

## SCRIP Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

A SCRIP meeting was held on January 21, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gordon, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Pam Milavec, Robb Piper, Adam Cotchen, and Larry Hutchinson. James Eckenrode, Jr. joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Sam Faith of the PA DEP, Jeff Sarver of the Shade Creek Watershed Association, Phil Wilson of the NRCS, Greg Shustrick of the Somerset Conservation District, Malcolm Crittenden, and Aaron Capouellez.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Clark.

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

Reckner reported that in 2020, SCRIP had 41 dues-paying members, which was down ten from the previous year.

### Election of Officers

Reckner/Milavec made a **MOTION** to retain the current officers for another year. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Guests

Capouellez wants a sit-down interview with one or more SCRIP directors to speak about the watershed and explore properties for amphibians. Finds would be reported in the Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Survey – PARS – a statewide survey of amphibians and might afford some habitats protection. Milavec explained a frog watch training in which she participated in Arizona. Capouellez said he could give presentations on amphibians. **ACTION ITEM:** Invite Capouellez to give a 20-minute presentation to SCRIP during the March meeting. Capouellez said he could guide a frog hunt in mid-March in the Clear Shade area.

### Shade Creek Active Treatment Plant

Clark said Corey Seese of the DEP told him that they issued a cease-and-desist order to Corsa for them to stop injecting their sludge water into the mine pool. Corsa is contesting that ruling, so now there will be an environmental hearing before a judge the week of February 15. Clark said Brian Greenardt, DEP's lawyer, did leave him a message yesterday wanting to talk about the issue. Faith said once litigation starts, all communications will have to go through the lawyers. Sarver said Attorney Michele Tokarsky offered her services to SCWA. All Faith can tell us now is that the California office received Corsa's application for an alternate sludge management plan and it is under review. It would include sludge drying beds on top of the refuse piles.

The group discussed supersedeas and temporary supersedeas; temporary provides a faster ruling from the judge regarding a stay on the order.

SCRIP will communicate any questions or comments to SCWA to share with Ms. Tokarsky, who will be the liaison with DEP's lawyer.

Reckner asked if the New Year's Eve spill has been cleaned up to a satisfactory condition. Sarver said there are hay bales, but it does not appear that any vacuuming has taken place.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clark will reach out to Luke Roles and Seese to check this status. Faith feels this is a separate order.

Faith believes any ruling by the Environmental Review Board can be appealed, but he's not sure where it would go then. The hearing is the week of February 15 to see if the order to cease injection is allowed to stay. The true appeal of the order is likely further down the road.

There has been no progress determining the Title IV eligibility of the discharge. That's in DC's hands now.

**ACTION ITEM:** Create an ad-hoc committee – Sarver, Hutchinson, Lichvar, Milavec, Clark, and Reckner to have a discussion with Tokarsky before the hearing, which will be done via Webex.

Hutchinson thanked SCRIP for paying for the samples that SCWA collected from the New Year's Eve spill and took to H2Environmental.

Crittenden said we've made a lot of progress. Initially, Corsa was only to pump sludge into the mine pool, but it's easier to inject water and sludge into the bore hole. He noted it was a loose permit.

Shustrick said the data logger is showing sharp spikes in water volume, consistently. **ACTION ITEM:** Clark to ask Luke Jenson for his Reitz #4 logger data.

## **Stonycreek River Progress Report**

### ***Oven Run***

Lichvar said Site E & F are reconstructed and functioning well. Wilson elaborated on the systems. He said designs are done for A&D; just waiting on funds. The contractor for Site B has started staging equipment.

### ***Soap Hollow Run***

Lichvar said there might be an additional planting this year.

### ***Lamberts Run***

Shustrick said the District is working with Hedin to get this project going. The final design should be done soon. Permits need secured.

### ***Incline Plane Discharge***

Eckenrode said Headwaters Charitable Trust received a Growing Greener Grant to contract St. Francis University and Tetra Tech to work on this discharge. It's not another feasibility study but will pick the best site and provide a 20% design.

### ***Wells Creek Discharges***

Lichvar shared info on these from the WCWA newsletter.

### ***New Fallen Timber Run Discharge***

Lichvar said it's still flowing.

### ***Bens Creek – Rock Tunnel***

Shustrick reminded that some sludge was removed in early fall. They want to do that again. The system needs some minor adjustments.

### ***Quemahoning Creek***

Lichvar said he viewed the Gondar discharge recently. Shustrick said Hedin is putting together a report using the Mass Balance completed by SFU. They are looking where else they could work in the watershed. **ACTION ITEM:** Clark and Eckenrode will look at historical data. Milavec was pleased to hear a Mass Balance was done and agrees, you don't want to overload the Boswell system. Boswell is not a BAMR system.

Clark said Matt Shank (DEP) sent him two studies on didymo. **ACTION ITEM:** Clark will share these with the board. Eckenrode said he was at the Que tailwater last week and couldn't find didymo.

Eckenrode said he has new multiparameter sondes that he'll be deploying soon in Que Creek and Elk Run. Reckner suggested he speak with Steve Grodis who monitors Elk Run for MLTU.

Eckenrode shared that HOB0 has a \$600 logger – Model MX2001 – that is a pressure transducer and can measure barometric pressure. Plus, it has replaceable batteries, and you can download data to your phone without removing the logger. Speak to him for more details.

