

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2019**

A SCRIP meeting was held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 beginning at 9:15 AM at the Gander Outdoors in Richland. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Adam Cotchen, Karlice Makuchan, John Dryzal, Robb Piper, James Eckenrode, Jr., and Larry Hutchinson.

The meeting was also attended by Tom Clark, Earl Waddell of the Cambria Somerset Authority, Joan Hawk and Ron Hamilton representing the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA), Chris Coughenour of UPJ, and Allen Smith of Save Laurel Ridge.

Introductions were made.

Lichvar said he received notification from Somerset County that John Vatauvuk is no longer a SCRIP board member, due to Vatauvuk's health concerns.

Makuchan/Piper made a motion to approve the July, September and November meeting minutes/notes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner reported that, in 2018, SCRIP raised \$1,857 through 52 memberships, with two members paying twice. Membership was down slightly from previous years, despite her sending out membership renewal reminders. She shared correspondence.

Eckenrode reported that as of the end of 2018 SCRIP has \$567.08 in its checking and additional funds in its other accounts. He noted that SCRIP received a \$1500 invoice for the website work, which was a previously approved project. Cotchen/Hutchinson made a motion to pay the bill. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Scalp Level School of Artists**

Hawk, Hamilton, and Coughenour said SAMA is going to be doing a project in partnership with UPJ's Energy and Earth Resources department. Jerry & Joan Hawk will be guest curators for SAMA in 2021. The exhibition will focus on Scalp Level School art, but incorporate regional geology, history, and conservation. UPJ's focus is on the geologic history of the valley. There will be a special focus on women artists from the Scalp Level School of Artists. Reckner has directed them to a few contacts and SQI's website, which highlights the Scalp Level School. SAMA would like to have a lot of events in the summer of 2021; events in which SCRIP may wish to participate, highlighting conservation work and recreational opportunities.

**By-law Amendments**

Lichvar distributed the latest by-laws he could find. SCRIP will have to date the revision for future reference. Lichvar suggests making a by-law committee to make revisions that could be presented in writing, as outlined in the by-laws. A discussion followed. Piper, Reckner, and Lichvar will be that committee and make proposed revisions and then mail them out prior to the

next meeting. Cotchen will covert the by-laws to a Word document to ease editing.

### **Election of Officers**

Lichvar feels it might be time for new leadership. Reckner introduced Tom Clark, who has expressed interest in serving on the board. A discussion followed. Piper/Hutchinson made a motion to accept Clark as a board member. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner/Piper made a motion that Lichvar remain President for at least one more year, Clark become Vice-President, Reckner remain Secretary and Eckenrode remain Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Stonycreek River**

Lichvar reported on the progress of the Oven Run rehabilitation. In short, once completed, Oven Run site E will treat 350 GPM, up from the current 125 GPM. The intake pipeline needs redone, but funds may not be available. Site A's intake was revamped. Site D needs work, but there are no funds available. Site F is basically not working and has the worst raw water quality. The Somerset Conservation District will apply again for a DCED grant. Sampling is lacking since Reckner left the Stream Team and there is a great need for it. Lichvar heard Musser Engineering was contracted to do some sampling. Site B is DEP's site and SRI is evaluating it.

Lichvar shared correspondence from InnoH2O Solutions, a Somerset County-based business that focuses on gray water reuse and potable water purification. The company has expressed interest in treating AMD through non-chemical means and is conducting field studies.

Lichvar said he asked Dave Leiford of DEP for an update on the status of the proposed Big 4 AMD active treatment system. Corsa Coal is discharging into the same mine pool as the abandoned pool(s) that feed at least the Reitz #4 AMD. Corsa is late sharing their water quality report. SCRIP may need to become involved, because the worry is, if this project isn't moved forward soon, the available funds will not be available in the future and our opportunity to treat these discharges will be lost.

Lichvar shared a copy of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership's letter to Governor Wolf supporting the Somerset Conservation District's efforts to secure operation and maintenance funds for the Oven Run systems.

### **Paint Creek**

Reckner reported that the Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association (PCRWA) was awarded a grant to implement phases 1 and 2A of the *Upper Babcock Creek Restoration Plan*.

### **Shade Creek**

Hutchinson said the Coal Run SGL 228 project is on hold for weather and that Shade Creek

Watershed Association (SCWA) did receive an additional grant to add limestone to the main pond. He said once this system is online, 4-5 miles of Dark Shade Creek will be improved and could possibly hold fish. CVC gifted SCWA three loads of limestone sand for headwater streams.

Hutchinson said SCWA's monthly meeting is tomorrow, and he outlined some project ideas, including securing drone footage of the Shade Creek corridor, if he can find someone willing to do so.

Hutchinson would like to host a Green Drinks to benefit SCWA. Reckner said get in touch with Diana Kabo.

He said a local intern is doing a great job of measuring flow and maintaining the Reitz #1 AMD treatment system.

Hutchinson is looking for a grant to redo the Reitz #1 system and recycle the compost from the one SAP system and replenish the limestone. He would like Penn State Extension to become involved.

Hutchinson noted that two streams in the Shade Creek watershed are Exceptional Value and he wants to capitalize on that, especially since windmills are still possible and the trees harboring the Indiana bats were cut down.

### **Center for Watershed Research and Service**

Eckenrode said the Center works closely with SRI and they can help with several projects. He noted some projects in the SCRIP service area. Travis Tasker is SFU's new post-doc.

