Aquashicola – Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy (APWC) to redesignate the Aquashicola Creek in Monroe and Carbon counties from HQ-CWF to EV status. In the decade that has passed since the submission of this petition, several development projects have arisen that have threatened the water quality of the Aquashicola while the petition remains pending. DRN and the APWC have been successful in protecting the Aquashicola from some of these threats such as the proposed Alpine Rose racetrack, which was defeated in 2013. However, new threats continue to arise such as the proposed 68 mile Phase 1 of the PennEast Pipeline, which would directly cross the Aquashicola Creek and negatively impact water quality.

The Aquashicola Creek is deserving of EV designation because it exhibits high macroinvertebrate scores and exceptional ecological significance. The watershed contains several drinking water intakes and runs through several contiguous preserved tracts of land, including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168. It also runs parallel to the Appalachian Trail and Kittatinny Ridge, a world-famous Migratory Corridor of the Atlantic Flyway, and portions of the creek are designated as a Natural Reproduction Trout Stream and Class A Wild Trout Stream by the PFBC. Finally, the Aquashicola Watershed contains EV wetlands that are confirmed habitat for the federally threatened bog turtle.

There is great community interest in protecting this important resource. For over a decade, DRN and the APWC have been part of a statewide EV coalition that is dedicated to upgrading deserving streams throughout the Commonwealth to EV status. We have also been monitoring water quality and collecting data on the Aquashicola Creek during this time, including the deployment of DIY sensors. The longer the petition remains pending, the more vulnerable the Aquashicola Creek is to the growing list of threats from major development projects. The Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment was designed to preserve every Pennsylvanian's right to clean streams and a healthy environment. A change to EV status is crucial in protecting the excellent water quality of the Aquashicola Creek so that it remains in perpetuity for future generations in concurrence with the amendment. The time has come for the Department to thoroughly review the petition in its entirety and produce a draft report with the recommendation to upgrade Aquashicola Creek to Exceptional Value status.

Signed,

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org

Adrienne Gallagher	Sellersville	PA
Aggie Perilli	Lancaster	PA
Alana Balogh	Revere	PA
Alexa Manning	Downingtown	PA
Amy Page	Philadelphia	PA
Amy Ragsdale	Elkins Park	PA
Anne Young	Revere	PA
April Whitley	Levittown	PA
Arthur Anderson	Philadelphia	PA
Arthur Satter	Beach Lake	PA
Aurora Dizel	Havertown	PA
B Soltis	Downingtown	PA
Barbara Bell-Hawkey	Perkasie	PA
Barbara Bradshaw	Springfield	PA
Barbara Brandom	Rockwood	PA
Barry Pounder	Sinking Spring	PA
Ben Luccaro	New Hope	PA
Beverly Foster	Wayne	PA
Bill T Kellner	Palmerton	PA
Bobby Hughes	Trucksville	PA
Boris Kerzner	Elkins Park	PA
Brenda Norris	Brookhaven	PA
Brian Preston	Downingtown	PA
Bruce and Lorraine McMahon	Doylestown	PA
Carl Balis	Glenolden	PA
Carol Etheridge	Lehighton	PA
Carol O'Connell	New Hope	PA
Carol Thompson	South Park	PA
Caroline Ashurst	Philadelphia	PA
Carolyn Lange	Saylorsburg	PA
Charles Sanclementi	Hawley	PA
Christina Clement	Intercourse	PA
Christine Murray	Bethlehem Pa	PA
Christopher Daly	Rosemont	PA
Christopher Dunham	Feasterville	PA
Christopher Jackson	Morton	PA
Christopher Minich	Lewis Run	PA
Claudia Waits	Lehighton	PA
Dale Harris	Lansdowne	PA
Daniel Mink	Lancaster	PA
Darlene Messina	Philadelphia	PA
David Bower	East Stroudsburg	PA
David Carl	Jim Thorpe	PA
David Eberly	Swarthmore	PA
David Fiedler	Bensalem	PA
David Head	Hatboro	PA
David Loeb	Jenkintown	PA
David Toth	Phoenixville	PA

