

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**June 19, 2019**

A SCRIP meeting was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 beginning at 3:10 PM at Greenhouse Park in Johnstown. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Tom Clark, Joe Gorden, Adam Cotchen, Melissa Reckner, Karlice Makuchan, Larry Hutchinson, and John Dryzal.

The meeting was also attended by Andy McAllister of WPCAMR; Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association; and Phil Wilson of PACD. Greg Shustrick of Somerset Conservation District joined the meeting in progress.

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

**Stonycreek River**

The Somerset Conservation District finally received the signed Lamberts Run Phase II grant contract, so work may begin on that project.

Lichvar said the Oven Run Site E rehab is basically complete. They just need to make sure the wetland functions. When it's totally functioning, the system should treat twice as much water as it had been. He said Oven Run Sites A and D are awaiting additional funds. Wilson said PACD should soon be done with the design for Oven Run Site F.

Lichvar reported that July 13 & 14 are the workdays for stream improvement work along Soap Hollow Run at Greenhouse Park. This project is led by Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited and the Somerset Conservation District. Conemaugh Township is a strong partner in the project.

Wells Creek Watershed Association has filed a formal complaint with DEP regarding a discharge near Listie Grove. Lichvar shared a copy of the complaint letter.

The District just finished some work on the Rock Tunnel AMD treatment system to enhance that system. PFBC is considering a section of South Fork Bens Creek below the system for designation as a Class A Wild Trout water. Lichvar shared a copy of today's Daily American in which an article about this appeared.

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team is not currently monitoring any of the Oven Run systems. Sarver said he also reached out to Stream Team and received no response.

Oven Run Site B is the Oven Run system owned by the DEP. Recently, BAMR and SCD staff met with Stream Restoration, Inc. (SRI), which made a \$1.2 million proposal to DEP to rehabilitate that system. It is a preliminary plan and not final. Lichvar shared an email from DEP's Mike Timcik that sought input. Since a lime doser is proposed, a discussion on those followed. Also discussed was the treatment of Oven Run vs Stonycreek. There hasn't been a significant change in aquatic life in the Stony since when the Stonycreek Reassessment was

conducted in 2007 and the State of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin report was published in 2018, and Oven Run B was not working during that time. Reckner thought to wait until the other four Oven Run systems are rehabbed and online to review water chemistry and the aquatic community before investing in B.

### **Paint Creek**

Reckner said Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association (PCRWA) received its completed grant agreement from DEP too, so work may begin on the Upper Babcock Creek Restoration Plan. She reported that PCRWA and Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited (MLTU) held its 10<sup>th</sup> annual litter cleanup this spring and calculated that over these 10 years, over 800 tires and over 10 tons of trash have been removed from 2.1 miles of roads and some stream access points in the Little Paint Creek watershed.

### **Shade Creek**

Hutchinson reported that work on the Coal Run system 228 continues and that MLTU contributed funds towards the project, since SCWA encountered a lot of permitting fees.

He said SRI fixed the Swallow Farm treatment system. Sarver reported on SRI and SCWA's work on the Cottagetown system.

### **Shade Creek Active Treatment System**

Lichvar shared Tom Clark's summary of the Foreman Report regarding MD31 (Reitz #4). Clark said he went through the Foreman report and focused on iron, as that's what DEP thought was suspect. Clark highlighted the six summations that Foreman concluded in his report and countered those points. Flow of discharge has increased slightly over the years; however, concentration has changed significantly and attributes to the higher loading. If unreacted lime is boosting alkalinity at the Reitz #4 discharge, then could not iron be remobilized? If the discharge is no longer Title IV eligible, then it's a Title V discharge, which means it has an owner, and, if that owner is influencing the discharge, then they are responsible for it. Lichvar shared his comments and asked that the board email Clark any other comments by Tuesday. McAllister asked if Clark looked at the high flow events, and he did. In 2016, the iron concentration is high, but flows were down, disproving the Foreman Report's claim that high iron came from high flows. Interestingly, there are no 2016 data in the Foreman Report. Missing data were supplied by Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and SIS. Some felt the Foreman Report should be considered invalid, because not all data were considered. Additionally, the Foreman Report claims that unreacted lime is boosting alkalinity in the discharge (but says PBS isn't contributing to the increased iron). A dye test could be helpful. PBS has reapplied for its permit. If DEP feels PBS is affecting the discharge, then PBS should be responsible for the discharge. SCRIP will consider sending comments to OSM too.

## **Cambria Somerset Authority**

Lichvar said the Somerset Conservation District installed 48 fish habitat structures at the Que on May 10 with the help of Hiram G. Andrew Center students, who worked really hard and did a great job. More structures will be placed on August 15 at 5 PM at the same location. Volunteers needed and welcomed.

## **Little Conemaugh River**

Dryzal said Trout Run Watershed Association is working to rework the Puritan Discharge treatment system. He said the Cambria County Conservation District (CCCD) completed a streambank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement project on Blacklick Creek.

Reckner said a friend expressed concerns about logging in the headwaters of an UNT to Trout Run near Martindale. This UNT is a Class A Wild Brook Trout stream. Dryzal said the District has not received any complaints. Reckner asked that staff check and just ensure BMPs are in place and followed.

Lichvar said WR Dick Rossman, who was one of the founders of SCRIP, passed away. Lichvar Dryzal, and Gorden said nice things about Rossman and how he spearheaded many actions, often behind the scenes.

## **Education Committee**

Makuchan said the latest newsletter went out. September 5 is the submission deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

## **Event / Fundraising Committee**

Gorden shared an article from the Daily American about the PA Fish and Boat Commission/SCRIP's Intro to Kayak Fishing event that will be held from 5-9 PM on July 23. Registration is available online, via the PFBC's website, and is capped at 25. Some volunteers will be needed that evening, so save-the-date and plan to help out! Also, please help publicize this. Gorden elaborated on the benefits of the event.

## **Website**

Reckner said SCRIP's webmaster finally posted 2019 updates to the website. Gorden cannot access statistics.

## **New Business**

Dryzal said at the last CCCD board meeting, Dennis Simmers said the Cambria Co-gen is shut down and has no plans to reopen. The Colver power plant is 12-15 months away from shutting down. SB618 and HB1481 extends the coal refuse energy tax credit. Clark/Gorden made a motion to send a letter of support to Dryzal, who will share with Simmers, who will carry letters with him to Washington. Dryzal already drafted a letter that he'll share with Lichvar. It should be addressed: To whom it may concern.

McAllister is collecting resolutions for the reauthorization of SMCRA. If you make/send a resolution or letter, please copy McAllister. Gorden/Clark made a motion to craft a letter and a resolution, based on templates WPCAMR previously shared, and to send to McAllister. All in favor. Motion carried. McAllister said Representative Matt Cartwright is introducing a bill in August to support the RECLAIM act.

Lichvar said 30 years of SCRIP history have been scanned by an intern and are now available digitally. Multiple copies should be made and distributed to at least the Executive Committee.

Gorden said there was a post on Facebook from a gentleman who kayaks and would like to organize a volunteer stream cleanup via Facebook. Gorden thought Benscreek Canoe Club would be the most appropriate partner or at least messenger. Reckner suggested ORSANCO as a resource for supplies.

## **Next Meeting**

SCRIP's next meeting will be Thursday, August 15 at 3:00 PM at the Quemahoning Public Recreation Area. Afterwards, help with the fish habitat structures! All supplies for that are provided.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM. Minutes by Reckner.