Eckenrode will follow up with Rachel Wagner regarding MLTU's Benscreek GIS project.

Eckenrode said universities that receive federal funds have to do community service during the school year. Reckner noted the Paint Creek litter cleanup is Saturday, March 30 with volunteers meeting at 8:30 AM along Berwick Road. Get in touch with Eckenrode regarding other opportunities.

### **Cambria Somerset Authority**

Waddell said Gander Outdoors employees have to complete 32 hours of community service. Jerry Smith is one of their managers and could elaborate on the specifics.

Waddell said construction of the water line for CPV's power plant is complete. CSA/CPV will test water lines and pump stations over the next month. This will be nice revenue for CSA and benefit the counties that do subsidize CSA.

CSA is putting two picnic tables and two charcoal grills at the Birdman Launch at the Que.

## **Little Conemaugh River**

Dryzal said the cleanup of the Ehrenfeld bony pile continues and that the Stineman piles are next. There is no news on the active treatment system; DEP is still working on siting. Clark said the Cresson plant should go online fully in February. The **Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Facility** is next on the list. Its design is **working up to the 65% level**.

Dryzal said Growing Greener grants are being announced slowly. The Cambria Co. Conservation District received funding for five of their projects so far including habitat work on South Branch and North Branch Blacklick Creek and West Branch of Susquehanna River. Two applications still pending.

## **Education Committee**

Makuchan said March 1 is the deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

She reminded that NatureWorks at the BottleWorks in Johnstown will be 10 AM – 2 PM on March 2, 2019. Makuchan will represent SCRIP, but additional help is needed. Hutchinson and Cotchen said they should be available.

Makuchan said Dave Lester is pursuing the development of the Nathan's Divide Environmental Education Center. UPJ professor, Mitzy Schaney, is using the area as an outdoor classroom.

Makuchan relayed the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds' economic study on AMD treatment along the Little Conemaugh River. View it here: <http://pennsylvaniawatersheds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Little-Conemaugh-River-AMD-Cleanup-Economic-Impact-Analysis-with-report-1-1.pdf>.

Makuchan brought up the topic of SCRIP's scholarship. No one applied for it last year and only two people did the year before, despite sharing notice with many schools and contacts. Reckner/Eckenrode made a motion to not offer a scholarship this year. All in favor. Motion carried. SCRIP could possibly partner with another organization that already offers a scholarship.

Reckner presented a letter of request from the BottleWorks for a donation for NatureWorks. Reckner said she abstains from any voting since she helps coordinate the event. A discussion followed. Makuchan/Cotchen made a motion to donate \$200 to NatureWorks. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **Event / Fundraising Committee**

Last year, SCRIP worked with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to offer kayak fishing instruction at the Que. Reckner/Piper made a motion that SCRIP does the kayak fishing program again, if PFBC is available, towards the end of July. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lichvar will inform Joe Gorden, who serves as SCRIP's Event Chairman.

Eckenrode said perhaps SCRIP could work with the Cambria County Conservation District to host another Intro to River Kayaking event. Reckner noted that the Vision 2025 River Capture Team, which worked with the District to hold that event last year, has new leadership and may wish to do that event again. Dryzal noted people who participate in their events and who are new to kayaking must first participate in an intro to kayaking event on a lake before going on moving water.

### **Website**

Reckner reported that SCRIP's web designer made SCRIP's website mobile-friendly and that a few updates were made.

### **Sunoco Mariner Pipeline**

Cotchen said the 20" pipeline is operational. There is no news on the 15" line. Supposedly future work must be done via open trench and not horizontal drilling. Piper said they have messed up some potable water supplies locally and across the state.

### **Old Business**

Reckner said she is still coordinating Trout in the Classroom (TIC) with local schools and briefly explained the program. If anyone would like to help by leading an Outdoor Discovery Workshop on schools' release days, please contact Reckner at [mreckner@brandywine.org](mailto:mreckner@brandywine.org).

Eckenrode said the Center is still looking at the feasibility of combined treatment of the Incline Plane discharge and wastewater at Dornick Point. The concept seems to be gaining favor, but will the departments within DEP allow it to occur?

Lichvar shared some information he found from the early days of SCRIP.

### **New Business**

Hutchinson said the Loyalhanna discharge was flooded because of a beaver dam downstream. He and a crew removed the dam.

### **Greater Johnstown Water Authority Wind Farm**

Smith introduced himself. He is a SCRIP member and an avid outdoorsman. He elaborated on his knowledge of the proposed CPV / Greater Johnstown Water Authority wind farm and its status. CPV has verbally backed out of the lease, but based on how it's worded, another company could take over that lease. He is requesting SCRIP sign a letter stating its opposition of wind energy on Laurel Ridge. A discussion followed. Lichvar said SCRIP has a policy statement based on the Shaffer Mountain wind farm. Makuchan said she was at the public meeting at which Laura and Mike Jackson of SOAR – Save Our Allegheny Mountains –

presented on windmill construction and environmental impact. Protecting viewsheds is a new concept for PA, due to past development. Lichvar shared a 2006 Tribune-Democrat article that shows GJWA's solicitor, Bill Barbin, was active in the fight to keep windmills off Rager Mountain. Makuchan/Cotchen made a motion to modify the presented letter and attach our past position paper on the Shaffer Mountain windfarm. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

March 21, 2019 at 3 PM tentatively at Gander Outdoors.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Minutes by Reckner.