

The **May 22, 2018** meeting of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project was called to order at 9:15 AM at Perkins Restaurant in Richland by Len Lichvar, with John Dryzal, John Vatauvuk, Melissa Reckner, Robb Piper, Jim Eckenrode, Jr., Adam Cotchen, Joe Gorden, and Stefan Long present.

The meeting was also attended by Earl Waddell of the Cambria Somerset Authority.

Piper/Gorden made a motion to approve the November 2017, January and March 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner said she recently sent 22 membership renewal reminders out for June/July. She recapped an electronic vote taken after the last meeting; Gorden/Piper had made a motion to send a letter to legislators supporting HB 935. Seven board members and Lichvar voted yeah and one member abstained. Motion passed.

Eckenrode said SCRIP has \$1,405.73 in its checking account. Reckner presented a bill for \$7.70 for stamps.

Election of Officers

Piper/Cotchen made a motion to retain current officers – Lichvar, President; Gorden, Vice-President; Reckner, Secretary; Eckenrode, Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried. Lichvar indicated that 2018 will be his last year as Chairman.

Stonycreek River

Lichvar said the District held a tour of the Oven Run systems last week and said work on Site E and A continues. He noted that more funds are needed to completely rehab the Oven Run systems. He shared a number of recent news articles that highlighted conservation work and concerns. The District continues to tweak the Rock Tunnel treatment system and is pursuing funds for Phase II of Lamberts Run. Lichvar said work on the Soap Hollow Run streambank restoration project will continue this summer and noted the Vision 2025 Rivers Capture Team secured a \$1K Capture Award for the project. Lichvar said the PA Game Commission is ready to shut down the Gahagen project due to a lack of forward motion, so the District is working on that. Lichvar shared pictures of nice wild trout caught throughout the watershed this season.

A discussion about bids coming in much higher than engineering estimates followed. Dryzal noted that some local companies don't bid because payments from the grantee can be slow and they can't wait.

Danielle Kalp is the new PACD TAG professional engineer.

Paint Creek

Reckner said PCRWA's and the CVC/Stream Team's annual litter cleanup was May 5. Nine volunteers, primarily from Mountain Laurel TU, picked up 41 bags of trash from along

Berwick Road and 143 tires from an old tire wall. Bridgestone Tires4ward program collected the tires at no cost.

She said on behalf of PCRWA, CVC secured a \$550 grant from the Laurel Highlands Landscape Initiative to add limestone sand to Babcock Creek with the hopes of returning brook trout to the upper section of this waterway.

Cambria Somerset Authority

Waddell said the 17-mile bike trail around the Que is just about done. SQI will be applying for funds to do another 17 miles of loops and spurs off of this trail. CSA did work with the PA Game Commission to develop a fur-bearer trapping policy at its properties. Trappers need to submit an application to CSA and get a permit card from CSA.

CSA will be putting a pavilion in by the Birdman Boat Launch. Waddell said Quemahoning Township will be working on Birdman Road through the Dirt and Gravel Road program this summer. High school students helped construct and install fish habitat structures at the Que. The next Fish Habitat Day is September 20th at 5 PM at the Public Recreation Area at the Que. A kayak launch will be added to the Que Public Recreation Area this year.

At Hinckston, installation of the water line to supply water to CBV is ongoing. CSA has a few timber projects in the works.

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Eckenrode said the Center will do a mass balance and rating curve on Quemahoning Creek this year. They are also working with BioMost on the Puritan AMD treatment system. He said if anyone has any needs that the Center could help with, contact him or Strosnider.

Little Conemaugh River

Dryzal said Quick Response funds helped with the Bear Rock project. Dryzal noted that Mariner East (ME) Sunoco penalty funds must be spent within affected townships, so the District has some streambank stabilization projects and an animal waste storage system for which they will be applying. The Greater Johnstown Water Authority and Watershed Specialist met to discuss doing something with the Saltlick discharge. The District will be applying for Growing Greener funds to do some work on Blacklick Creek near Nanty Glo.

Regarding the active treatment systems, Cresson is under construction; Wehrum is under design; and the L. Conemaugh is in planning. Supposedly funding is in place for all three systems.

Education Committee

Reckner said June 8 is the deadline for the next newsletter.