Dean Marshall	Benton	PA
Deborah Dawson	Folsom	PA
Dennie Baker	Warrington	PA
Diane Husic	Kunkletown	PA
Don Hawkins	North Braddock	PA
Donald Moore	Easton	PA
Donna Honigman	Lehighton	PA
Dyanne Jurin	Schwenksville	PA
E Binstead	Narberth	PA
Ed Wilkinson	Leighton	PA
Edward Thornton	Swarthmore	PA
Edwin Harlin	Leesport	PA
Elizabeth Shober	Lafayette Hill	PA
Ellen Ogle	Kunkletown	PA
Elsbeth Mason	Philadelphia	PA
Emily Shosh	Coudersport	PA
Esther Ermlick	Palmerton	PA
Florence Buckley	Philadelphia	PA
Florence Wharton	Langhorne	PA
Francine Cohen	Philadelphia	PA
Frank Ayers	Altoona	PA
Frank Nelson	Philadelphia	PA
Gale Maleskey	Bethlehem	PA
Gerald Lennon	Pen Argyl	PA
Grace Bergin	Du Bois	PA
Grace Schlosser	Philadelphia	PA
Harris Fishkin	Doylestown	PA
Harry and Jill Brownfield	Newport	PA
Heather Hill	Elkins Park	PA
Heather Nelson	Douglasville	PA
Helen Seitz	Philadelphia	PA
Henry Berkowitz	Sabinsville	PA
Hilarie Johnston	Gladwyne	PA
Holly Wells	Mount Bethel	PA
Howard Dansky	Elkins Park	PA
Jack Doherty	Lancaster	PA
Jacqueline Mascucchini	Doylestown	PA
Jacqueline Pickering	Exton	PA
James Orben	Springtown	PA
James Suleski	Townhouse	PA
Janet Cavallo	Clifton Heights	PA
Janet I Hill	Pennsburg	PA
Jean Macfarlane	Narberth	PA
Jeanne Carol Myers	Philadelphia	PA
Jeanne Held-Warmkessel	North Wales	PA
Jeanne Rothwarf	Philadelphia	PA
Jeff Lewin	Wallingford	PA
Jenny Ruckdeschel	Bryn Mawr	PA

Jessica Aronfreed	Media	PA
Jessica Newbern	Honesdale	PA
Joan L Farb	Newtown	PA
Joann Williams	Media	PA
Joanna Roy	Philadelphia	PA
Joanna Ward	Philadelphia	PA
Joe Palmer	Holland	PA
John Brunner	Jim Thorpe	PA
John Collier	Coatesville	PA
John Comella	Philadelphia	PA
John Cosgrove	Easton	PA
John Dulik	Philadelphia	PA
John Zygmunt	Springfield	PA
Jonah Lucas	Philadelphia	PA
Joseph Plechavy	Lehighton	PA
Judith Henckel	Mount Bethel	PA
Juliann Pinto	Philadelphia	PA
Karen Berry	Bethlehem	PA
Karyl Weber	Philadelphia	PA
Kathleen Stauffer	Malvern	PA
Kathy Cook	Exton	PA
Kathy Dabanian	Sellersville	PA
Kay Reinfried	Lititz	PA
Kelly Zimmerman	Saylorsburg	PA
Ken Keppol	Philadelphia	PA
Kevin Browngoehl	Bryn Mawr	PA
Kevin Roth	Huntingdon Valley	PA
Kimm Tynan	Philadelphia	PA
Kylie Adams	Palmerton	PA
Lauri Moon	Williamsport	PA
Leonard Checchio	Bryn Mawr	NY
Letty Thall	Philadelphia	PA
Lily Swartz	New Hope	PA
Linda Granato	Philadelphia	PA
Lionel Ruberg	Newtown	PA
Lisa Tull	Phoenixville	PA
Liz Cates	Leesport	PA
Liz Dailey	Philadelphia	PA
Lloyd Goodman	Radnor	PA
Lois Dribin	Doylestown	PA
Lorraine Raywood	Doylestown	PA
Lynn Kline	New Hope	PA
Lynnette Saunders	Huntingdon Valley	PA
M S	Stroudsburg	PA
Marian Keegan	Rowland	PA
Marie Carota	Doylestown	PA
Marilyn Vogel	Green Lane	PA
Mark Schupsky	Levittown	PA

