

The **July 14, 2016** meeting of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project was called to order at 12:15 PM at Greenhouse Park by Len Lichvar, with Karlice Makuchan, Melissa Reckner, James Eckenrode, Jr., Joe Gorden, Robb Piper, and Larry Hutchinson present.

The meeting was also attended by John and Elijah Gustkey of Johnstown and Bruce and Bekka Davis of Washington state.

Gorden / Piper made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner said there were five renewing members and two new members since last meeting. She shared a standard response from Senator Toomey regarding the SENSE act support letter SCRIP sent.

Eckenrode said SCRIP has \$1,624.12 in its checking account. The other accounts have not changed. He said SCRIP may have to move some of its PA Invest account funds to its checking. Reckner presented a bill for \$58 for one year P.O. Box rent; Makuchan paid \$149 for the Pirates game tickets for those who represented SCRIP. Hutchinson/Makuchan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

Stonycreek River

Reckner said she and Gorden were sampling Stonycreek from Shanksville through Foustwell on Tuesday and the pH was good throughout and visually, it looked nice, until Shade Creek hit. It was striking how orange the rocks were. Reckner and Gorden collected macroinvertebrates from the Stonycreek River below Shade and will classify those found.

Reckner said the Stream Team could fold Shade Creek Watershed Association's water monitoring sites into its Water Monitoring Program. She'll talk to Hutchinson.

Lichvar said Que Creek Tailwater Phase 2 enhancement project is underway with materials staged nearby. Work will begin next week on this \$7K project. At the end of May, 50 18" rainbow trout from Seven Springs were stocked here. Advanced fingerlings may be stocked this fall, depending on available funds. Contact Somerset Conservation District if you'd like to volunteer with the Phase 2 work.

The District is pursuing another potential project along Bens Creek near Jim and Jimmies.

Lichvar shared info on some streambank enhancement near agricultural areas along Laurel Hill as an example of things we may be able to do in the Stonycreek River Watershed.

Lichvar said he, Eckenrode, and a couple of others attended the Johnstown 2025 Riverwall Revitalization meeting. It was a short meeting that was lightly attended, but everything seems positive thus far. Eckenrode said the City will use a federal grant of \$225K to

pay the Army Corps of Engineers to study the walls. A visioning session / charrette about the walls will be held September 9-11. Attendees indicated that it is difficult to get or find info about this Capture Team. Makuchan said it depends on who is running the Team, but no one knows who is for this one.

Paint Creek

Reckner said PCRWA will be meeting with DCNR at the end of the month to discuss potential treatment solutions for the Red Eyes.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said most everything is on hold right now. He said they're going to be resubmitting permits to do limestone dosing in the watershed, as their existing one expires. The PA Game Commission said, with the dosing, the quads will have to stay on existing roads, so some dosing sites will be eliminated.

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Lichvar commented that SFU's Biology department is studying macroinvertebrates at passive treatment systems and that we would like a copy of the results.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Gorden shared a Daily American newspaper article about the CSA and a mishmash of items. The Whitewater Release valve was broken, but is now fixed. There will be a release this weekend.

Lichvar said 40 habitat structures will be built for the Que Reservoir on Thursday, August 11 at 5 PM at the Family Recreation Area. Volunteers are needed. Wear work gloves!

Little Conemaugh River

Reckner said the PFBC completed a fish survey on Laurel Run, the stream in which Forest Hills students release their TIC trout each spring, and found 12 TIC trout from this year, but not previous years. Flow or water temperatures could be a factor. The Stream Team may install a data logger here.

Piper said on June 9 there was a conference call for the L. Conemaugh Strategy committee. Drilling specs are done. They're trying to figure out where to drill and appropriately connect mine pool and to get permission from the railroad to access property where the proposed system would be built. The USGS report is not done yet. The DEP does have the HUP done. It is available upon request. Everyone seemed optimistic with status of the project.

Education Committee

Makuchan said the latest newsletter was issued in early June. She announced that August 25th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

Lichvar said DCNR is developing an Outdoor Corps to provide paid work experience to youth. People age 15-18 are eligible for the program that runs July – August 2016, while those age 18-25 are eligible to apply for 10-month stints in 2017. DCNR's focus is on certain cities including Johnstown. Their work will be at state parks, doing construction and special projects, but they may work on projects outside of the park. A brief discussion on engaging youth in the outdoors followed.

Events

Gorden commented that Uldis Katkins passed away. Gustkey said there will be a memorial service at the family home later in August.

Gorden said SCRIP and PFBC canceled its planned kayak introduction event at Wilmore Dam because of low interest. Five people were registered; 15 were needed. Gorden said Glendale happened to have one soon after, so he forwarded that info to those who were registered. Gorden noted everyone who registered asked for directions to Wilmore Dam, even those who live in Portage, so perhaps low registration was due to the unfamiliarity of where Wilmore was. Eckenrode said he repeatedly posted signs at Wilmore Dam, but when he checked they were taken down. Gorden said a lot of people used the boats available at Lake Fest. Perhaps SCRIP could hold its event in conjunction with another event.

Gorden said May 25th was the Outdoor Night at PNC Park in Pittsburgh and relayed Frank Sojak's message of thanks to everyone involved. Sojak has some wooden fish key chains left, if we have a use for them. Lichvar said they may try to do the Outdoor Night again next year.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Reckner said it's business as usual and that she is in the midst of the Stream Team's summer sampling round.

She commented that Que Creek seemed abnormally opaque above and below the Boswell system and above the Jenner system when they were sampling on Tuesday.

Website

Gorden shared the website statistics and indicated that June was a good month. Pokémon was discussed.

New Business

Reckner said the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies' Youth Philanthropy program may be focusing on outdoor recreation this year. A media event will be held tomorrow. Look for more info.

Piper said Jackson Township will be building a 2-acre pond outside of Nanty Glo (Pergrin Run) for public recreation and park-like activities.

Next meeting

Next meeting: SEPTEMBER 22 at 3 PM at the Crow's Nest.

Happy birthday to SCRIP Board Member, Larry Hutchinson!!

Gorden said he attended the Green Drinks event. Reckner suggested hosting one after our September meeting. She'll talk to Clemenson. Hutchinson will reserve the room at the Crow's Nest.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Minutes by Reckner.