

SCRIP Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022

A SCRIP meeting was held on January 20, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Karlice Makuchan, Malcolm Crittenden, Pam Milavec, and Robb Piper.

The meeting was also attended by Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association, Tyler Crooks, the new PFBC WCO in northern Somerset County, and Sam Faith & Dave Thomas of DEP.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Clark.

Introductions were made.

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

Election of Officers

Reckner/Piper made a **MOTION** to retain the same slate of officers as last year. All in favor. Motion carried.

SCRIP currently has 12 directors, and the by-laws call for 13. After a brief discussion, Piper/Milavec made a **MOTION** to accept Dave Leiford as a board member if he's eligible (past 1 year of retirement from DEP) and willing, as he previously indicated. All in favor. Motion carried. **Action item:** Sarver will reach out to Leiford and also give Reckner his contact info.

Secretary's Report

Reckner reported that SCRIP had 42 dues-paying members in 2021, up two from the previous year. She sent out membership renewal reminders to about 15 people who had joined in January and February.

Treasurer's Report

SCRIP Treasurer Jim Eckenrode reported via email that SCRIP's checking account has \$3,910.33 and that there are no changes to the PA Invest or Community Foundation accounts. He needs to cut checks outlined in the previous meeting minutes.

Clark reminded that a coal company did not make a donation to the Green Drinks as it had committed. Crittenden will follow up.

Partner Organization Reports

Clark said there is a need for a regional, spatially oriented data management tool. **Action item:** Reckner will follow up with Three Rivers Quest to ask for the fact sheet about their database.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said if anyone has info on Benscreek that could be incorporated into the Story Maps, let him know. Field work is planned for this spring.

Stonycreek River

Stonycreek Trust Fund

Lichvar reported that it is just shy of \$50K. Donations always welcomed. Makuchan will put it in the next newsletter.

Oven Run

Lichvar said Site A was put online in December. All four systems for which the District is responsible have been revamped and are running well. More water will be treated now than when they were first built.

He reported that DEP's system, Site B, is treating water and the pH of the effluent is good. It's not 100% online yet since that work is weather dependent.

The District figures they have, conservatively, \$300K of staff time in the O&M of these systems. There are yearly costs, thus, the District is planning an angling tournament on May 21 on Clear Shade Creek as a fundraiser. Stay tuned for details.

Clark noted that passive treatment systems aren't really passive.

Wells Creek Discharges

Faith said the DEP is working on an order to dewater the Kimberly Run mine and treating the water will likely be part of that. It will take time.

Quemahoning Creek

Lichvar said the tail water habitat project is underway.

Little Conemaugh

Dryzal said, regarding the active system, that DEP is still working through property purchases. Lichvar said Mike Timcik told him they're trying to connect the Hughes and Sonman mine pools and are working with the Jamestown Rod and Gun Club. They're not sure how to get Miller Mine Shaft discharge into it, and it might be treated separately.

Paint Creek

Clark said the group has been limestone sanding the last few years and for the first time ever, Babcock Creek, downstream of D1, was over a 6 pH. It's mid-5s further down. So slow gains.

Clark reviewed a proposed tree planting in the watershed that would put 1400 trees of 20+ species in previously mined lands. This would be an excellent volunteer opportunity for SCRIP members, and a planting of about 2 acres will be planned this year.

Piper had shared a link to a short video describing this work: [Restoring Legacy Mined Lands in Appalachia | One Tree Planted - YouTube](#).

Regarding the Mine 78 expansion in Windber, Reckner said DEP will accept comments until the end of this month. Clark shared a map outlining areas he would like to see reforested, since those lands around the mine had been forested in his youth. It would be about 215 acres. Crittenden/Milavec made a **MOTION** to submit a letter to DEP asking that this area be reforested, as Clark outlined. Reckner asked that native oaks, cherries, and willows be used. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reckner said PCRWA/MLTU's annual litter cleanup in the Little Paint Creek watershed is slated for April 23 at 8:30 AM. Contact her for details.

Shade Creek

Clark noted that the infrastructure bill will infuse a huge amount of money into PA. Lichvar said DEP's Luke Jensen reported that the Reitz #4 discharge should return to its original chemistry now, but they do not have enough data yet to make that determination, although they are sampling monthly. **Action item:** SCRIP should sample the discharge after this snow melts.

Sarver said the amendment for SGL228 is at NRCS. Sarver said he did reach out to Metzgar's office about the issue, and they are asking for more info. They do not anticipate being able to waive the \$1300 fee. Sarver said 228's intake is plugging a lot, so they're working at it; Hutchinson even hurt his shoulder doing so. He said they are seeing a 6+ pH in Dark Shade Creek at DS1.

Sarver reported polluted water coming off PBS' job into Coal Run. His meter showed a pH of 12! DEP is to sample it.

Shade Township approached SCWA and said water is coming out of a pond at the Shade landfill that's very muddy. Sarver reported that to DEP, too.

Sarver said the SCWA office is moving to the Shade Township municipal building.

He said a kid's rodeo is planned on Laurel Run on April 16.

The Cottagetown system is being flushed continuously and now the valve used to flush system is broken. The group suggested SCWA ask WPCAMR for quick response funds to fix it.

Hutchinson said he had a meeting with Berwind, which seemed open to making an agreement so they could sample.

Public Relations

Makuchan said March 3 is the deadline for the next SCRIP newsletter, and she reviewed the articles she has so far. **Action item:** Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

Makuchan recognized Clair Dumm's passing. **Action item:** Piper will speak with Dryzal to write something for the newsletter.

Reckner asked Sarver if St. Francis University has the results of their eDNA fish survey, as that would make for a good newsletter article, perhaps for the summer issue.

New Business

Reckner shared that through Brandywine Conservancy, she is coordinating a State Symbol Series that will have experts highlighting the flora and fauna of Pennsylvania. Also, Andy McAllister and Warren Mitchell will lead a program on bonsai. All of these are virtual programs. See the following site for details and to register. www.brandywine.org/conservancy/events

Next Meeting Date

Thursday March 24 at 3 PM. Location TBD.

Adjournment: 6:36 PM