

SCRIP Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

A SCRIP meeting was held on July 15, 2021 at Greenhouse Park. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gordon, Pam Milavec, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Malcolm Crittenden, and Larry Hutchinson. James Eckenrode, Jr. joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Aaron Capouellez of Cambria Co. Conservation District and Randy Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited. Rachel Gibson and Thomas Hockensmith of Saint Francis University joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by Clark.

Milavec/Cotchen made a **MOTION** to approve the May meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner recorded an electronic vote made after the May meeting: Reckner/Eckenrode made a **MOTION** to purchase a \$50 gift card from Balance restaurant as a thank you to Michele Tokarsky, who donated her time with the PBS hearing. Ten board members responded positively and two did not respond. Motion carried.

Partner Organization Reports

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Sara Trio is the interim Stream Team director, as Chris Garbark has moved on.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said WPC is accepting applications for AmeriCorps until tomorrow.

Cotchen said WPC received a grant to develop a Coldwater Conservation Plan for the South Fork and mainstem of Bens Creek. **Action item:** Interested in helping with data collection? Contact Cotchen at acotchen@paconserve.org.

Stonycreek River

Stonycreek Trust Fund

Lichvar reported that there is now \$38,948 in this fund at the Community Foundation with at least \$2K more promised. Somerset County Conservancy is doing a \$5,000 challenge grant until October 31, 2021.

Oven Run

Lichvar said reconstruction is underway at Oven Run site A, which is getting a new intake device.

Incline Discharge

Eckenrode explained the deliverables of the grant held by Headwaters Charitable Trust – a 30% conceptual design.

Saint Francis University

Eckenrode explained a few of the grants SFU just received. They recently hired a post-doc to assist with some of the work. He said they are trying to build their own sondes to acquire water quality data.

Treasurers Report

Eckenrode said he received a bill from Recharge Web Design for \$80, when it's usually \$40-45. Web hosting is a pre-approved charge. SCRIP's checking account balance is \$1,400.85. A review of earnings followed. Eckenrode suggested eliminating the SCRIP fund at PA Invest, which is barely earning anything, by moving \$2K of it into SCRIP's checking account and the balance into SCRIP's Community Foundation account. A discussion followed. **Action item:** Eckenrode will investigate how CFA invests its fund. Dryzal/Cotchen made a **MOTION** to move \$1,500 from SCRIP's PA Invest into its checking and asked that Eckenrode research investment options for the next meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner said Lichvar informed her at the last meeting that SCRIP is just about out of its static stickers, which are distributed to members. She secured one quote to get new ones made. A discussion followed. Perhaps we could get something special for SCRIP's 30th anniversary or multiple things. **Action item:** Cotchen, Eckenrode, Lichvar, and Crittenden to inquire about options and email the board so items could be in hand before the next meeting and, more importantly, before SCRIP's 30th celebration. Gorden reminded of SCRIP's original "water drop" logo and noted the "fish" logo was the result of a student coloring contest. That was modified slightly several years ago when SCRIP's website was redeveloped.

Wells Creek Discharges

The DEP seems to be trying to determine who owns the discharges in question.

Quemahoning Creek

Lichvar said Phase 3 of the fish habitat project at the Que tailwater is moving forward. Hunt Environmental is doing some design, permitting, and oversight with work to be done in August or September. He listed some local fish shocking dates in partnership with Garrett County Community College.

Lambert's Run

Lichvar said Phase 3 is still in permitting. Wetlands are involved, so it will be a while (2022).

Other

Eckenrode said he hasn't seen much didymo this year.

Action item: Eckenrode will ask SRI for the Oven Run Site B design.

Cotchen said Conemaugh Township Recreation Authority hosted a kids' fishing tournament at WWP and stocked some huge trout.

Eckenrode noted that over half of 140+ cars at Greenhouse Park were from out of state during a recent whitewater release.

Paint Creek

Clark said the Babcock Creek permit is in to DCNR. He wants to use Harsco's Mineral CSA to mitigate some AMD.

He said a lot of reforestation work is happening in the extreme headwaters. Jack Stefanko is open to doing about 50 acres, which would include the first discharge to Paint Creek. Clark looked at the Rachael property mentioned at the last meeting and said it has a lot of growth, but the discharge on Stefanko's property, upstream of Rachael, is hurting Paint Creek through that property.

