

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18, 2021**

A SCRIP meeting was held on November 18, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gordon, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Malcolm Crittenden, and Robb Piper.

The meeting was also attended by Lisa Barreiro of Three Rivers Quest, Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association, and Aaron Capouellez. Ngani Ndimbie of the DEP joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM by Lichvar.

Makuchan/Gorden made a **MOTION** to accept the previous meeting's minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

On behalf of SCRIP Treasurer Jim Eckenrode, Reckner reported that SCRIP has \$3,450.33 in its checking account and that Eckenrode needs to write out checks for the \$1,000 SCRIP committed to the Oven Run Trust Fund and \$200 to reimburse himself for SCRIP's donation to Dave Sewak's memorial. SCRIP received \$230 in donations from the Green Drinks event. Reckner/Gorden made a **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Guests**

Lisa Barreiro of Three Rivers Quest gave a 20-minute presentation of their [WATERS](#) database, which was built as a way for watershed groups to manage specifically data logger data and field data, but other data are welcomed. Watershed and conservation groups may upload their data, which is free to do. Data are viewable to the public unless you request otherwise. Barreiro will provide a fact sheet that will be distributed to SCRIP's e-list.

**Partner Organization Reports**

***Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team***

Reckner said a new AmeriCorps was hired.

***Cambria Somerset Authority***

The group held a moment of silence for Ken Dranzik, who passed away and who helped make the Que what it is today. He will be missed.

***Western PA Conservancy***

Cotchen said visual assessments for the Bens Creek Coldwater Plan will begin in 2022. He will prepare newsletter articles for MLTU and SCRIP describing the project and the Story Maps to receive public comment.

## **Stonycreek River**

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

Lichvar reported that there is \$48,432.64 in this fund at the Community Foundation, noting a \$5K donation from the Somerset County Conservancy and \$1K from the Cambria Co. Conservation District.

### ***Oven Run***

Lichvar said Site D is complete and the interpretive trail will be redone. December 13 is the deadline for other work. He heard Site B should be done by the end of the year.

### ***Fallen Timber Discharge***

Reckner said she and Tom Clark ran out of time to sample it when they did the Babcock sites. Perhaps Stream Team's new AmeriCorps could do it and the flows.

### ***Wells Creek Discharges***

Lichvar shared an excerpt from WCWA's newsletter that said this summer, the DEP did issue a notice of violation to Rox Coal to address discharges, so they should be taken care of by now.

### ***Quemahoning Creek***

Lichvar said Phase 3 of the tailwater work is hung up on an Army Corps technicality.

## **Paint Creek**

Reckner reported that a load of limestone sand was applied to several locations along Strip Cut Road and that she and Clark collected water samples recently.

## **Shade Creek**

Sarver reported that 20 tons of limestone sand were applied to Shingle and Panther Runs, and Saint Francis University helped collect macroinvertebrates from several sites. DNA samples were collected that will determine what fish are or were recently living in the surveyed streams. This would make for an interesting newsletter article.

Sarver said the SGL 228 system is online; however, the intake is continually plugging and failing. SCWA is working with the SCD to amend their permit, but there is a \$1300 fee to reapply. Reckner suggested connecting with their state representative to get that waived, especially given the history of that project. Crittenden elaborated. Sarver noted the pH in Dark Shade Creek is increasing since 228 came online.

Cotchen said WPC is helping with limestone sanding in the watershed and that a logger on Shingle Run was recently downloaded in connection with the dosing. Cotchen wants to stabilize access to sanding locations, but has not yet heard back from Berwind, the landowner.

### **Little Conemaugh**

There is no new news on the treatment plant. Dryzal said the Cambria Co. Conservation District fixed its streambank stabilization project on Laurel Run that T.D. Ida messed up.

### **Public Relations**

Makuchan said December 2 is the deadline for the next SCRIP newsletter and reviewed the articles she has so far. **Action item:** Send items to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

### **Old Business**

#### ***30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

The group reviewed this event. Lichvar thanked those who served on the committee and noted that about 50 people were on the tour. He highlighted the press received. **Action item:** Reckner will send thank yous to Coal Tubin, which donated the bus, and Emblems Plus, which donated the SCRIP stickers. Lichvar didn't get a sticker. **Action item:** Reckner will mail him one.

#### ***BAMR Funding Influx***

With the passing of the Infrastructure Bill and ultimately the reauthorization of SMCRA, a significant source of revenue will be available for AMD projects. **Action item:** Crittenden will take the lead on preparing an op-ed outlining the significance of this and will share it with the board before sending to media.

### **New Business**

Ndimbie introduced herself as the DEP's Environmental Justice Coordinator in the SW region and reviewed Rosebud's proposed Mine 78 expansion, which will include auger mining and blasting. She was specifically seeking input on how to reach the Windber community and engage the public. A discussion followed. Crittenden noted the number of dust complaints received from the existing job. Ndimbie will share additional information soon.

Sarver noted that SCWA removed 250 tires from the watershed this spring and that a local shop disposed of 100 of them and Bridgestone's Tires Forward program took the remaining 150.

Reckner pointed out that Crittenden received this year's Mayfly Award at the annual AMR Conference. Congrats! **Action item:** Crittenden to send Makuchan info for the newsletter.

Capouellez said he is now serving as an AmeriCorps with the Westmoreland Land Trust and that the issues raised at the last meeting have been resolved.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Thursday January 20 at 3 PM, via Zoom.

Adjournment: 4:47 PM

Minutes by Reckner.