

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020

A SCRIP meeting was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, beginning at 3:13 PM at the Flyin Lion in Jennerstown. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Tom Clark, Joe Gorden, Melissa Reckner, Adam Cotchen, Larry Hutchinson, Karlice Makuchan, and Robb Piper.

The meeting was also attended by Jackie Ritko of the Cambria County Conservation District; Randy Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited; Chris Garbark of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy; Pat Ferko of the PA Fish and Boat Commission; and Doug Beri of Indiana County Conservation District.

Piper/Makuchan made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lichvar said William Brogan has assumed Jeff Fliss's former position as Watershed Manager with the DEP and would have attended today's meeting except for a prior commitment.

Reckner reported that SCRIP had 51 dues-paying members in 2019 for a total income of \$2,855 including Tony Marich's lifetime membership.

Election of Officers

After some discussion, Gorden/Piper made a motion to elect Clark as Chairman, Lichvar as Vice-Chairman, Eckenrode as Treasurer, and Reckner as Secretary. All in favor. Motion carried.

Stonycreek River

Gorden shared a Daily American article about active mine coal mining and reclamation work in the area. Lichvar said he spoke with the Tribune Democrat and Vision Together 2025 about the same. A discussion about the need for a trust fund for Stonycreek systems followed. Clark pondered if AML Pilot funds could be used for that since Stonycreek has a QHUP. Beri said those applications are due at the end of this month.

Lichvar said DEP is compiling a formal report for the "new" abandoned mine discharges in the Wells Creek Watershed along Cider Press Road and the Listie Fairground. A source for the "new" discharge along Fallen Timber Run in Hooversville has not yet been determined.

Lichvar said SCD is working on a PennDOT mitigation proposal along Bens Creek. Cotchen said WPC, in cooperation with MLTU and SCD, is nearly done with a series of maps that outline project sites, stream classifications, etc. in that watershed. The maps will help prioritize projects there.

Lichvar said Phase II work on the Lambertsville oxic limestone system along Lamberts Run should abate the iron.

Cotchen said he's taking the lead on submitting a CHP grant application to do additional limestone dosing in the Clear Shade Creek watershed, specifically along Mile Run, Piney Run, and a trib to Cub Run. Lichvar said the SCD noted erosion near Clear Shade Creek that could be fixed through the D&G roads program, but the Shade Township supervisors need to apply for the funds and they've been hesitant to do so. It seems they fear residents may argue about which roads are being repaired, even though this is specifically a water quality improvement project. Cotchen said he could meet with the township, design the project, and offer technical assistance.

Paint Creek

Clark said PCRWA received a Growing Greener grant to do some pre-treatment at the Red Eyes discharges along Babcock Creek, and he explained the project more.

Clark questioned the status of the Mine 37 refuse pile and when that might be removed. Reckner suggested contacting Branden Diehl for a potential update.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said Jeff Sarver is President and he is VP of SCWA. He said they've limestone dosed Panther and Shingle Runs. He said SRI wants to work with SCWA regarding the Cottagetown wetland. SCWA's next meeting is this Friday at 7 PM at the Central City Borough Building. Hutchinson noted that the permit for their 228 project's intake has been received. Brad Shultz is preparing the bid packet. Reckner suggested SCWA work with SCD to improve the intake of the Shingle Run ALD.

Proposed Shade Active Treatment Plant

Lichvar said Sam Faith, DEP's District Mining Manager, will likely attend SCRIP's next meeting. Faith said their new data confirms what SCRIP pointed out regarding the degradation of the Reitz #4 discharge. DMO is convinced that Corsa is impacting the #4 mine pool, though Corsa is refuting that. Corsa might be looking to restore one of their treatment systems that could take that water. Lichvar said that supposedly Corsa understands that the proposed active system in Central City is in jeopardy because of them.

Clark said SCRIP is trying to get DEP's 2019 data to include in SCRIP's report. The Stream Team will soon resume sampling the discharges monthly. Clark also compiled data on Dark Shade Creek, just downstream of the #4 discharge, along Sunshine Avenue, and it also shows a decline in water quality.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Piper said, in February, CSA will hold a reorganization meeting for its conservancy. Lichvar

said CSA is doing a fundraising campaign to expand recreation facilities at the Que.