Crittenden explained that Cooney had a lot of open pits that were backfilled. Cooney passed away, but his accountant is still putting money – some of which is generated by the windmills – in the trust fund, which is about 4/5th of its target. Crittenden noted that it is hard to treat storm flow. Brent Means been up there to help the Cooney operation treat water more efficiently.

Shade Creek

Jeff Sarver shared that PBS has constructed their new drying beds and, as of July 1st, they should be using them. The DEP is sampling the Reitz 4 discharge frequently to see how quickly its quality reverts to its usual. A discussion followed. Eckenrode/Reckner made a **MOTION** to sample during three flow regimes (high, low, and average) in the next few months. All in favor. Motion carried. There was a question about whether or not DEP is still using sonde data, as theirs is caked with iron.

Cotchen said WPC had received a Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant to do some limestone sanding in the headwaters of Clear Shade, but, after meeting with SCWA, ACOE, and DEP, they're not going to do that and are re-evaluating the project. It might be a better use of funds to support existing dosing and do continuous monitoring, which governmental agencies would like to see.

Hutchinson said the Cottagetown, Swallow Farm, and Reitz #1 systems were flushed in June.

Capouellez shared that, last week, he captured the Eastern gray tree frog in 2 different places in Somerset County – both at AMD treatment systems. Although not rare, the Eastern gray tree frog has not been documented in Somerset County, so he is creating videos about that documentation. He asked to use SCRIP's logo in that video. A decision was not made about that.

Hutchinson said there is finally, after 7 years, water going through the SGL228 system! Water is coming in at a pH of 3.8 and going out at an 8.3.

Little Conemaugh

Clark said an email from Branden Diehl indicated that the L. Conemaugh active system will require three properties, one of which is under DEP's control. DEP is working to secure the other two. The design is on hold until the new approved contractors list is out.

Dryzal said District interns are working to combat, detect, and educate about invasive species. They have observed the Spotted Lanternfly along the Path of Flood trail.

Dryzal said the District has some Growing Greener funds to do streambank stabilization work on Laurel Run, and there is potential to do more work on the N. Branch Little Conemaugh in partnership with a local sportsmen's club.

He said the District received a DEP EE grant to do stormwater management outreach. They will host a rain barrel workshop on September 7 from 10-12 at the Cambria County Fair. An artist will help paint them.

Clark noted that there is a race to get to construction on active systems. It is his opinion that pending systems will be done in this order:

1. Miller Run, which is complete
2. Wehrum, which is moving towards construction
3. Quakake, in Leigh, is in design
4. Tioga is moving towards design
5. Little Conemaugh, DEP is working on property rights
6. Shade, which is now working through Title IV issues
7. Audenried is working on property issues.

Public Relations

Clark thought the last newsletter was exceptional. Makuchan said September 2 is the deadline for the next SCRIP newsletter. **Action item:** Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

Makuchan reminded of Thurman Korns' memorial service on July 24 at 11 AM at St. Mark's Church in Shanksville.

Intro to Kayaking

Gorden thanked Makuchan and Reckner for helping to promote the event. He also thanked Crittenden and Clark for volunteering to handle registration. Everyone is asked to distribute and hang the poster, as registration is slow. **Action items:** Reckner will repost the event on various Facebook pages in the next two weeks. Clark will share again on Twitter. Cotchen will ask Coal Tubin to post it. Maybe a poster could be hung at Dunhams, Greenhouse Park, and the Que.

New Business

Crittenden volunteered to call past members to say it is SCRIP's 30th anniversary; please renew your membership and join us at our anniversary celebration. A discussion of what that would be followed. **Action item:** This event committee, which consists of Clark, Cotchen, Makuchan, and Lichvar, will meet soon via Zoom to discuss potentially hosting a tour of the Oven Run systems and a Green Drinks following that in September.

Reckner said the next Green Drinks is July 29 at 5:30 PM at the Boulevard Grill. Proceeds benefit SQI and the Quemahoning Trails.

Lichvar said the Tribune Democrat asked him to do a podcast on water quality, so he'll have some opportunity to get this out there.

Lichvar said Phil Gardener is retiring on September 1.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, September 9 at 3 PM at Orenda Park

Adjournment: 5:20 PM

Minutes by Reckner.