Marlin Corn	Quakertown	PA
Marshall Hamilton	Media	PA
Mary Dantonio	Paoli	PA
Mary Mcmahon	Philadelphia	PA
Mary Zoller	North Wales	PA
Maryellen Alviti	Flourtown	PA
Maureen Esposito	North Wales	PA
Melissa Hall	Blue Bell	PA
Mh Higgins	Kunkletown	PA
Michael Johnson	Narberth	PA
Michael Lombardi	Levittown	PA
Michael Schmotzer	York	PA
Michelle Hoff	Allentown	PA
Myra Russell	Doylestown	PA
Naomi Miller	Philadelphia	PA
Nicholas Domiano	Ottsville	PA
Nora Ziegler	West Chester	PA
Patricia Rossi	Levittown	PA
Paul Hagedorn	Philadelphia	PA
Paul Zazow	Chalfont	PA
Paula Mandracchia	Schwenksville	PA
Peter Christine	Kunkletown	PA
Peter Norman	Warrington	PA
Peter Patton	Havertown	PA
Peter Tran	Bristol	PA
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R A	Laporte	PA
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Thomas Campanini	York	PA
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Thomas Posey	Yardley	PA
Thomas Pritchett	Easton	PA
Tina Hedrick	Palmerton	PA
Tom Johnson-Medland	Columbia	PA
Trudy Gerlach	Wyalusing	PA
Vaughn Miller	Wind Gap	PA
Vincemt Prudente	Philadelphia	PA
Walter Goodman	Malvern	PA
William Derhammer	Emmaus	PA
William Edelman	Philadelphia	PA
William Haegele	Philadelphia	PA
William Kellner	Lehighton	PA



**1855 Frantz
One-Room Schoolhouse**

LOCATED AT - 485 CHURCH ROAD

MAILING ADDRESS:

391 Church Rd; Kunkletown, Pa 18058

917 582-7010

oneroomschoolhouse485@gmail.com

<http://oneroomschoolhouse.wixsite.com/frantz>



March 5th, 2020

Mr. Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

The members of the Friends of the 1855 Frantz One-Room Schoolhouse wish to voice their support for the petition by the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy to change the designation of Aquashicola Creek from a "high quality cold water fishery (HQ)" to "Exceptional Value (EV)".

We support this change from the creek's source to its confluence with the Buckwha Creek. We believe these waters should have the highest level of protection.

Our reasons, specifically, for supporting this increased level of protection includes its location, the surrounding lands, the importance of its wetlands for threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, and the fact that it is a "naturally reproducing trout stream".

Through intense community effort, the public has secured, through the work of dedicated stewards, significant additions to "protected" lands in the area.

This includes 1,000 acres added to SGL 168 including land on both sides of the Aquashicola. Also, land that would have previously been part of the Alpine Rose "Race" Course. And, Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge has added 340 acres including about a half mile of streams.

We are also concerned about the Brook Snaketail dragon fly which was recently discovered on the creek in the area of SGL 168. These are among the most environmentally sensitive dragonflies in North American and as such are outstanding indicators of water quality and overall watershed health.

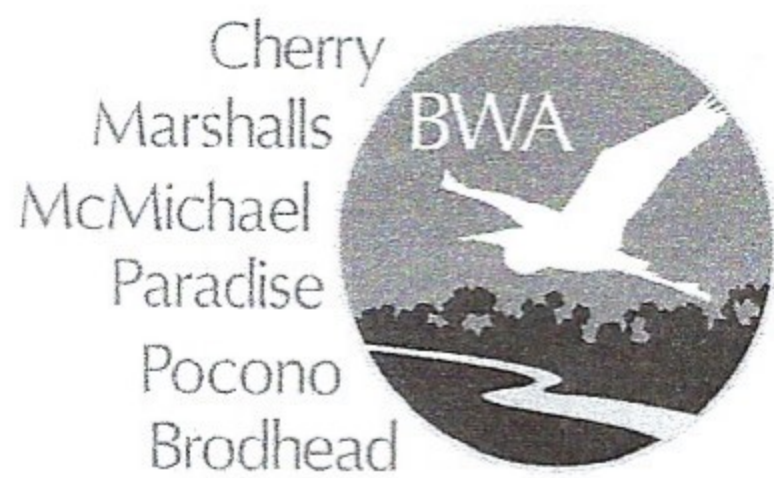
The Aquashicola Creek and its wetlands play a crucial role in the world famous migratory corridor along the Kittatinny Ridge. The Audubon Society tells us that the Kittatinny Ridge is the premier raptor migration corridor in the northeastern U.S., one of the leading such sites in the world. The ridge funnels thousands of southbound migrants; lesser numbers also follow the ridgeline north in the spring. Other species in addition to raptors migrate through, including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Monarch Butterflies.

And finally, studies - the Monroe County Water Quality Study and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection - provide samplings supporting an upgrade to "Exceptional Value".

