

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.**  
**Windber Hotel**

A SCRIP meeting, held on November 13, 2024 at the Windber Hotel, was called to order at 3:10 p.m. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Adam Cotchen, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Jackie Ritko, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Dave Leiford, Jeff Sarver, and Larry Hutchinson. Jim Eckenrode joined the meeting in progress.

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, Tyler Crooks and Dina Cable of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Tom Clark of Kleinfelder.

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

**Partner Organizations**

***Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited***

Wright shared posters with info about their free fly-tying courses in January and February.

***PA Fish and Boat Commission***

Cable shared info and donation forms about Shop with a Cop in which they will be participating.

***Pheasants Forever***

Maurer is voicing concerns about Roaring Run and Card Machine Run regarding Sarah Mine and shared some water quality data. Faith said the bond release was denied. DEP will begin monitoring the mine pool soon. Maurer also outlined problems from a questionable logging operation. SCRIP appreciates Maurer's vigilance and report.

***Western PA Conservancy***

Cotchen said WPC is accepting applications for their Canoe Access Development fund through November 18 and for their Watershed Mini-Grants through December 16, but Somerset County is excluded from the latter.

Cotchen said they completed the Clear Shade large wood project in September with several partners involved. He said they'll be meeting with PGC about doing a similar project on SGL228 and some of the limestone dosed streams there.

**Stonycreek River Progress Report**

Lichvar said the Oven Run Trust Fund currently has \$63,973.97. The District will continue to promote it.

He said the District added large rock to the Quemahoning Tailrace. He noted maintenance continues on the Oven Run treatment systems, one of which has a failing valve that will need replaced. Beavers are also causing a short circuit around one of the ponds. Clark explained a proposal to treat some discharges and improve a few treatment systems in the Stonycreek Creek watershed, including the Gondar discharge and ones along Lambert's Run.

Lichvar said he is working on an article that he would like to publish nationally about the large wood project and the John P. Saylor Trail.

He said he commented on the PFBC's proposed Trout Management Plan, which wants to look at reallocating stocked trout. He'd like to see some go to the Stonycreek.

Lichvar said today's Tribune-Democrat had an article about a large grant received to consider river access in Johnstown, but no one present had any more information about it.

He said a fish survey on Oven Run, towards the mouth, revealed fish in Oven Run, which is significant. The Somerset Chamber of Commerce published a rare article on this.

### **Shade Creek**

Sarver shared that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was nice and the general public showed up. They announced that Kleinfelder was contracted for the Big 5 project. Clark said they want to manage the mine pools to the project's advantage and propose putting the two #2 discharges into Loyalhanna's, then pumping Loyalhanna's into Reitz #4 and treating all the water there. They will drill a couple monitoring wells into mine pools and monitor them for a year to see if that's feasible.

Sarver said Saint Francis University will be out to do macros before the end of the month.

### **Little Conemaugh Progress Report**

Dryzal said the L. Conemaugh treatment plant RFP is out and FPW is interviewing firms for that. The District completed a streambank stabilization project at the Dunlo Sportsmen's Club. Dryzal spoke of additional work in the Blacklick Creek watershed. Ritko said the refuse pile removal RFP will go out soon.

### **Public Relations**

Makuchan said December 5 is the deadline for the next newsletter, and she invited submissions and save-the-dates. **Action Item:** Send items to [knmak1019@gmail.com](mailto:knmak1019@gmail.com).

### **Treasurer's Report**

Eckenrode said SCRIP has \$3,892.21 in its checking account. Dryzal will be receiving CFA reports now.

### **Center for Watershed**

Eckenrode said they are working with BioMost to see how they can improve auto-Agri-drain boxes that are failing from poor electronics.

He said there have been a few snafus with the Elk Run data logger.

### **Old Business**

Sarver said SCWA received a small grant from the CFA to support Joey Jackets.

### **New Business**

Reckner said NatureWorks 2025 is March 15 from 10-2. SCRIP will be present. Volunteers are needed to help with SCRIP's activity.

Eckenrode said there was a group at the AMR Conference called [Trutta Solutions](#) that is doing High-Definition Stream Surveys of whole watersheds. The group is based out of state, but is interested in collecting pre-post project data in Pennsylvania.

### **Next Meeting Date**

January 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Windber Hotel.

Eckenrode/Reckner made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 4:21 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.