

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.
Windber Hotel

A SCRIP meeting, held on January 9, 2025 at the Windber Hotel, was called to order at 2:12 p.m. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Adam Cotchen, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Jackie Ritko, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Malcolm Crittenden, Joe Gorden, and Larry Hutchinson.

The meeting was also attended by Dave Wright of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, Sam Faith, Dave Thomas, and Wendy Noe of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Nate Yingling of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Thad Pajek and John Wenzel of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. Mike Maurer of Pheasants Forever joined the meeting in progress.

Makuchan/Hutchinson made a **MOTION** to accept the November meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Reckner said SCRIP had 43 dues-paying members in 2024, which generated \$1,670. These figures are a little higher than those of 2023. Check with Reckner if you're not sure of your membership status.

Treasurer's Report

Dryzal reported that, as of 12/31/24, SCRIP has \$8,463.64 in its PA Invest account; \$600 in its checking account with SAC, and, as of 9/30/24, \$18,226.83 in its Community Foundation for the Alleghenies account.

Election of Officers

Reckner/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to keep the existing slate of officers and board. All in favor. Motion carried. Thank you to those who serve in their respective positions.

Guests

Noe was introduced as the Treatment Trust / ABS Sites Manager out of DEP's California office. She oversees Watershed Managers. Everyone then introduced themselves to her.

Partner Organizations

Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

Pajek said they have monitored the Weaver Run treatment systems since May 2024, and they are not working. Reckner suggested reaching out to Vinny Paczek, who is trying to reinvigorate PCRWA, and Phil Wilson, who is aware of the systems' problems and had ideas on how to improve them. Thomas said there is an active permit nearby and perhaps rec & lieu funds could help the project.

Wenzel said CVC can offer C-SAW assistance to groups, particularly with collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Perhaps some work could be completed in the Shade Creek Watershed.

Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

Wright said their winter fly tying classes started this week. MLTU will be at a Christian Men event in February to demonstrate fly tying. MLTU's annual fundraising banquet is April 12 at The Willow.

Pheasants Forever

Maurer said their 26th annual banquet is March 9 at the Oakhurst Tea Room.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said, before Christmas, he and Jim Eckenrode did a visual assessment at Elk Run to develop recommendations for this watershed.

Stonycreek River Progress Report

Lichvar said the Oven Run trust fund is just shy of \$67K and encouraged donations, which can be done [through this site](#). MLTU recently contributed \$3K.

Lichvar said the District applied for a Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) grant for a large wood addition project on Piney Run in the Clear Shade Creek watershed.

He said they intend to apply for bill funding for several systems/discharges in Somerset County and that Oven Run Site F has a valve that needs replaced.

Lichvar said there have been oil spills in Quemahoning Creek in Acosta. Officials are aware and are trying to determine the source, which is difficult with uncooperative homeowners.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson reminded that Phase I is underway for remediation of five large discharges in Central City. Monitoring well locations have been identified, and drilling should occur by month's end. Saint Francis University collected macroinvertebrates on 11/23/24, and improvements were seen in Dark Shade Creek downstream of SGL 228. SCWA applied for a CHP grant to add large wood and fish habitat structures in SGL 228. Cotchen elaborated. Hutchinson said he and Sarver are working to develop a maintenance schedule for their treatment systems.

Faith said DEP received the 3rd quarter monitoring data for the Central City Fire Hall discharge - MD31 and so they now have a full year of water quality data. Title V impacts are gone making MD31 eligible for Title IV funds.

Cotchen said Corsa Coal is filing bankruptcy. Faith noted that they filed Chapter 11, which is protection from creditors. DEP does not anticipate an impact to their environmental projects, like Kimberly Run, since it's just Chapter 11. Work at Kimberly Run is underway.

Little Conemaugh Progress Report

Dryzal said he hasn't heard any news regarding the Little Conemaugh active treatment system.

Public Relations

Makuchan said March 14 is the deadline for the next newsletter, and she invited submissions and save-the-dates. **Action Item:** Send items to knmak1019@gmail.com.

NatureWorks is March 15 at the Bottle Works from 10-2. Makuchan and Hutchinson will lead SCRIP's table where guests could make chalk colored with iron oxide. Others are welcomed to help. Several SCRIP partners will be present representing their organizations.

Lichvar said the Tribune-Democrat did a staff spotlight on John Rucosky, who commented that seeing the restoration of the Stonycreek has been one of his favorite highlights in his career.

Next Meeting Date

March 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Windber Hotel.

Dryzal/Reckner made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 3:08 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.