On behalf of the Friends of the 1855 Frantz One-Room School,

Tony Giordano

Tony Giordano, Executive Director



Brodhead Watershed Association

PO Box 339 • Henryville, PA 18332
570-839-1120 info@brodheadwatershed.org
www.brodheadwatershed.org

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Hamilton Township

March 5, 2020

Mr. Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

We are pleased to support the Petition by Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy to change the designation of Aquashicola Creek, from a High Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQ) to Exceptional Value (EV).

The requested segment would be from the source to the confluence with Buckwha Creek.

We agree that these waters should be given the highest level of protection.

We want to protect this valuable resource, which is in a relatively undeveloped area with EV wetlands, a Class A wild trout stream and meets biological high quality criteria.

Sincerely,

Bob Heil
Executive director



LEHIGH GAP NATURE CENTER

(Wildlife Information Center, Inc.)

P.O. Box 198 • Slatington, PA 18080
610-760-8889 • www.lgnc.org • mail@lgnc.org

February 28, 2020

Mr. Josh Lookenbill
Division of Water Quality Standards
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Lookenbill:

Lehigh Gap Nature Center is pleased to support the petition by the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy to change the designation of Aquashicola Creek from a High Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQ) to Exceptional Value (EV). The requested segment would be from the source to the confluence with Buckwha Creek. We agree that these waters should be given the highest level of protection.

We support the petition to protect this valuable resource based on the following Exceptional Value qualifications:

- **Location:** The upper section of the Aquashicola Creek is still relatively undeveloped. It links contiguous preserved tracts of land including sections of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and PA State Game Lands 168. The creek also runs parallel to the Kittatinny Ridge – a world famous migratory corridor – and the Appalachian Trail. It is also near areas of historical significance, such as Ross Common Manor.
- **Exceptional Value Wetlands:** The Aquashicola Creek runs through wetlands that are given special protection under Pennsylvania Code because they are home to threatened and/or endangered species of both flora and fauna.
- **Class A Wild Trout Stream and Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream:** The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has designated sections of the Aquashicola Creek with these important titles.
- **Biological High Quality Criteria:** Macroinvertebrate samplings done by both the Monroe County Water Quality Study and PA DEP in this area support upgrade to Exceptional Value.

Sincerely,

Chad I. Schwartz
Director of Science & Education

Director of Science & Education: Chad I. Schwartz

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A copy of the official registration and financial information for the Wildlife Information Center, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Sierra Club

Pennsylvania Chapter - Lehigh Valley Group
P.O. Box 1901
Allentown, PA 18105-1901
email: lvsierraclub@gmail.com

December 15, 2010

Mr. James J. Vogt, president
Aquashicola / Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy (APWC)
P.O. Box 360
Kresgeville, Pa. 18333

Dear Mr. Vogt,

This letter is written to confirm that the Sierra Club - Pennsylvania Chapter - Lehigh Valley Group (LVG) actively supports the Aquashicola /Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy's (APWC) request to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) that the Aquashicola Creek, from its source to its confluence with Buckwha Creek, be given the highest level of protection, Exceptional Value (EV) status. The Aquashicola Creek lies within our Group's membership area.

The Sierra Club - LVG agrees that the current designation, High Quality Cold Water Migratory Fishery, does not accurately reflect the value of this stream or provide enough protection to the Aquashicola Creek. An Exceptional Value (EV) designation is the appropriate designation under these circumstances. The Aquashicola should be given an EV designation for many reasons. We agree with APWC that an EV designation should be applied because:

- Macroinvertebrate samplings have demonstrated a high quality aquatic community, a basis for designation as a special protection water;
- The upper eight miles of the Aquashicola Creek are within the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This section contains Ross Common Creek, the headwaters of the Aquashicola, and various wetlands of ecological significance;
- Surface Waters of Exceptional Significance (see below);
- PADEP, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PA F&B), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US F&W) have all determined that bog turtles, listed as endangered by Pennsylvania and threatened by the federal Endangered Species Act, inhabit the Aquashicola watershed. Under the Pennsylvania Code, 25 Pa.Code Sec. 105.17(1) (i)-(iii)), special protection is given to wetlands which serve as habitat for threatened and/or endangered species such as the bog turtle; this includes hydrologically linked wetlands and wetlands in the floodplain of the Aquashicola Creek.

