

## **SCRIP Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2021**

A SCRIP meeting was held on May 13, 2021 at Greenhouse Park. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gordon, Adam Cotchen, and Larry Hutchinson. Malcolm Crittenden joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Doug Beri, Jr. of the Indiana County Conservation District; Dave Leiford; Jackie Ritko, Aaron Capouellez and Autumn Holdsworth of Cambria Co. Conservation District; Jeff Sarver of the Shade Creek Watershed Association; Randy Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited; and Dina Cable of the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM by Clark.

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

On behalf of Eckenrode, Reckner reported that SCRIP has \$1,683.88 in its checking; \$6,671.05 in its PA Invest Account; and \$14,188.17 in its fund at the Community Foundation.

Cotchen/Hutchinson made a **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Guests**

Cable, a fairly new WCO with PA Fish and Boat Commission, reported on recent stockings, and said she's covering all of Somerset County right now.

### **Stonycreek River**

#### ***Stonycreek Trust Fund***

Lichvar reported that there is now \$37,948 in this fund at the Community Foundation.

#### ***Oven Run***

He said rehab of Oven Run sites A & D should happen this summer and that work at Site B is underway.

#### ***Quemahoning Creek***

Lichvar reported that Hedin and Saint Francis University's Center for Watershed Research and Service recently completed the "Quemahoning Creek Mine Drainage Evaluation" that identifies remaining issues in that watershed.

#### ***Lambert's Run***

Lichvar said Hedin is working on securing the permit for the final phase of the last discharge on Lambert's Run.

### ***Other***

Lichvar said a 1700-foot pipeline that brings the discharge into Oven Run Site E should be repaired or replaced. The District may submit a Growing Greener grant application for that work.

Lichvar noted that SCRIP is 30 years old this year!

MLTU has a memorial at Clear Shade Creek where Dave Sewak's name will be placed. Lichvar asked which logo – SCRIP or MLTU – should be placed beside it. Buchanan said correspondence with the family indicated that it would be TU's.

Gorden expressed his disappointment that SCRIP hasn't yet made a contribution to the Oven Run Trust Fund. He said he would match a donation from SCRIP, up to \$1,000, if made today. A discussion followed. Buchanan said he plans to donate \$200/year for at least five years from his fly-tying proceeds and offered to donate it first to SCRIP, but it was politely declined so that more funds go into the trust. Reckner/Cotchen made a **MOTION** to donate \$1,000 from SCRIP's checking to the Oven Run Trust Fund at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner noted that SCRIP membership has been waning and with it being SCRIP's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, SCRIP should consider reinvigorating membership. Buchanan suggested bringing membership forms to the MLTU banquet, which is now scheduled for September 11 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown. Clark wondered if we could set up a table at the Flood City Music Fest.

Reckner said Dave Hurst recently wrote a nice article – [Starting Small: The Lessons of Oven Run](#) - outlining how far restoration efforts have come. **Action Item:** Reckner will ask if we could publish it in the next SCRIP newsletter.

### **Paint Creek**

Clark said 40 acres in Gallitzin State Forest were recently planted. He is speaking with John Stefanko's dad to see if we could reforest his acreage and treat the first discharge to Paint Creek. If he's amenable, PCRWA will apply for a Growing Greener grant.

Buchanan said his nephew, Christopher Rachael, has property in the watershed and would like to do something to help the waterways. **Action Item:** Clark will identify his property in relation to proposed work.

Clark said years of limestone sanding in the headwaters of Babcock Creek are starting to show improved water quality. Caged brown trout survived for a week and then were released into Little Paint Creek, which is stocked. It should be a brook trout stream.

The Mine 37 refuse pile is on the list to be removed, but will probably take years.

Reckner reported that seven volunteers helped pick up about 50 bags of litter and maybe 9 tires from along Berwick Road.

### **Shade Creek**

Clark said that the Environmental Hearing Board did not grant Corsa a supersedes, which means Corsa has until June 30, 2021 to build sludge drying beds and stop injecting their sludge water into the Reitz #4 discharge. **Action Item:** Clark will ask Eric Cavassa, who now works for OSMRE, about monitoring and the status of the discharge reverting to Title IV eligibility. He will also inquire with Luke Jensen as to whether or not a QHUP has been approved for the watershed. It falls under Stonycreek's, but intensive sampling completed a few years ago was to create a QHUP specific to Shade.

