

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019

A SCRIP meeting was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019 beginning at 3:05 PM at the Quemahoning Public Recreation Area. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Joe Gorden, Adam Cotchen, Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, and John Dryzal. Karlice Makuchan joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Branden Diehl of Foundation for PA Watersheds and Chris Garbark of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. Doug Beri of Indiana Co. Conservation District was present for the first part of the meeting. Pat Ferko of PA Fish and Boat Commission, Greg Shustrick of Somerset Conservation District, Randy Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, Travis Tasker of SFU, and Jim Moses of Somerset County Conservancy joined the meeting in progress.

Dryzal/Gorden made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner shared a copy of CVC's Annual Report, which came in the mail.

Reckner said the Johnstown Garden Club made a \$500 donation to SCRIP, for which the group is thankful and will send a thank you card.

Stonycreek River

Lichvar said Oven Run Site E's rehab is complete, and the system is working well. Site A's intake was redone and appears to be working well. Site F's bid packet should be complete by tomorrow. Funds are being sought to do Sites D and A.

The Soap Hollow Run stream improvement project is nearly done except for plantings. Lichvar summarized the grants and funding secured for this project.

A project to map all the Bens Creek watershed has started. Adam Cotchen of Western PA Conservancy is working with the Somerset Conservation District and Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited to complete this project.

A Hooversville resident commented that a stream near the Family Dollar has turned orange. Lichvar investigated and DEP has gone to inspect it. Lichvar shared photos.

Lichvar is trying to get a meeting with the Somerset County Commissioners, the District, and the Somerset County Conservancy to develop a trust fund for Oven Run and reemphasized the importance of maintaining these systems.

Tasker said the Center is working with BioMost to develop some proposals for Oven Run Site B.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said the SGL228 project has had a number of problems, but he gave a shout out to several organizations and individuals who stepped up to help out in a number of ways.

Proposed Shade Active Treatment Plant

Lichvar said SCRIP submitted comments about Corsa Coal's impact on the Reitz #4 discharge around July 4th. He connected with Dan Sammarco on Friday, who said staff would provide comments, as SCRIP requested, by today's meeting, but nothing has been received yet. Reckner said the missing 2016 water quality data were provided and backup SCRIP's points. Lichvar did speak with Brent Means of OSM. The DEP is not required to do anything based on comments. SCRIP could speak to Secretary McDonnell or file a formal complaint. Options were discussed. Gorden/Cotchen made a motion for Lichvar to continue reaching out to Sammarco, saying that we're very much interested in what's going on, we're interested in the results and if we do not receive written comment by the end of the month, we will pursue other options. SCRIP will work on those options. Diehl pointed out that it's usually 30 days to get an appointment with the Secretary.

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Tasker said 2 sondes and a staff plate installed in Que Creek to track flows. The Center wants to do a mass balance on the stream. They were recently approached by the power plant at Conemaugh River Lake to study the water storage capacity of lake. Sedimentation is a problem and so this project could spawn more projects implementing BMPs upstream.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Lichvar reminded that fish habitat structures would be built and placed in the Que today.

Little Conemaugh River

Dryzal said WPCAMR's meeting was last week and that Leiford said they are working on some operational issues at the Cresson treatment plant; Wehrum's system design is 65% done; and that the DEP is still doing discovery work on a site location for the Little Conemaugh system. Diehl said the site will be chosen by the end of this year; Site 2 has wetland issues, but is a smaller parcel (about 10 acres are needed). Dryzal said the Trout Run Watershed Association is working on the Puritan discharge treatment system and that the District received their NPDES and Ch. 105 permit applications within the last week.

The House of Representatives may have some news to announce regarding the SMCRA

reauthorization this fall.

Lichvar said the PFBC and DEP will be surveying fish at seven sites on the Little Conemaugh River Tuesday through Thursday of next week. Help will be needed. Do not wear breathable waders!

Diehl said work at the Ehrenfeld coal refuse pile is 80% complete. Some unfortunate circumstances have caused delays.

Education Committee

Makuchan said September 5 is the submission deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net. Dryzal will work on a memorial for Dick Rossman.

Event / Fundraising Committee

Gorden said 13 people participated in the PA Fish and Boat Commission/SCRIP's Intro to Kayak Fishing event that was held on July 23. Gorden shared media coverage. Does SCRIP want to do it again next year? Gorden will talk to Mandy Smith.

CCCD has done a few kayak events for specific groups, but nothing for the public. There is an opportunity to collaborate with them.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Garbark said CVC's most recent Growing Greener grant is signed and that they should begin sampling in September. He said they are monitoring some data loggers biweekly and will complete fall macroinvertebrate surveys on Beaverdam Run, Little Paint Creek, and Berkebile Run. Reckner suggested Garbark get in touch with George Mostoller of MLTU as he and others have expressed interest in monitoring these waterways. Garbark noted that Jeff Sarver had reached out about starting up the monthly and weekly sampling/flow measurements of the Big 4 discharges. CVC hopes to lime dose Panther, Shingle, Berkebile Runs before hunting season.

Old Business

Lichvar wrote and submitted a letter and resolution to support the AML Fund.

Lichvar said the SCRIP archives are on a flash drive and shared a copy with Reckner, Dryzal, and Gorden.

Ferko said Gary Smith is the new Fisheries Manager for the area.

New Business

Shustrick said there is an alkalinity issue in the upper reaches of Piney Run, which is not Class A anymore. The pH is 6 and the alkalinity is now 2. Earlier this year, he drove the watershed and thinks some limestone sanding would benefit the watershed, as well as some D&G Road restoration work.

Buchanan said one of MLTU's stream monitors noticed that a roadway along Topper Run (Topper Road) was badly graded by the township and contacted the Conservation District about it.

Lichvar said that the 2020 Census is coming up and noted the importance of participation.

Next Meeting

SCRIP's next meeting will be Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Windber Hotel.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM. Minutes by Reckner.