Reckner said no one applied for the scholarship this year. In 2015, 4 individuals applied; in 2016, 3; and in 2017, just 2 applications were received. Eckenrode noted that it is not sustainable for SCRIP to give \$500 away every year and suggested SCRIP partner with another entity to offer a scholarship. Dryzal said maybe SCRIP could partner with the Districts and award the scholarship to someone who is in Envirothon and to perhaps focus on high school students as opposed to college students. Eckenrode suggested sponsoring a student for a summer camp or offering an award in honor or memory of someone. A discussion followed.

Event Committee

Gorden said he hasn't done much with the Kayaking Fishing program. Reckner said Mandy Smith said PFBC needs to add the option to its online registration form as this is a new program for PFBC. SCRIP and PFBC will co-host the Intro to Kayak Fishing program on July 25th from about 5:30 PM – 9 PM.

Eckenrode said the CCCD, BCC and potentially the Rivers Capture Team are hosting an Intro to River Kayaking event on June 28 at Greenhouse Park from 6-8 PM with two intro/informative sessions followed by a group float. The District will handle registration. Reckner will disseminate the informative poster.

Website

Reckner said SCRIP's webmaster suggested modifying SCRIP's website to make it more mobile friendly, but he didn't provide a cost estimate despite her request.

Gorden said he can't access the website stats. Reckner will contact the webmaster.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Reckner said Trout in the Classroom is finished for the year and that a lot of brook trout fingerlings were placed in local streams. She thanked those who helped with Release Day activities. Reckner reminded that raffle tickets are still available. Tickets are \$10 for 2 numbers with the winner receiving his/her choice of a fishing kayak, SUP, or \$750 cash. She said the Stream Team wrapped up its spring sampling round and will soon finish its monitoring of several AMD treatment systems as part of SRI's "Snapshot" of all passive AMD systems in the state.

Reckner announced that the 20th PA AMR Conference will be June 20-21 at the Ramada in State College. Register at www.treatminewater.com.

The annual Kiski-Conemaugh-Stony River Sojourn is May 31-June 3. Registrations are soon due. Register at www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org.

Reckner asked that everyone vote for CVC in Hairstory's 1% for the Planet competition in which the Stream Team could win \$2500. It's one vote per email address, so use all you have and vote by May 31! Vote here: <https://www.hairstory.com/1-planet/1-planet-cast-your-ballot/>

Reckner announced that she was recently elected to the SQI Board of Directors. She noted the valve stem at the Que was fixed, so whitewater releases are occurring this summer, and that the 9/11 National Memorial Trail may follow an old trolley line along Paint Creek from Scalp Level to Carpenter's Park and into Krings, which could help highlight water quality issues in that watershed.

Sunoco Mariner Pipeline

Dryzal noted that entities eligible for Growing Greener funds are eligible for ME penalty funds and may apply for projects in municipalities through which the pipeline runs.

Old Business

Lichvar said the Jenners AMD system rehab that Rosebud Mining is to do is currently held up in legal issues. A sodium hydroxide drip is a temporary fix that Rosebud installed.

Gorden said he contacted a couple folks who geocache and said that SCRIP is not in the position to create and maintain caches, but welcomes anyone who might like to place a cache at previously discussed sites. Supposedly, the Visitors Bureau still might include one or two of SCRIP's suggested locations. Reckner thanked Gorden for his efforts on this, even though it didn't pan out.

New Business

Piper/Eckenrode made a motion to pay the bill. All in favor. Motion carried.

Piper suggested extending the scholarship deadline, but the general consensus is that it doesn't seem worth it with school out for the semester. SCRIP will discuss its options in the future.

Piper/Eckenrode made a motion for SCRIP to provide letters of support to any ME projects or Growing Greener grant applications in the basin at the discretion of the Chairman. Groups should submit drafts of the letters they need to Lichvar. Piper said Nathan's Divide is going to put in an application. All in favor. Motion carried.

There has been no movement on HB 935.

Eckenrode said someone from out of state recently commented that he didn't think we did enough to promote our natural resources and eco-tourism opportunities. The Visitors Bureau should be promoting this more, but Thunder in the Valley is their money maker and thus their focus. Businesses could put together and promote some packages. Hotels have courtesy vans that could drop visitors at a trailhead with a boxed lunch from a local restaurant. Some organizations/businesses don't seem to understand the value of eco-tourism and how to market that. More discussion followed.

Next meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, July 12 at Greenhouse Park at 9 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Minutes by Reckner.