

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.
Greenhouse Park, Johnstown

A SCRIP meeting, held on July 10, 2024 at Greenhouse Park, was called to order at 3:05 p.m. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Adam Cotchen, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Jim Eckenrode, Jackie Ritko, Robb Piper, Joe Gorden, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Dave Leiford, and Larry Hutchinson.

The meeting was also attended by Dave Wright of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, Sam Faith of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Mike Maurer of Pheasants Forever, and Sara Hartwell of St. Francis University. Tom Clark of Kleinfelder and Tom Varner of Summit Land Consulting joined the meeting in progress.

Introductions were made.

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

Treasurer's Report

SCRIP has \$4,178.96 in its checking account. SCRIP had a bill for \$84 to renew its post office box for a year, and Reckner purchased stamps before the price increase. Piper/Hutchinson made a **MOTION** to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

Partner Organizations

Cambria Somerset Authority

Lichvar said he heard CSA is looking to revamp the habitat plan at the Que.

Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

Cotchen said he wrote a letter of support on behalf of SCRIP for their AMD monitoring program.

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Eckenrode said they started monitoring Elk Run for MLTU. Although vandalism has caused some problems, temps and O2 are looking good.

Eckenrode said they're looking at stone size in passive treatment systems. If you run the system as a batch, it can cut the system size down by nearly half. They want to find the sweet spot for surface area without clogging.

They are completing paperwork for a recent OSM grant.

Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

Wright said their fundraising banquet was the most successful yet, and as a result, several projects are fully funded. MLTU is also making a \$3K donation to the Oven Run trust fund.

Wright said MLTU will present a program at the International Conservation Center for their youth campers next week.

Stonycreek River Progress Report

Lichvar shared a brochure developed about the Oven Run Trust Fund, which was mass mailed to many people. So far, it's been a disappointing return. He welcomes distribution ideas or locations. Eckenrode suggested a conversation with DEP about matching the funds or donations.

The District requested Kleinfelder do some analysis and preliminary work on AMD sites in the county, specifically Lamberts Run, Gondar, and Rock Tunnel. Clark elaborated on the sites.

Lichvar said the District will be working to identify and make known the public access points along the Stonycreek River to use as leverage for recreation and economic development. Cotchen noted that WPC has Canoe Access Development grants that could help.

Lichvar said a new 501(c)3 land trust conservancy has been created in Somerset County: the Bottom Lands Conservancy (BLC). The Somerset County Conservancy (SCC), which owns a few AMD sites, came to the District and said they don't want those sites anymore, although that is why the SCC was formed; their focus has shifted. InnoH2O wanted to create a non-profit arm and so select SCC lands will move to BLC, which will take on the O&M of these sites.

Little Conemaugh Progress Report

Dryzal said a streambank project was completed on Laurel Run. Ritko said they're waiting on their contract for the BAMR grant to design and permit a refuse removal in Krayn.

Clark said Branden Diehl told him that the system RFP is under legal review and that the Foundation for PA Watersheds finally has a formal contract, so there could be an August-September start.

Public Relations

Makuchan said September 6 is the deadline for the next newsletter, and she invited submissions and save-the-dates. **Action Item:** Send items to knmak1019@gmail.com.

New Business

Lichvar shared a copy of the [Assessment of Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in Pennsylvania](#) spearheaded by EPCAMR and others. Faith noted that it includes development on Title V sites.

Cotchen said the Community Foundation has a new fund - the Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund to provide small 501(c)3 organizations with a budget of less than \$1 million, funds for general operating support and rapid response. [Learn more and register for an info session on July 19 here.](#)

Shustrick is now the Assistant District Manager in Somerset, taking over for Sue Moon, who retired.

Maurer said he is doing educational programs with 6-8th graders at North Star, which has a greenhouse. They are doing pollinator plantings and observing the life cycle of monarch butterflies. They can help acquire seed. Cotchen thanked him for coming and said we could add Pheasant Forever to the agenda.

Piper questioned if there's any good tech for cooling small ponds during heat waves. Maurer spoke of his aerator.

Varner said he owns a building adjacent a coal refuse pile on Que Creek that he is investigating for removal.

Shade Creek Progress Report

Hutchinson said the 228 saga is finished, and the system is running well. Locals have put fish in the last pond, which has him thinking about adding water lilies and other ecologically beneficial plants to create a diverse, healthy aquatic community.

He said SFU did a macro assessment, but it was too late in the year to see mayflies.

The PCRWA/SCWA merger isn't going to happen. After careful deliberation, it was determined that there is no net gain for SCWA. SCWA could still complete projects in the Paint Creek watershed though.

Some SCRIP directors attended the Joey's Jacket dedication.

Hutchinson reminded that SCWA's 25th anniversary is this year. SCWA is considering revising their logo.

Hutchinson wants to do a "knotweed dosing" – cutting then using a mixture of Dawn, salt and vinegar to spray the stalks. There are a few small, but growing patches that he would like to control. Reckner said that mix is good for killing the above ground plant parts, but not roots. Maurer said Muck Reducer tablets that you drop in a pond are good at controlling streambank vegetation. Piper cautioned that the plant has to be on the herbicide's list/label. There is a lot of information on how best to control knotweed. [Click here for information from Penn State](#)

Extension. Cotchen said he saw PennDOT spraying knotweed along Eisenhower Blvd. Perhaps they would do the patches by “Swingy” in the Clear Shade Creek watershed.

Reckner said September 21 is the new date for SCWA’s anniversary celebration. Details TBD.

Faith said DEP is expecting the second quarter data on MD31 (the Central City Firehall / Reitz #4 discharge) and so they should have the most up to date spreadsheet by month’s end. Contact Greg Ayres for a copy.

Next Meeting Date

September 10, 2024 at 3 p.m. at Greenhouse Park.

Reckner/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 4:10 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.