Little Conemaugh River

Ritko said the CCCD is working with the Dunlo Rod and Gun to do a streambank stabilization project on Laurel Run. She said the design of the Little Conemaugh AMD active treatment system is still in the works. Removal of some refuse by the Sonman discharge could change the floodplain and allow the system to be built closer to Route 53.

Education Committee

Makuchan said March 6 is the submission deadline for the next newsletter, which will be SCRIP's 1st all-electronic one. Send news to Makuchan at karlice@atlanticbb.net. Reckner said only about five people have requested a hard copy be mailed to them and paid the \$5 to do so.

Makuchan said NatureWorks is March 7 at the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center from 10 AM – 2 PM and is a free event for the public. She and Hutchinson will again do the iron oxide chalk activity. Additional help is welcomed and is a good volunteer opportunity. She asked if anyone had products made with iron oxide. Recommendations were made and a motion to purchase such things will be made under New Business.

Reckner said that a Green Drinks will be held Thursday, March 5 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at The Phoenix Tavern. Proceeds will benefit NatureWorks.

Reckner said she is planning several Trout in the Classroom Release Days for Cambria and Somerset County schools. If anyone would like to help by leading an Outdoor Discovery Workshop or assist kids with fishing, contact her at mreckner@brandywine.org.

Fundraiser / Event Committee

Gorden said PFBC would like SCRIP to help with a Family Fishing Program, tentatively on Friday, June 12th, at the Que. Again, volunteers will be needed to help.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Garbark said a clerical error occurred so he has not received all of the Stream Team's recent lab reports, but that error has been corrected, and he'll be getting those reports out soon. He said CVC submitted a Growing Greener app to help restore some monitoring sites that were dropped. He noted the grant for their data logger program has been extended for another year. Garbark said C-SAW submitted a new funding request to continue its technical assistance. CVC is looking for volunteers to assist with a river otter study. Volunteers are to look for otter sign (scat, tracks, latrines). Lichvar and Ferko said otters have been living in Quemahoning Creek and Bens Creek since the mid-90s. Garbark said CVC is applying for DCNR funds that would start a riparian buffer program.

Web Page

Reckner said she asked SCRIP's webmaster to send reports to Gorden every other month. Clark asked if we have a Twitter account; Gorden will investigate. SCRIP does have a Facebook page. Makuchan said that while she's been updating SCRIP's online calendar, it does not appear on her phone; however, it does appear on others. Reckner will ask SCRIP's webmaster to help figure out the hiccup.

Old Business

Clark said PEC is doing reforestation in the headwaters of the South Fork of Little Conemaugh and that a public planning event is May 9th. He felt SCRIP should have a presence. He will have more info at the next meeting and prepare a newsletter article.

New Business

Piper/Reckner made a motion that Makuchan be allowed to spend up to \$250 on items that will support SCRIP's display on iron oxide. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner shared a letter from the Bottle Works asking SCRIP to sponsor NatureWorks with a \$150 donation. She said funds would help support the mailing of about 800 event postcards. Makuchan/Hutchinson made a motion to support NatureWorks with a \$150 sponsorship. All in favor, although Reckner abstains, and motion carries.

Ferko said Somerset County is down to one WCO (him) and that there is no WCO in Cambria County since Al Colihan's retirement. A new class of WCOs should graduate in a few months, and hopefully, vacancies are filled.

Beri will follow up to see if the ACOE will set a meeting to discuss its proposed dredging project behind the Johnstown High School.

Clark said he appreciates everyone entrusting him with this organization and acknowledged the work Lichvar has done over the last 24 years. Lichvar received a round of applause.

Next Meeting

SCRIP's next meeting will be Thursday, March 19 at 3:00 PM at a location in Ebensburg. Perhaps at Coal Country Brewing.

Hutchinson/Reckner made a motion to adjourn at 4:37 PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.