

The **May 5, 2017** meeting of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project was called to order at 3:10 PM at the Boulevard Grill by Len Lichvar, with Karlice Makuchan, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gorden, Larry Hutchinson, Adam Cotchen, Bill Strosnider, and Robb Piper present.

The meeting was also attended by Pam Milavec, a SCRIP member, and Linda Yunke of the Shade Creek Watershed Association. Brad Clemenson of Lift Johnstown was present for the first part of the meeting.

There was a moment of silence for Frank Sojak, who recently passed away.

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

Secretary's Report

Reckner said she sent membership renewal postcards to those whose membership has lapsed going back to 2011, which means she sent out about 40 reminders. She submitted receipts for ink, postcards, and postage. She said SCRIP's Facebook page currently has 294 "likes" and encouraged others to use it as a way to communicate events and volunteer needs.

Stonycreek River

Lichvar said the Rock Tunnel AMD treatment system was de-sludged last week by EarthShapers. DEP covered the cost. Thanks to Malcolm Crittenden for his assistance.

Lichvar said the District is working with the Young Professionals, Natural Biodiversity, and Conemaugh Township on a project at Greenhouse Park to control knotweed along Soap Hollow Run. MLTU is to apply for an Embrace-a-Stream grant to plant the riparian area.

Clemenson said in August or September there will be some work done near the confluence of Soap Hollow Run and the Stonycreek River as part of Phase II WWP enhancements, so the groups will have to coordinate. PFBC wanted to see more fish habitat, so several large boulders will be added in the Stony below the confluence.

Lichvar said a PennDOT mitigation project along the South Fork of Bens Creek will be completed this summer.

He said the Oven Run Site E rehabilitation work will be going out to bid ASAP. It's the most expensive rehab of the four.

Lichvar said the Quemahoning Creek Tailwater Phase III habitat work will be completed near the mouth of Que Creek, while there will be another project up near the dam later this summer. Also, streambank stabilization, fish habitat, and a small canoe launch will be put in at Orenda Park. Lichvar said about 1800 trout were stocked in Quemahoning Creek.

Paint Creek

Reckner reported that 21 volunteers helped pick up about ¼ ton of trash and 15 tires during their annual litter cleanup in the Little Paint Creek Watershed. There's a tire wall that the group would like to tackle next year.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said people are kayaking Shade Creek. He said they'll have a final design for the SGL 228 project next week. He said monitoring of the Big 4 discharges continues. Reckner said Berkebile Run was added to the Wild Trout Waters list. Hutchinson acknowledged more limestone is needed for dosing.

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Strosnider said he and several students participated in the ASMR Conference. He recommends attending the WV Mine Drainage Task Force. He elaborated on some projects outside the SCRIP watershed. They've been monitoring the Puritan discharge and are seeing more flow than anticipated, which is concerning. CWRS won a Western PA Environmental Award. CWRS' gave out the first Margaret Dunn Community Service Award, which was a cash award and a plaque. They have a fund at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies if you'd like to contribute to the fund.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Clemenson said progress on the Que Mountain Bike Trail is underway. CSA is having problems getting the WW valve to fully close though it tested well. He said logging around the Que messed up a part of the bike trail.

Lichvar reminded that the next Que Habitat Work Day will be August 31 at 5:00 PM.

Little Conemaugh River

Reckner shared Mike Richardson's email, which detailed some of the trout he has caught in the L. Conemaugh upstream of Hughes.

Education Committee

Makuchan said SCRIP received two applications for its \$500 SCRIP Scholarship, which the committee reviewed and scored. The committee recommends awarding the scholarship to Olivia Wolff, a junior at UPJ majoring in Energy Resource Geology and Environmental Studies. Piper/Strosnider made a motion to award the scholarship to Ms. Wolff. All in favor. Motion carried.

