

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

A SCRIP meeting was held on September 9, 2021 at Orenda Park. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gordon, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Malcolm Crittenden, and Larry Hutchinson.

The meeting was also attended by Sam Faith and Dave Thomas of PA DEP, Sara Trio of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, and Aaron Capouellez.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by Clark.

Lichvar gave a brief history of Orenda Park.

Partner Organization Reports / Guests

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Sara Trio was hired in July and focuses on water sampling. She is based out of her home in Johnstown and samples the Reitz #4 discharge monthly. The Stream Team is looking for volunteers. **Action item:** If you would like to volunteer with the Stream Team, reach out to Trio at strio@pacvc.org.

Guest

Capouellez said Frog Week is out on YouTube and elaborated on the tree frog. He would like permission to use SCRIP's logo in his videos. Some SCRIP members are hesitant to approve that request and heard he has lost favor with state agencies. Capouellez says he has not received notification of such. Clark requested permission from Capouellez to look into these accusations; Capouellez approved.

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

Cambria Somerset Authority

A brief discussion of Tropical Depression Ida and Wilmore Dam followed. The secondary spillway operated as it should, but poor verbiage from the National Weather Service caused panic that the dam broke.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said he is finalizing a story map website for the Bens Creek Coldwater Plan.

Stonycreek River

Stonycreek Trust Fund

Lichvar reported that there is now over \$40K in this fund at the Community Foundation and reminded that the Somerset County Conservancy issued a challenge that they will match, up to \$5K, donations made to the fund by October 31, 2021.

Oven Run

Lichvar said Site D is under construction and educational signage will be enhanced. At Site A, water is coming in at pH 3.8 and going out at 6.5. At Site F, a revegetation project of over 3 acres at a former coal cleaning plant location is doing well.

Incline Discharge

Clark shared a recent “American Society of Reclamation Scientists” magazine that highlights Bill Strosnider’s analysis of the Incline Plane discharge and the potential to co-treat it and sewage.

Fallen Timber Discharge

A discussion about this site followed. PennDOT created the discharge during bridge work. Could SCRIP receive the drilling info from that project? What is the stream rated? Could we do a fish/macro survey? **Action Item:** Clark and Reckner will sample it through Stream Team with Trio’s permission.

Wells Creek Discharges

Wells Creek Watershed Association asked DEP for some info about the discharge along Cider Press Road and are awaiting a reply.

Quemahoning Creek

Lichvar said Phase 3 of fish habitat work in the last 1.3 miles of Que Creek below the dam should begin in October.

Lambert’s Run

Lichvar said Phase 3 is still in permitting, which will carry into 2022.

Other

Garrett County Community College did fish surveys on Clear Shade Creek and Higgins Run. Lichvar shared photos of the abundant wild trout found. They may survey Que Creek on 9/24.

Paint Creek

Clark said about 50 acres of the Stefanko property will be reforested in the headwaters of Paint Creek this fall and spring, and PCRWA anticipates additional limestone sanding this fall.

Reckner said SCRIP received a letter from Windber Borough indicating that documents pertaining to its stormwater management and MS4 are on its website: www.windberboro.com/storm-water. Written comments about it may be mailed to Windber Borough.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said the group will be limestone sanding at Shingle and Panther Runs. WPC will be putting a data logger in downstream on Shingle Run to monitor seasonal changes for a year after they secure a special use permit from the PA Game Commission.

Hutchinson said the Cottagetown system has a leaky valve. The group reached out to FPW and WPCAMR for financial assistance.

SCWA is monitoring the Reitz #4 discharge. Hutchinson took samples to Geochemical Testing 4 days after T.D. Ida and noted the flow was not the highest ever recorded, although Corsa Coal is no longer injecting their sludge into the mine pool. DEP staff said that it might be 7-9 days before the remnants of Ida are seen on that pool.

