

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020

A SCRIP meeting was held on November 19, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, James Eckenrode, Jr., Joe Gordon, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Pam Milavec, and Larry Hutchinson.

The meeting was also attended by William Brogan of the PA DEP and Deb Orner of the Cambria County Chamber of Commerce. Cambria County Commissioner Tom Chernisky joined the first half of the meeting, and Jeff Sarver of the Shade Creek Watershed Association joined the very end of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 PM by Clark and introductions were made.

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

Makuchan/Hutchinson made a **MOTION** to make a donation to the Wells Creek Watershed Association in Thurman Korn's memory for \$200. All in favor. Motion carried. Reckner shared that Brad Clemenson's wife passed away. Lichvar and Gorden explained Clemenson's role in the formation of SCRIP. **ACTION ITEM:** Reckner will send a card on behalf of SCRIP.

Treasurer's Report

Due to a technical glitch, it wasn't until after the meeting that Eckenrode reported that SCRIP has \$2,506.84 in its checking account and there's no new info on its other accounts.

Stonycreek River Progress Report

Oven Run

Lichvar said Site E was reconstructed last year and that OSM is going to do a dye-test to acquire data and update the AMD Treat software. Work at Site F was completed this year. He said they are waiting for Pilot funds to come for Sites A & D rehabilitation. Reckner reported that she requested the proposed design of Site B from DEP and was told that the new system will have a smaller footprint, operate similarly to the Puritan system, and have construction start yet this year. She'll share the design when she receives it.

Soap Hollow Run

Lichvar said there was a dedication of the Soap Hollow Run fish habitat project in October. He summarized the biological monitoring done since the sludge release.

Lamberts Run

The District is working on Phase II of this project, securing permits and such.

Incline Plane Discharge

Dryzal said work continues to develop a riverside park at the base of the Incline Plane. He reported that the Historical Commission said it would not disrupt the historical significance of the site.

Quemahoning Creek

Eckenrode said St. Francis University did finish the Quemahoning Creek Mass Balance, which he will share. The Gondar discharge is adding acidity and a lot of iron to the stream, and it would be worth treating. A discussion of the Gondar discharge and other work in the watershed followed. Could it be put in the Boswell system? Is the discharge acidic or alkaline? Investigate historical data and grab some new. Quemahoning Creek is part of the Stonycreek QHUP.

Wells Creek Discharges

Lichvar reminded that the last WCWA newsletter gave an update on these discharges. Listie gets its water not far from one of these discharges and there is currently no known plan to address the discharge.

Fallen Timber Run Discharge

Lichvar said InnoH2O Solutions still has a monitoring device on it. Potential, innovative solutions are welcomed. Clark pondered if it could be treated in the sewage treatment system.

Bens Creek – Rock Tunnel

Lichvar said SCRIP and Somerset Conservation District funds were used to have GapVax remove sludge from the wetland at the Rock Tunnel AMD system. It's a temporary fix until a better solution may be developed. Perhaps SCRIP could help support the iron removal every year until the site is back up to capacity.

Quemahoning Creek

Lichvar said there is still didymo in the tailwater of the Que. Signs were placed along the stream about cleaning gear to prevent or at least slow its spread. **ACTION ITEM:** Clark will reach out to a friend who has compiled some data on didymo and question monitoring methods.

Stonycreek Riparian Buffers

Lichvar said this work is part of the Pilot Project Funds and they've found a couple cooperative landowners along Quemahoning Creek. Despite their efforts, they could not find any cooperative landowners in Berlin, the preferred restoration site.

Stonycreek Trust Fund

The Somerset Conservation District has a trust fund set up at the Community Foundation for the for the operation and maintenance of the four Oven Run AMD treatment systems for which the SCD is responsible. The Somerset County Commissioners did make a \$25K contribution. Lichvar questioned if the Cambria County Commissioners would donate to the fund and will discuss it more with Chernisky, who commented on some of the work they are supporting. **ACTION ITEM:** Lichvar will share more info about the fund with Chernisky and his fellow

commissioners. Individuals and organizations may donate to the fund via this link: https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=3178.

Paint Creek

Clark ordered limestone to be delivered next week at Babcock Creek. He has an inquiry out to see if Pilot Funds could be used to help remove the Mine 37 coal refuse pile, as at Ehrenfeld. There would have to be a recreational component – perhaps the Trolley Trail along Paint Creek.

Shade Creek Progress Report

Proposed Shade Creek Active Treatment Plant

Reckner collected three samples from the Reitz #4 discharge before the end of September. It was a happy accident that the Stream Team sampled about 4 hours later than Reckner on the one day. The water quality was very different. **ACTION ITEMS:** Clark will request the hydrologic report, which may not yet be done since the water year just ended 9/30/20, and the pumping schedule from Sam Faith. Clark will share water quality data comparisons with the board. Clark will ask Luke Jenson for the rating curve and Shade Creek QHUP report. Lichvar said the District did put a data logger in the discharge, but they've not downloaded the data yet.