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 2. Submit info to Karlice at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

Events Committee

SCRIP will hold a Family Fishing Activity at the Que Dam in partnership with the PFBC on Sunday, June 4 from 1-5 PM. Gorden shared a poster he created for the event. Volunteers are needed to assist.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Reckner said it's business as usual with the spring sampling round just about finished and Trout in the Classroom Release Days underway. She said the Stream Team will have a booth at the Stonycreek Rendezvous on May 19-21 to share info about local streams' water quality. She welcomed assistance at the event and asked for SCRIP fact sheets on local watersheds. She reminded that the Stony-Kiski-Conemaugh Sojourn will be June 1-4. View www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org for details and to register.

Website

Gorden shared usage data for the website. Use is up a bit, which is common in the spring.

Old Business

Geocache Trail

No news.

Johnstown Riverwalls

Clemenson said the ACOE study is continuing. The City is looking for a transportation planning consultant to determine how to connect trails in the City of Johnstown. In some places, trails may need to be put on the riverwall. Reckner said she attended the Rivers Capture Team meeting last week. Some of the first steps the group will pursue are installing signage to let people know they can access the rivers and perhaps doing some events where the walls are not in place, like at the base of the Incline.

New Business

Cotchen said he attended the Sustainability Conference in Indiana and gave a synopsis. He said Joe Pizarchik was there and gave a shout out to SCRIP as a partner with the Ehrenfeld project.

Reckner shared an email from John Gustkey of Skelly and Loy indicating that they are under contract with the PA Turnpike Commission to address their plan and permit for MS4s throughout PA, which may include reducing pollution in the watershed. He thinks there may be a funding opportunity or potential for collaboration. Reckner will share his email with the SCRIP Board of Directors.

Lichvar shared an email from Clemenson about a trust fund that the Blacklick Creek Watershed Association has with the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for the AMD&Art treatment system. Apparently, a committee, which includes the head of SCRIP's technical committee, must approve expenditures and provide advice as needed, and so Clemenson was reaching out to see who that is as the watershed group would like to use some funds to restore the tile mosaic adjacent the treatment system, along the Ghost Town Trail. Strosnider will service on the committee, but needs some clarifications. Cotchen/Piper made a motion that SCRIP give approval to access appropriate funds from the trust to rehabilitate the mosaic at the AMD&Art site, if it is an approved expenditure of the fund. All in favor. Motion carried. Lichvar and Strosnider will communicate with Mike Kane and Clemenson. Cotchen and Milavec volunteered to serve on the Technical Committee.

Piper/Cotchen made a motion to approve Milavec as a SCRIP Board Member. All in favor. Motion carried. She accepted.

Milavec said a friends of the forest volunteer group in Arizona to which she is connected works on many things, including removing graffiti, but that effort removes the patina of the Red Rocks. Interestingly, she discovered that iron oxide works really well for restoring that, though it doesn't take much.

A discussion on emails received from Etta Albright followed. SCRIP supported the SENSE Act last year and supports coal refuse removal. Coal waste burning facilities are necessary for that reclamation, and we can't regulate them out of business. Cotchen noted that a lot of the mining now is not in virgin areas, but is in previously mined areas to recover and reclaim. No doubt, emissions are still a concern. SCRIP has a Marcellus position paper, but it doesn't focus on pipelines. Gorden suggested adding the pipeline as an agenda item to follow its progress. Erosion and sedimentation are a concern. Gorden/Piper made a motion to add the Mariner Sunoco Pipeline to the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lichvar said the proposed state budget reduces funding to the conservation districts. He asked if SCRIP would go on record to reinstate funding to the previous year's level. Gorden/Hutchinson made a motion that SCRIP contact its representatives asking the state to reinstate funding for the conservation districts. Lichvar will write the letter. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lichvar shared a new PFBC pamphlet on safer kayaking. He noted that all the boating fatalities this year were kayakers. Reckner suggested getting them to the Sojourns across the state.

Next meeting

Next meeting: July 6 at 3:00 PM at Greenhouse Park. Bring some food or beverages to share.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Minutes by Reckner.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Eckenrode submitted the report via text and indicated SCRIP has \$342.95 in its checking account; \$9,647.61 in its Community Foundation for the Alleghenies account; \$8,608.02 in its PA Invest account for a total of \$18,598.58.