

The SCRIP meeting scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2018 at 1:00 PM at the Windber Hotel was not officially held due to a lack of a quorum; however, an informational meeting ensued. This was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Joe Gorden, Melissa Reckner, Karlise Makuchan, John Dryzal, and Larry Hutchinson. John Vatauvuk joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Brad Clemenson of the Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative, Doug Beri, Jr. of the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, Earl Waddell of the Cambria Somerset Authority, and Linda Yunke of the Shade Creek Watershed Association.

Reckner reported that she mailed 15 postcards to members who renewed their membership in late 2017 and that four already responded.

Reckner said SCRIP Treasurer, Jim Eckenrode, noted that he'll have to move some funds around to pay our website improvement project.

Lichvar welcomed Clemenson, who said he's working a lot on trail development. CamTran will put an RFP out for the zipline along the Incline Plane hillside. Greater Johnstown Water Authority is working on some AMD near the Saltlick Reservoir, which will improve water quality in that reservoir.

Stonycreek River

Regarding the Oven Run rehabilitation work, Lichvar said Site E is 90% complete and Site A's intake was rebuilt. Due to a lack of funds, the other systems will not receive any additional work. Several groups are looking to develop an O&M trust fund. Lichvar is trying to develop one locally. Andy McAllister of WPCAMR may do a 5-7 minute video on these needs. Drone footage of AMD systems is welcomed.

Lichvar and Greg Shustrick met with Jane Menchyk of the Western PA Conservancy (WPC) at North Fork Country Club, which is for sale. It's 170 acres and has the North Fork Bens Creek, an excellent wild trout water, flowing through it. There's a nice opportunity for someone to potentially conserve the land and utilize the two buildings on the property, perhaps for an environmental center.

There is an initiative underway to secure "Gray Bottom" behind the old Lamonica Restaurant in Jennerstown. The Somerset County Conservancy would take ownership and then likely turn it over to the Gray Community Club, a non-profit that already serves as a steward of the land. Jennerstown Bottom, the beginning of Beaverdam Run, is 270 acres that was acquired through WPC and Jennerstown Borough.

The Somerset Conservation District has a Growing Greener grant application in for a Phase 2 AMD project on Lambert's Run that would retain a lot of iron.

Paint Creek

Reckner submitted the final report for a grant she secured for limestone dosing on Babcock Creek. Like others, Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association is waiting for Growing Greener announcements.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said PACD told him that there are enough funds to complete the Coal Run 228 project and that their OSM grant extension for the project was approved. He said four loads of 97% calcium carbonate limestone from Constone in Bellefonte was delivered and applied to Shingle and Panther Runs. Three loads were paid for by CVC, while the Central City Polish Club covered the other.

Hutchinson said Shade Creek Watershed Association is considering applying for a Dominion grant, but Reckner informed him that Somerset County groups are no longer eligible for those funds.

Hutchinson said the permit has not yet been received for the intake on the 228 project and that First Commonwealth finally granted SCWA a line of credit. Justin Goodlin secured drone footage of the project site.

Saint Francis University completed macroinvertebrate surveys in the watershed with help from Juniata College and Shade High School students. Brook trout were spotted in Shingle Run. All are welcomed to participate in the next SCWA meeting at 7 PM at Central City Borough building on Friday, November 16.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Waddell reported that the bike trail around the Que is just about finished. They're holding off until a timber job is completed and there's a drainage swale that needs finished. Clemenson said they'll be applying for a permit to complete Phase 2. Lichvar lamented that bicyclists don't wear orange during hunting season. Waddell said there are signs indicating the trail is closed after November 15 and that everyone, not just hunters, should wear orange.

Waddell said trapping is by permit only at the Que.

Little Conemaugh River

Dryzal said the Cambria County Conservation District received notice that the removal of the Stineman refuse piles is in the permit stage and moving forward. Some trail development will follow. He noted that the topic of the District's Annual Legislative Breakfast of using common sense in streamside projects (not leaving refuse within the 50-foot riparian buffer) and their reclamation work in Nanty Glo that included fish habitat and streambank improvement projects is generating interest across the state.

Dryzal said DEP's Eric Cavassa provided an update on active treatment systems at the WPCAMR meeting. It seems the Cresson plant is just about done and should be online in December. The Wehrum plant design is 35% done and should be complete by March 2019 and then put out to bid shortly after. The DEP is still evaluating properties to site the Little Conemaugh plant.

Education Committee

Makuchan said December 6 is the deadline for the next newsletter, and she relayed the articles she has to date.

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.

Makuchan brought up the topic of SCRIP's scholarship. No one applied for it last year and only two people did the year before. Due to differing opinions, Reckner said we should vote on it at the next meeting when a quorum is present.

Event / Fundraising Committee

Gorden is open to suggestions for a fundraising and/or education event. The kayak fishing program held this summer in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission went well. Perhaps SCRIP could help with that again.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Beri said the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team will still be in a transitional phase for a while, as he is going to be the new Indiana County Conservation District Manager. Congratulations to Beri. He will continue to assist CVC/Stream Team until someone is hired. He said the Stream Team's fall sampling is mostly done.

Website

Reckner reported that SCRIP's web designer said he should have SCRIP's updated website completed by Thanksgiving.

Sunoco Mariner Pipeline

Dryzal heard that work on the Mariner East pipeline should be finished for the year due to weather. He recapped some of the projects funded when DEP made Sunoco fine monies available as grants to the municipalities through which the pipeline went.

Old Business

Lichvar said a draft of the Laurel Highlands economic study is done, but it's rather complex and may need reworked. Stay tuned for public meetings this winter.

New Business

Dryzal said if emails to him or any CCCD staff bounce back, call him, as the county recently tweaked their firewalls.

Reckner said there was an interview in the recent PEC newsletter that highlights outdoor initiatives in the Johnstown area, and SCRIP was recognized for its efforts. Listen to it here: <http://pecpa.org/pec-blog/pennsylvania-legacies-84/>.

Reckner said there will be an article on the State of the Kiski in the January/February issue of *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater* magazine.

Vatavuk said the Route 219 extension opens on November 21 and that all are welcomed at the grand opening at 10 AM. A tunnel under the roadway serves as a conduit for wildlife.

Gorden was a contributor in the Daily American's book "Interesting Ghost Stories & Bigfoot Encounters in Somerset County."

Next Meeting

January 17 at 9 AM tentatively at Gander Outdoors.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Notes by Reckner.