### ***Stonycreek Riparian Buffers***

Lichvar said they have a potential project on a tributary to the Que Reservoir. Shustrick recapped the project.

### ***Stonycreek Trust Fund***

Lichvar reminded that the Somerset Conservation District has a trust fund set up at the Community Foundation for the for the operation and maintenance of the four Oven Run AMD treatment systems Donate via this link:

[https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit\\_id=3178](https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=3178).

He said CVC wants to do a match challenge for the fund.

## **Paint Creek**

### ***Babcock Creek***

Clark said limestone sand was applied to Babcock Creek and discharge D01 in November. He said Harsco is working on a way to put Mineral CSA material into a silt sock, which might have applications elsewhere.

### ***Mine 37 Refuse Pile***

Clark has an email into BAMR seeing if the Mine 37 Refuse could be funded and removed like the Ehrenfeld pile.

## **Shade Creek Progress Report**

### ***State Gamelands 228***

Sarver said he has a proposal from EarthShapers to get Phase 2 of this project started, which will bring old limestone from Oven Run to the 228 site.

### ***Lime Sanding***

Sarver said SCWA has limestone on the ground to push in at Panther, Berkebile and Shingle Runs.

Cotchen said he is working through permitting to limestone sand on Clear Shade. The DEP wants environmental site assessments done at each new sanding site. He applied for a grant extension.

### ***Other***

Sarver said Shade Township will have an electronics recycling program for Shade Township residents.

Crittenden said he has to run but is willing to help the board however necessary.

## **New Board Member(s)**

Hutchinson/Reckner made a **MOTION** to nominate Malcolm Crittenden to the SCRIP board for the position held by Herb Wilson. A discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried.

SCRIP's by-laws state board members may be removed if they are absent from four consecutive meetings. All directors are to be members in good standing, too, which is defined as a dues-paying member.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dryzal will reach out to Wilson to indicate what transpired. He said Wilson was an associate director with the CCCD in the past and had been asked to serve on the SCRIP board as a representative years ago, but health issues have kept him from meetings for the last several years.

SCRIP is interested in securing a new board member to fill Stefan Long's position.

### **Little Conemaugh River Progress Report**

#### ***Active Treatment Plant***

Milavec said she heard that Jon Smoyer took Dave Leiford's position at the DEP/BAMR.

**ACTION ITEM:** Milavec will invite him to the next meeting and ask him to provide an update on this project.

#### ***Saltlick Passive Treatment System Rehab***

Eckenrode is working on this with BioMost.

#### ***Gallitzin State Forest Reforestation***

Clark said PR is forthcoming.

#### ***Laurel Run Stream Bank Stabilization Project***

Dryzal said the District received their Growing Greener grant for this project and another to finish a project on the North Branch Blacklick Creek. Congrats!

#### ***Other***

Dryzal said the CCCD is doing a select-electronics recycling event on February 27.

Piper said he submitted comments on the Ohio River Water Plan and wondered if SCRIP did. Many were not aware of it.

### **Partner Organizations**

#### ***Center for Watershed Research and Service***

Eckenrode said the Center received some Growing Greener grants and an OSM grant to work with several universities to study co-treating AMD and sewage.

#### ***Cambria Somerset Authority***

Piper said there is an upcoming meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Reckner will invite Earl Waddell to the next SCRIP meeting.

#### ***Western PA Conservancy***

Cotchen and Shustrick said they are working to add large wood to Higgins Run. Cotchen knows a canoe access grant was approved along the Stonycreek, but he's not certain where.

### **Public Relations Reports**

### ***Education Committee***

Makuchan said the next newsletter deadline is Friday, March 5. **ACTION ITEM:** Send news to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net).

Reckner said this year's NatureWorks event will be virtual with presenters from six organizations livestreamed via the Bottle Works' Facebook page on Saturday, March 6 from 9 AM – 2 PM. A few pre-recorded videos will be dropped in and all will be available later on BW's You Tube. Makuchan will represent SCRIP, leading an activity on the properties of water.

### ***Fundraising***

Gorden doesn't see holding any events anytime soon.

### ***Website***

Clark will ask EPCAMR how they do online membership. Sarver suggested looking into CFA's membership donation form. Reckner noted that SCRIP's website has a link so folks can donate to its CFA fund.

### **New Business**

Reckner said William Brogan (DEP) apologized for not being able to make the meeting and said to reach out with any questions.

Lichvar said Ron Donlan recently passed away and was a key player in the formation of SCRIP and the acquisition of the Manufacturers Water properties. **ACTION ITEM:** SCRIP will send a card through the Funeral Home website.

Shustrick said Kim Rauch would like to see the Lion Mining treatment system site used more frequently for education. Clark said maybe we could have a future SCRIP meeting there. With its wetland, suggest it to Capouellez.

### **Next Meeting**

March 18 at 1 PM via Zoom.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Eckenrode said SCRIP has \$1,820.87 in its checking account. He had no update on the other accounts but reminded that the PA Invest has **\$6,660.68** and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies is \$10,514.54. Milavec/Piper made a **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourn 4:00 PM

Minutes by Reckner.