

The SCRIP meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. September 27 at the St. Francis University Science Center was not held because of a lack of a quorum. An informal session was held in its place. It was attended by board members Larry Hutchinson, Pam Milavec, Karlice Makuchan, Bill Strosnider, Len Lichvar and Joe Gorden.

Joel Bandstra, Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering at Saint Francis University, Doug Beri Jr. of the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy and Greg Shustrick, Watershed Specialist at the Somerset Conservation District, also attended.

Without a quorum, no action could be taken on the previous meeting minutes. Secretary Melissa Reckner submitted several reports to be used in her absence, including a notation that SCRIP had 44 dues-paying members in 2018, and that only a few membership reminders remain to be sent. This represents a lower membership total than in recent years.

In her submitted report, Reckner said Brandywine Conservancy had approved her request to continue to serve on the SCRIP board. She said she also may continue coordinating Nature Works with Sue Konvolinka, the eight or nine Trout in the Classroom projects she oversaw previously, and other school programs she has conducted for years. Brandywine Conservancy will now be recognized as a partner.

Makuchan said she had sent a bill for newsletter postage to treasurer Jim Eckenrode, who was also absent.

Milavec said she and Strosnider have met with DEP, the Somerset Conservation District, PACD Technical Assistance Group and Stream Restoration Inc. at Oven Run. She said Stream Restoration staff would evaluate the site and present options that DEP could use to rehab the system.

Shustrick discussed plans to renovate Oven Run sites E, A, F and D. He said the intake was repaired at Site A to address problems with clogging and seemed to be successful. He said about 75 percent of a planned total reconstruction had been completed at Site E, with 4,000-5,000 tons of gravel washed and replaced. He said work at sites D and F will be delayed until next year.

Lichvar explained that the original Growing Greener grant of \$700,000 has proven insufficient to finance the work on the Oven Run sites, and that application had been made for a DCED grant to finish the work. That grant was denied. "This was Plan B," he said. "There is no Plan C at this point."

Shustrick said there is about \$100,000 remaining of the original grant, which should allow some additional work to be done.

In her submitted report, Reckner said she had overseen the placement of another load of high-calcium limestone in Babcock Creek and related AMD seeps.

Lichvar said the Somerset Conservation District, DEP, BAMR and Flight 93 had received an award from the federal Office of Surface Mining for work at Lamberts Run during the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Program (NAAML) conference in Williamsburg, Va. He

also said a Growing Greener grant request had been submitted for additional work on Lamberts Run.

In her submitted report, Reckner said she had attended the NAAMLPA conference to present on the State of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin. Because CVC was unwilling to finance her trip, she did so on an outside grant through SAC/SCRIP. As a result, she said, she recognized SCRIP in her presentation and biography.

Lichvar said that the canoe/kayak launch at Orenda Park in Boswell had been damaged by flooding earlier this summer, but had been repaired by a work crew headed by Shustrick.

Hutchinson expressed frustrations with work by contractors on a project in the Shade Creek headwaters. He admitted that the summer's heavy rainfall was part of the problem and expressed concerns that the project would not be completed before the Dec. 31 grant deadline.

Strosnider said the Center for Watershed Research and Service (CWRS) continues to work at Oven Run Site D and on several projects in Blair County. He said CWRS also was working on the Mine 71 project to bring AMD from the Incline Discharge to Dornick Point for treatment.

Lichvar reported on, and passed around photos of, fisheries habitat work done by the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and local volunteers at the Quemahoning Reservoir. He said a representative of the PFBC's lake habitat division would make a presentation to the Somerset County Sportsmen's League on Oct. 17 in Berlin.

Makuchan said Dec. 6 will be the deadline for the next newsletter.

Gorden said the July 25 kayak angling event held in conjunction with the Fish and Boat Commission at Quemahoning Reservoir was a success. He said there was a limit of 24 participants and registration was filled, but weather in the morning was discouraging and only 17 people came. However, weather during the event was sunny and warm and the water was calm. The event was covered by WJAC-TV reporter Rachel Prichard.

Beri introduced himself and the temporary successor to Missy Reckner and said it will up to the conservancy board whether he will assume the job permanently. He said water sampling would begin in mid-October and he was confident programs would continue as in the past. He asked that anyone who notices something that isn't getting done contact him.

A report submitted by Reckner said the work to make SCRIP's website mobile-friendly should be finished by our next meeting.

Gorden reminded that SCRIP would elect officers at its January meeting and Lichvar has said he would not continue to serve as president. Gorden mentioned that he, Lichvar and Robb Piper are founding members of SCRIP, and while he recognizes the sentiment that one of them should lead the organization, he feels strongly that it is time to pass the torch to younger leadership.

Lichvar said a meeting has been scheduled at 10 a.m. Oct. 5 at the Somerset Conservation District office to create a focus on operation and maintenance needs at treatment facilities constructed years ago. He said he had asked some time ago for the boards of the Somerset

Conservation District and the Somerset County Conservancy to blend their resources toward the effort. This meeting is intended to spur interest in finding funding and resources. He said he hopes to keep the group small, but any interested member of the SCRIP board is welcome to attend.

Lichvar also passed around a copy of a pamphlet titled Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in Communities. Although it is a DEP publication, he said he has been unable to get copies from DEP. But, he said, the pamphlet is available online as a PDF, and his copy was obtained by the conservation district going online and printing it out. He said it is very well done and would be a good handout for anyone interested in water quality. Gorden suggested he write a small article about it for the next newsletter and include the link where it could be found:

<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Newsroom/NewsroomPortalFiles/StreamMaintenanceBooklet.pdf>.

The passing of Bob Ritchey was discussed. Little information is available.

The next meeting is scheduled at 1 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Windber Hotel.

Minutes submitted by Joe Gorden.