

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**November 7, 2019**

A SCRIP meeting was held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 beginning at 3:10 PM at the Windber Hotel. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Tom Clark, Jim Eckenrode, Joe Gorden, Melissa Reckner, Adam Cotchen, Larry Hutchinson, Karlice Makuchan, Robb Piper and John Dryzal.

The meeting was also attended by Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association; Randy, Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited; Phil Wilson of NRCS; and Tammy Horner of H2 Environmental Services

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

Reckner stated that she sent out a dozen membership renewal reminders. She noted that despite annual reminders, membership is trending downwards.

Eckenrode reported that SCRIP has \$2,173.82 in its checking account. Cotchen/Gorden made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Stonycreek River**

Lichvar and Wilson said the new abandoned mine discharge along Route 403 near the Family Dollar in Hooversville is extremely high in iron and flows about 7 GPM. It appears net alkaline. DEP said they don't know where its coming from or what to do with it. Wilson noted that there appears to be an old terra cotta pipe at the site and perhaps it's a drainage from an old mine pool.

Lichvar reminded of the AMD at Listie Fairground and noted another new AMD on outskirts of Listie off of Cidermill Road. It could be from the old Kimberly Mine. DEP is investigating it.

While the Stony can assimilate these discharges, the potential cumulative impact of these new discharges is concerning.

Lichvar said the Oven Run Site F rehab is underway, and Wilson elaborated on that work. He said the result of Oven Run Site E's rehab is helping to negate the Pokeytown discharge.

The Somerset Conservation District is working with Hedin Environmental to implement Lambert's Run Phase II next year.

Lichvar spoke of his efforts to initiate a trust fund for the Oven Run sites.

Lichvar read Dave Leiford's email stating that DEP is going to rehab Oven Run Site B using one of Biomost's proposals that would reconfigure SAPs 1 and 2 with SAP 1 becoming three

individual 3,000 ton auto-flushing limestone-only vertical flow ponds and SAP 2 becoming two mix-media vertical flow ponds. Wilson said it looks like it will become an upflow flushable system, and Clark said he prefers that with his systems.

Cotchen said he has some maps to give Lichvar and Buchanan regarding the Benscreek GIS project.

### **Shade Creek**

Sarver said he is the new President of the Shade Creek Watershed Association and that Hutchinson is VP. Sarver said work on SGL228 continues; some limestone delivered was not stone, but sand instead, and so the contractor will deliver additional stone. Sarver said they flushed the Shingle Run system and cleaned leaves out. Saint Francis University will be out to monitor macroinvertebrates on Wednesday.

### **Proposed Shade Active Treatment Plant**

Lichvar said Troy Williams of DEP's DMO communicated that water quality data collected over the past year has shown that the Reitz #4 mine pool has been negatively impacted by iron and noted a "statistically significant" change. Corsa Coal was instructed to cease depositing their sludge into the mine pool. We're in a 30-day comment period for Corsa to rebut. OSM will probably still want BAMR to monitor discharge. OSM then would determine if the discharge is eligible for Title IV or Title V funds. Ideally, BAMR could move forward with treatment under Title IV.

### **Center for Watershed Research and Service**

Eckenrode reported on some of their projects including one in which they are working with St. Vincent College and the USGS to mix sewage and AMD in rural areas. The Center completed a mass balance on Quemahoning Creek above the reservoir, around the Jenner AMD system and Gondar Discharge. They want to acquire some data for Shade Creek. The Center will be submitting a proposal with TetraTech to look at treating the Incline Plane discharge.

Lichvar said 800 advanced fingerlings were recently stocked in the Que tailwater. Eckenrode, who monitors sondes in the tailwater, commented on the quick temperature changes the releases have on the stream.

### **Cambria Somerset Authority**

Piper said CSA moved its office to 227 Franklin Street, Suite 306, Johnstown, PA 15901.

## **Little Conemaugh River**

Dryzal said WPCAMR is working to get SMCRA reauthorized. Congressman Joyce needs swayed to support it. Conservation organizations have been asked to have the contractors with whom they work to contact Joyce and make known how important this work is for their businesses.

Reckner said a friend of hers shared a video that shows bare earth at a logging job along a Class A Wild Trout Water that is a tributary to Trout Run. This gentleman said the trib was muddy after the recent rain. Dryzal said the Cambria County Conservation District checked the site a while ago and noted that BMPs were in place. He said there's not a lot they can do as trees can be cut and that naturally increases erosion. Dryzal said the Bureau of Forestry is doing a tree planting on a reclaimed strip mine at Babcock State Forest. Ironically, you need an NPDES permit to restore the land.

## **Education Committee**

Makuchan said December 5 is the submission deadline for the next newsletter, which will be the last hard copy of the newsletter that is mass-mailed. SCRIP decided earlier this year to switch to an e-newsletter, although, dues-paying members may still receive a hard copy in the mail for an additional \$5 above their dues. So far, only one member has requested the hard copy. Send news to Makuchan at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

## **Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team**

It is unknown if Stream Team is sampling the Reitz #4 discharge.

Tammy Horner introduced herself and said she manages an environmental lab in Ferndale. She is looking to do more water quality analysis and wants to get more into reclamation projects. She offers NPO pricing and can do rush analysis.

## **Old Business**

Clark said there is a new push at the federal level to garner support for HB262, which offers tax credits to the coal refuse energy business. Dryzal/Clark made a motion for SCRIP to support HB262. Lichvar will rework SCRIP's former support letter, which was more at the state level.

Eckenrode said the Center for Watershed Research and Service will spend Sunday, November 17 sampling 35 sites throughout the Yellow Creek watershed in Indiana County for the proposed QHUP.

A water quality monitoring sonde was placed in Elk Run in Stackhouse Park.

### **New Business**

Hutchinson/Eckenrode made a motion for SCRIP will write a letter to Congressman Joyce urging him to co-sponsor and support HR4258, which would reauthorize the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA). All in favor. Motion carried. Clark will look for the database to get numbers as to what dollars have gone to small businesses in Joyce's district. SMCRA places a tonnage fee on coal extracted and places it in a fund to support abandoned mine legacy work. Wyoming is currently the largest producer of coal.

Lichvar shared a newspaper article highlighting how the natural resource recreation potential is the key to Johnstown's future. People often forget that this potential is tied to the AMD reclamation underway. SCRIP would like to see a copy of the Army Corps of Engineers' study of the Johnstown floodwalls. Perhaps it's at the Vision 2025 website.

### **Next Meeting**

SCRIP's next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Flyin Lion, located right off of Route 30 in Jennerstown. The specific street address is 1498 Pitt Street.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM. Minutes by Reckner.