

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

A SCRIP meeting was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 beginning at 3:05 PM at the Windber Hotel. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Tom Clark, Joe Gorden, Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, Karlice Makuchan, and John Dryzal. Pam Milavec joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Chris Garbark of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy; Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association; Randy, Rick, & Pat Buchanan of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited; and Phil Wilson of NRCS. Greg Shustrick of Somerset Conservation District joined the meeting in progress.

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

Stonycreek River

Wilson said Oven Run Site E is treating a 120 GPM discharge and water is exiting the system at a pH of 8. Oven Run Site F (Hawk View) will be rebid and should be done before the end of the year. Currently, there are no funds to rehab the Oven Run Sites A & D (Oaks Trail). Lichvar said he has a meeting on October 4 with SCD & SCC Board Members and the Somerset County Commissioners to discuss setting up a trust fund for the AMD systems for which the District is responsible. There is no news on Oven Run Site B.

Wilson reported that some tweaks to the Rock Tunnel AMD system have proven to be effective. Lichvar gave a presentation about Rock Tunnel at the NAAMLPA conference last week.

Lichvar said BAMR investigated the Hooversville Borough AMD discharge and it seems PennDOT, when they redid a bridge, must have busted into a mine pool. The chemistry of the discharge is unknown.

Wilson said Danielle Kalp, a PACD Engineer in Somerset, is relocating to the Clarion office as her husband got a new job and PACD will not be replacing her, due to a lack of funds.

Paint Creek

Reckner said PCRWA should have contracts signed this month so work may begin next month on the Upper Babcock Creek project. Randy Buchanan said MLTU's Water Monitoring program is going to begin monitoring Weaver and Seese Runs.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said he attended the NAAMLPA conference and was impressed by the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden. He said SCWA's next meeting is tomorrow (9/20/19) at 7 PM at the Central City Borough office. Sarver said work at SGL228 is done, except for a few little things. The PNDA survey needs updated. He said a couple yards of sediment were pumped out of Reitz #1.

Proposed Shade Active Treatment Plant

Lichvar said he spoke to Sam Faith, the District Mining Manager at DEP's California office, who said DEP is finishing a year's worth of sampling that began 10/1/18 and goes to 9/30/19 to verify, or not, previous findings. Faith said they should have a summary by mid-Oct and is open to meeting with SCRIP. Data will be public. Stream Team might have grabbed one sample in that time frame and might do another. A discussion on sampling, frequency, collector #, etc. followed.

Reckner said SCRIP should invite the "new Malcolm" – DJ Cverchko – to a future SCRIP meeting.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Lichvar reminded that 20 fish habitat structures were built at the Que, which is being drawn down on purpose for spillway work.

Little Conemaugh River

Lichvar shared pictures of DEP/PFBC/CalU's recent fish survey on the Little Conemaugh River and an article that appeared in the Daily American. There are wild browns in the Little Conemaugh near Portage - below Hughes, but above the Sonman discharges. Only about a dozen fish were found within City limits. A section should make it to the Wild Trout Waters; PFBC will probably resurvey the fish population to delineate the boundaries of that designation. Shustrick said lots of young-of-the-year and big trout were found in that section.

Education Committee

Makuchan said December 5 is the submission deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

Event / Fundraising Committee

Gorden said he corresponded with Mandy Smith (PFBC) who would like to host a Family

Fishing Program at the Que next year. The board agreed.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Garbark said the Stream Team has begun sampling again and has focused on the Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers and will soon target Little Conemaugh and Stonycreek. CVC is hoping to apply for more funding to ramp up sampling in future years.

New Business

Lichvar said Dennis Simmers with the Colver Power Plant emailed asking for a support letter for federal legislation to provide relief for co-gen facilities through tax credits. It may be the same as what we previously provided; consequently, Clark will investigate.

Randy Buchanan said Senator Wayne Langerholc will be attending MLTU's October 3rd meeting at 7 PM at the Richland Municipal Building. Everyone is welcomed to attend as these meetings are open to the public.

Next Meeting

SCRIP's next meeting will be Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Windber Hotel.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM. Minutes by Reckner.