Faith said Corsa is no longer dumping into the #4 mine pool and has built sludge ponds. Their treatment system is operational now, although they are tweaking it to ensure total compliance. They are intermittently discharging from the treatment system. **Action item:** SCRIP should talk to John Stefanko about what is the trigger figure for Title 4 eligibility. SCD still has a logger in #4 and measuring the weir (flow) still has value. Perhaps Stream Team could mobilize its volunteers to begin measuring the weir again.

Hutchinson said White Horse Construction installed the intake valve backwards at SGL228 and it's clogged. He lamented that DEP wants \$1K to make an amendment to the permit even though SCWA had informed them years ago that they wanted to change the intake, because everyone knew it would clog, but DEP had said no. SCRIP recommended SCWA reach out to its local legislators.

Little Conemaugh

There is no new news on the treatment plant. Dryzal said the District completed streambank stabilization and fish habitat on Laurel Run the Friday before T.D. Ida. It held up well, but needs some TLC to replace lost soil and reseed it.

Public Relations

Makuchan said the newsletter went out yesterday and reminded folks to register for the upcoming Oven Run tour. She said December 2 is the deadline for the next SCRIP newsletter. **Action item:** Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net. Attendees noted that it was a really nice newsletter with informative articles.

Regarding SCRIP's anniversary celebration, Lichvar said he issued personal invites to Stefano, Somerset Co. Commissioners, Metzgar, and the Lt. Gov of PA. Dryzal will contact Cambria Co. Commissioners and Rigby. Legislators will be in session. Lichvar said he contacted media. Everyone agreed it is important to connect Oven Run – and similar work / infrastructure – to the water quality improvements and recreational/economic benefits seen.

Intro to Kayaking

Gorden said there were 12 participants for the 9 AM session and just 4 for the 11 AM one. He said six SCRIP board members attended and helped. Gorden said he appreciated Crittenden for taking registration and Piper for being the safety boater. Gorden noted that we should have notified the YakShack, which received a lot of calls about the program. Members apologized profusely and passed on PFBC's contact in case they want to sponsor one in the future. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Old Business

30th Anniversary

Lichvar said 21 people are registered for the tour and there are two weeks left to sign up. SCRIP decided to have masks available and encourage their use, but not make them mandatory. Coal Tubin will provide a bus at no cost to SCRIP for which we will thank them. **Action item:** Cotchen will contact them to finalize bussing details.

Action item: This committee will meet next week via Zoom to hash out details.

Static Stickers

Clark brought up the idea of redoing our logo. Reckner and Cotchen voiced their approval of the idea and agreed the 30th anniversary is an ideal time to update the logo. Reckner said a school-age competition would be tough in this current year and suggested a college-level+ design competition.

Cotchen said his uncle could make stickers of SCRIP's current logo for distribution at the 30th anniversary event, 50 for \$50, which is very kind and generous. Crittenden / Makuchan made a **MOTION** to do the 50 static stickers for \$50 from Cotchen's uncle. A discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

Hutchinson said, through the Bedford County Players, he will be in the play, *Clue*, this month. All are welcomed to attend.

Reckner said SCRIP received an email from Latoya Bicko, who interviewed Tammy Horner, who spoke highly of SCRIP. Bicko is interested in volunteering. Reckner added her to SCRIP's email list and will see if she may pass her info to Stream Team.

Reckner noted that Sue Konvolinka, a long-time SCRIP member and supporter, is receiving the YWCA's Community Service Volunteer Award. Reckner said, unless anyone objects, she will send Konvolinka a congratulatory card on behalf of SCRIP. No one objected.

Reckner said she received an email from Lisa Barreiro with ThreeRivers QUEST indicating that their group has developed a new water quality database called WATERS. Barreiro offered to

give a demonstration of the database. **Action item:** Reckner will invite her to SCRIP's next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday November 18, 2021 at 3 PM, most likely via Zoom, especially with Barreiro's presentation.

Adjournment: 5:12 PM

Minutes by Reckner.