Other

Hutchinson said Dr. Lane Loya and students from St. Francis University collected macroinvertebrates and did a DNA study on tributaries. He reported that BioMost and EarthShapers have interest to swap limestone for dirt between the SGL228 site and Oven Run. The Cottagetown Wetland system was flushed. Shade Creek Watershed Association plans to put limestone in Panther and Shingle Runs at end of December.

Little Conemaugh River Progress Report

Active Treatment Plants

Dryzal said there was a WPCMAR meeting this morning. DEP's Eric Cavassa said the Commonwealth is acquiring property and long-term easements for this system. \$19.5 million was approved for plant construction through DEP's capital fund.

Dryzal said pumps need fixed at the Cresson plant. He said the Wehrum design is 100% done and was submitted to DEP for review. DEP is still working to acquire permits for construction.

South Fork Little Conemaugh

Dryzal noted that the Cambria County Conservation District updated its strategic plan and started conversations with BAMR on doing AMD remediation in the South Fork Little Conemaugh near Beaverdale. He said the L. Conemaugh QHUP was finally approved, so projects there are now eligible for set-aside funds.

Erhenfeld area

Dryzal said the Stineman coal refuse pile was removed and an extension of Path of the Flood trail completed. The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior was at the recent ribbon cutting. Groups are looking to reforest 20-25 acres there.

SMCRA Reauthorization

What's the status of reauthorization? Dryzal said Congress is in Lame Duck session, so it's unlikely anything will happen now. WPCAMR is still working on it. OSM hasn't started allocations for current funds, which could be cut by 30% since coal production is down that much.

St. Michael Treatment System

There is a plan to move some other discharges to the St. Michael AMD plant. A discussion followed. Milavec said years ago, DEP inquired about a cost to pay Rosebud to treat the Sulfur Run Borehole at the St. Michael plant, but it was deemed an unreasonable cost.

DEP

Dryzal noted that the Cambria County Commissioners have been helping DEP with several of the aforementioned projects.

Dryzal said Cavassa shared that DEP will be working remotely until June 2021.

Saltlick Passive Treatment System Rehab

Eckenrode said he was out at the site last week. There is Pilot money for a project, but no funds for design, so SFU and BioMost will be collecting data and creating a conceptual design. By when do the projects within the Pilot Fund package need completed? Lichvar was told December 2021.

Gallitzin State Forest Reforestation

Clark said a public planting is planned for 2021, but he's not sure how Covid might impact that.

Laurel Run Stream Bank Stabilization Project

Dryzal said the District is awaiting to hear the status of their Growing Greener grant application.

Partner Organizations

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Eckenrode said they're limited on what they can do, because students can only be taken off campus for class, so students can't do field work right now. They can assist with data analysis and such.

Stream Team

Orner, a CVC Board Member, said CVC met recently and they're up and running with things that were on hold. Brad Clemenson is making good progress with the Sliver project at the base of the Incline. She was trained as a Stream Team volunteer just before Covid hit.

Public Relations Reports

Education Committee

Makuchan said the next newsletter deadline is Friday, December 4. **ACTION ITEM:** Send news to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

New Business

Brogan said there is new AMD Treat software scheduled to come out in the spring that should be more computer friendly. He could set up a demo/training with Brent Means if we wish. He said Dean Baker is the interim Watershed Manager for BAMR. He reminded that DEP solicits water quality data from watershed groups and said he can share info on how to get data to the clean water division for determining impairments and de-listings. Brogan, who works out of the DEP's SW Regional office, said O&M is a priority for him and he promotes it as he can. **ACTION ITEMS:** Invite DJ Chverchko, the gentleman who assumed Malcom Crittenden's former job with the Cambria District Mining Office, to a future SCRIP meeting. Invite Dave Leiford and Crittenden to the SCRIP board. Reckner will share SCRIP's by-laws with the current board for review.

Eckenrode/Milavec made a **MOTION** to pay for the lab analysis of a monthly sample collected Nov – Jan from the Reitz #4 discharge. All in favor. Motion carried. **ACTION ITEMS:** Reckner will grab duplicates for Eckenrode. Hutchinson and/or SCWA volunteers will collect more frequent field data including pH, conductivity, and flow from the #4 discharge. Sarver or Hutchinson to get SCWA's field meters to Reckner to get to Eckenrode who will calibrate them.

Next Meeting

January 21 at 1 PM via Zoom.

Adjourn 5:27 PM

Minutes by Reckner.