Reckner said Chris Garbark submitted a written report for Stream Team: we are continuing water sampling efforts, with monthly sampling of the Big 4. I'm still compiling the 1st Quarter's lab reports and have those out in the coming weeks. I am looking at doing several fish surveys in the Stonycreek River this year and will release a list of the sites in case people want to join. We have signed our agreement forms for the new Growing Greener grant for our water monitoring program so we will continue this program through 2022 and more likely 2023.

Sarver said two ponds are under construction at Corsa's Job 12 and that he was told they are on schedule to complete these beds by the end of June. The boreholes will be backfilled so they can't mistakenly be used.

Sarver said limestone dosing occurred at Panther, Shingle, and Berkebile Runs. SCWA flushed the Shingle Run ALD and the Cottagetown system. The latter needs flushed monthly.

Sarver said over 100 TVs and other electronics were collected during Shade Township's electronics recycling event.

SCWA is planning a tire pickup along four roads in the watershed this Saturday, May 15 and anticipate collecting over 100 tires. Contact Sarver for details.

### **Little Conemaugh**

Ritko said streambank restoration along Laurel Run, courtesy a Growing Greener grant, will be completed in August. She said there have been cleanups on the North Branch around Wilmore. So far, over 2,000 tires and numerous appliances were received during their collection events! The last one is this Saturday.

The Little Conemaugh active treatment plant is still in the design phase.

### **Public Relations**

On behalf of Karlice Makuchan, Reckner said May 27 is the next deadline for the SCRIP newsletter and reviewed the articles she has to date. **Action item:** Send items to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

Ritko said their interns will be focusing on invasive species education, especially since Spotted Lanternfly is in the county. She'll get an article to Karlice.

Ritko did a great job in the recent video – *A River Reborn* – about the L. Conemaugh. Hutchinson said it would be cool to have a video like that about Shade Creek – maybe in a few years!

Capouellez said some people attended his frog walk. He noted that the group saw red spotted newts eating eggs and tadpoles, even under water, in vernal pools.

Capouellez said, spurred by a lead from a SCRIP member, he discovered gray tree frogs in northern Cambria County, which is the first time in 80 years that a new frog species has been identified in the county. The PA Amphibian and Reptile Survey needs to confirm the find yet.

Capouellez said he's willing to lead frog and education walks. He is planning another Frog Week.

### ***Intro to Kayaking***

Gorden said the PA Fish and Boat Commission is allowed to do programs, as long as there are less than 40 people, including volunteers. A discussion on which event to do – Intro to Kayaking or Intro to Fishing - followed. Reckner said the PFBC wants to establish Fishing Tackle Loaner Sites in the City of Johnstown and would like to organize more family fishing programs. SCRIP decided to co-host a boating program with PFBC, preferably on Saturday, August 14 at the Que. **Action Item:** Gorden will follow-up with Mandy Smith.

### **New Business**

Reckner said, in the past, SCRIP has donated \$50/year to the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy as a thank you for processing membership checks made to SAC/SCRIP. (SCRIP utilizes SAC's 501(c)3 status.) SCRIP hasn't made that donation since 2018. Reckner/Hutchinson made a **MOTION** to donate \$150 to SAC for their work processing our checks. All in favor. Motion carried.

After a discussion, Reckner/Cotchen made a **MOTION** to donate \$200 – the same amount donated to Wells Creek Watershed Association after Thurman Korn's passing – to the GoFundMe account identified in Dave Sewak's obituary. All in favor. Motion carried.

Crittenden questioned if there has been an update on the Soap Hollow Run pollution event. Cotchen said WPC electrofished it about five weeks after the event and found lots of fish. He said the Class A section ends at the waterfall. Reckner questioned if macroinvertebrates or redds were surveyed. No one knew.

SCRIP welcomed Dave Leiford and invited him to join the board. It will be discussed more at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, July 15 at 3 PM at Greenhouse Park

**Other**

Buchanan said Clear Shade Creek will be stocked tomorrow in the project area, which has a lot of fish in it. He commented on MLTU's litter cleanup along Ashtola Road, which has occurred for about the last 10 years. He said the group collected about 12 bags of trash. Buchanan offered some cleanup organizational tips.

Adjournment: 4:25 PM

Minutes by Reckner.