- The Aquashicola Creek watershed, from headwaters to confluence with the Buckwha, is listed by Pa F&B as a Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream. A 2.2 mile segment of the Aquashicola Creek in Ross Township, from Tittle Rd. to Chicola Lake has been designated a Class A Wild trout Stream by Pa F&B.
- The Pennsylvania Game Commission has acquired 1,100 acres of land in Ross and Eldred Townships to add to State Game Lands 168. The Aquashicola Creek flows through approximately 1/2 mile of this new acquisition.

• Additional reasons for EV designation include a cluster of historic buildings along the creek in Eldred Township and the creek's proximity to Blue Mountain/ Kittatinny Ridge, which contains the Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail and a major migratory bird corridor known as the Atlantic Flyway.

Please forward our letter of support to any appropriate agency concerning the redesignation.

Very truly yours,

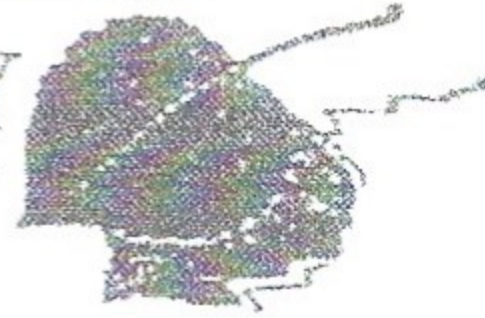


Donald W. Miles
Attorney at Law
Chairman
Sierra Club - Pa. Chapter - Lehigh Valley

Group

xc: Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulation,
Streams Water Quality Redesignations
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

BUSHKILL STREAM
CONSERVANCY



Post Office Box 399
Tatamy, PA 18085-0399
www.bushkill.org

March 2, 2010

James Vogt
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
P.O. Box 360
Kresgeville, PA 18333

Dear Mr. Vogt,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Bushkill Stream Conservancy to express support for your Petition to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Quality Board requesting that the Aquashicola Creek, from the source to the confluence with Buckwa Creek, be upgraded to Exceptional Value status.

The Stream Conservancy supports this petition based on three main points:

- Better protection of the wild aspects of the Appalachian trail.
- Better protection for the watershed as a regional resource including valuable habitat for endangered bog turtles and wild trout.
- Since the creek flows from the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Area, additional protection would enhance the entire habitat system of the Blue Mountain.

The Bushkill Stream Conservancy supports this petition. If we can be helpful to you in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Brandes".

Kate Brandes
President



FRIENDS OF CHERRY VALLEY

Dedicated to the conservation of the region's scenic beauty,
wildlife, ecological and environmental resources, and rural character.

February 23, 2010

Mr. James Vogt
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
PO Box 360
Kresgeville, PA 18333

Dear Mr. Vogt,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support, on behalf of Friends of Cherry Valley, for your application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Quality Board to have the Aquashicola Creek, from the source to the confluence with Buckwa Creek, be given the designation as an Exceptional Value status.

Friends of Cherry Valley supports this application because part of the Aquaschicola Creek is in Ross Township, which is within the boundaries of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The establishment of the refuge was one of the major goals of FOCV, which was recently designated in December 2008. Another goal of FOCV is to maintain or improve water quality throughout the (CV) watershed.

We all know how important clean water is to the sustainability of our environment, and we support the application of the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy for the Aquashicola Creek to be protected by DEP and receive the highest level of protection.

We wish you the best of luck in this important endeavor!

Sincerely,

Debra Schuler
President, FOCV

PO Box 1047
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
www.friendsofcherryvalley.org
570-460-0463
debschuler@focv.org



BRODHEAD CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED 289

P.O. Box 713

Bartonsville, PA 18321

February 12, 2010

Aquashicola / Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
P. O. Box 360
Kresgeville, PA 18333

Dear Sirs:

The Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports your petition to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Quality Board to elevate the status of the Aquashicola Creek from a High Quality Cold Water Fishery to Exceptional Value status.

The designation of Exceptional Value status will not only insure that high quality water will be maintained in the Aquashicola Creek but at the same time protect the Pohopoco Creek into which it discharges.

For more than 40 years, through over 450 chapters Trout Unlimited has played the leading role in protecting one of America's last great American treasures: our nation's trout and salmon fisheries. The Brodhead Chapter represents over 200 local environmentally conscious men and women dedicated to the preservation of our cold water fisheries. We commend and whole heartedly endorse the efforts of APWC to maintain the quality of the Aquashicola / Pohopoco Watershed.

Very truly yours,


Thomas Battista, President