

The **January 11, 2018** meeting of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project was called to order at 10:11 AM at Laurelwood Care Center in Westmont by Len Lichvar, with John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Melissa Reckner, Robb Piper, and Larry Hutchinson present.

Earl Waddell of the Cambria Somerset Authority also joined the meeting.

Thanks to Laurelwood (Sharon Hartnett) for hosting us!

As a quorum was not present, no official action may be taken.

Dryzal noted his name was misspelled in the November meeting minutes.

Reckner said that SCRIP had 62 dues-paying members in 2017 with 5 individuals paying twice. Membership generated \$2,202 in 2017. Reckner said she sent 12 renewal reminders out for January/February. SCRIP's Facebook page is up to 318 "likes."

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Election of Officers

Postponed as there was no quorum present.

Stonycreek River

Lichvar reported that Oven Run Site E's reconstruction is still ongoing. The design for site A is done. The other sites will be designed and done later this year. The District received a Growing Greener grant to do some land reclamation at the Hawk View system. Lichvar reviewed other anticipated 2018 projects, including, but not limited to streambank work along Soap Hollow Run and the cleaning of the Trompes at Rock Tunnel.

Paint Creek

Reckner reported that Tom Clark will present the Red Eyes Feasibility Study results at the January 22 Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association meeting. She said Rich Wargo's wife passed away unexpectedly two weeks ago. PCRWA and the Stream Team's annual litter cleanup will be Saturday, April 7 with volunteers meeting along Route 160 between Elton and Windber at 8:30 AM.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said they had to expand the project site for the Gahagen SGL 228 AMD system and extend their grant agreements. White Horse Excavating is currently working on the site. Hutchinson questioned some aspects of construction.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Waddell said construction of the bike trail around the Que is ongoing. Unfortunately, someone set traps right on the trail and a dog and a bike have been snared. The trapper's name was not on the traps, which is illegal. Lichvar noted a mountain biker passed him on those trails during turkey season and the bicyclist was not wearing orange, which is dangerous. The CSA Board is going to discuss ending trapping at the Que.

CSA is going to construct a small pavilion near the Birdman ramp. Piper suggested that location be given a 911 address.

Waddell said divers inspected the Que intake tower and determined that most things were intact, but a bracket is missing. Originally, there were six brackets on the 90' stem. Those were replaced a few years ago and a 7th was added right above Gate B. Gate B is a 3'x5' gate at the very bottom of the tower. In December, divers discovered that Bracket #6 is missing. No one is sure when it went missing; it could have been from when the WW valve was damaged years ago, and strangely, it's MIA. Logic says the bracket should be at the bottom of the tower, as the outflow sits about a foot above the bottom. CSA is going to replace the bracket, probably in March. WW releases should begin in April.

Waddell said the Vinco power plant's water line is under construction. Also, mining has started on the Studder property around the Que, and CSA has received a few royalty checks already.

Waddell said CSA has been communicating with the township and PFBC regarding limiting access to the South Recreation Area at Wilmore Dam from dawn-to-dusk to all activities except fishing.

Little Conemaugh River

Dryzal reported that the District is in the process of replacing some data loggers that don't seem to be working or recalibrating. Reckner said it might be a software issue. The District is buying four new loggers.

Dryzal said the Cresson AMD treatment system is under construction.

Piper said there was a severe sediment pollution incident on an unnamed tributary to the South Branch Blacklick Creek from a strip mine adjacent SGL79 near Vintondale. There were no E&S control measures on site.

Education Committee

Makuchan reported that March 2 is the deadline for the next newsletter. NatureWorks will be held March 3 from 10 – 2 at the BottleWorks. SCRIP will be present. She'll need some help with SCRIP's activity.

Event Committee

SCRIP will pursue an Intro to Boating Class at the Que this year. Reckner will talk to Mandy Smith to set a date.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Reckner shared the 99% complete *State of the Watershed: Community Shift An update to the 1999 Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Conservation Plan*. She just needs to tweak formatting for a print-friendly version. She said the Stream Team's winter sampling round will begin next week and she is beginning to schedule TIC Release Days. CVC's member outing – a winter cross-country ski or hike, depending on snow levels, is this Saturday at 10 AM at Laurel Mountain State Park's warming hut. The Green Drinks event tonight benefits Stream Team. Joe Gorden plans to attend!

Website

Reckner sent updates to Dutch on January 5, 2018.

Sunoco Mariner Pipeline

Piper said there was a discharge into Raystown Lake, and Dryzal said there were issues in Laurel Run (Cambria Co.) and a couple other sites. Dryzal explained Sunoco's work is shut down to do since they were doing some horizontal drilling that they weren't supposed to.

Old Business

Bob Eppley passed away on December 24.

New Business

Lichvar shared SRI's report of the AMD passive treatment systems in the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin. It may be downloaded here:
http://www2.datashed.org/sites/default/files/kc_om_assessment_report_12-8-17_reduced.pdf.

Lichvar introduced an idea to stock trout in the Stonycreek River, below Quemahoning Creek, similar to Pine Creek in Lycoming County. He wants to create a destination fishery between the Que and the mouth of Shade Creek and call it the Pipeline. \$10K would need raised to purchase about 3,000 trout, including some trophies. He's looking for a multi-year commitment to support this. Lichvar said the only section of Stony that is stocked by PFBC with adult trout occurs upstream of Shanksville and that the section of Stony in question is not designated a stock trout stream.

Next meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, March 22 at 10 AM at Laurelwood Care Center
Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM. Minutes by Reckner.