

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.**  
**Windber Hotel, Windber, PA**

A SCRIP meeting, held on January 16, 2024 at the Windber Hotel, was called to order at 3:08 p.m. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Adam Cotchen, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gorden, Larry Hutchinson, John Dryzal, Jeff Sarver, Jackie Ritko, and Karlice Makuchan. Robb Piper joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Sam Faith and Dave Thomas of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Dina Cable and Tyler Crooks of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Dave Maher, Dave Wright, Pat Buchanan, and Pete Mishko of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited, and Tom Clark of Kleinfelder.

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

**Secretary's Report**

Reckner reported that SCRIP had 39 dues-paying members in 2023, which netted \$1,480. Membership goes a year from the month a person joined. She recently sent 12 postcard reminders out to those who joined or renewed their membership in January and February 2023.

**Treasurer's Report**

Eckenrode emailed and said SCRIP has \$3,908.19 in its checking account with one, standard check to Recharge Web Design outstanding.

Eckenrode reported that the Cambria County Conservation District will be administering the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy's accounts, and thus SCRIP's account.

**Election of Officers / Board**

Reckner/Makuchan made a **MOTION** to retain existing officers for another year. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Guests**

Mishko said DEP is going to make a project near Lake Stonycreek with coal refuse removal and water treatment. A few volunteers are collecting water samples.

**Partner Organizations**

*Cambria Somerset Authority*

PFBC representatives said there will be an event on May 8-9, 2024 that will highlight lake habitat and related work at the Que, and schools will be involved. SCRIP may be invited to participate.

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

Cotchen said the last round of Growing Greener was announced, and the Chuck and Chuckies project on the South Fork was fully funded. It will likely be a 2025 construction project.

### **Stonycreek River Progress Report**

Lichvar said the Oven Run trust fund is back to \$50K, but he's trying to revive its notoriety to raise more funds. The District will work with the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to do a direct mail campaign. He shared a QR code, too. They are discussing a more visual, passive display at a public venue, like Greenhouse Park, with the QR code. They are also discussing the development of a brew, with a local brewery, with a portion of the proceeds going to the fund.

Lichvar said the Clear Shade permit for the large wood addition is not yet secured.

The District has a contractor sampling the Gondor discharge.

Lichvar said, in December, there was another oil spill in the Stonycreek River Watershed. Specifically, it was a heating oil spill from a house along Dark Shade Creek.

Lichvar shared a photo of a fisherman from Pittsburgh who caught a large brown trout in the Que tailrace.

Lichvar shared a summary of the South Fork of Bens Creek Wild Trout Surveys.

### **Shade Creek**

Sarver said the Gahagen project is in the works.

SCWA wants to host a kids rodeo at the Reitz #1 system and an open house at their office to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Sarver said he will be submitting two grant applications for "Joey's Jackets."

SCWA is finalizing paperwork to proceed with the "Big 4" investigative project.

Faith said DEP's final report regarding the Reitz 4 discharge is not yet done, as they want to ensure the discharge quality stays below baseline. It has fluctuated a bit and so PBS needs to

continue monitoring it, probably for a year yet. Mark DeJohn is putting all water quality monitoring data in a spreadsheet.

Sarver mentioned a sub-F point near PBS Job 12. Thomas said no one wants the liability associated with removing that refuse, which is owned by PBS, especially since there is a deep mine in that area that could be opened accidentally. Thomas said, on another project, it cost \$27/yd to cover a pile. SCWA/DEP could check to see if Good Sam protections would apply.

### **Little Conemaugh Progress Report**

Ritko said the District was awarded Growing Greener grants, including one for the second phase of the Laurel Run project.

### **Public Relations**

Makuchan said March 8 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).

Makuchan said SCRIP will be one of a few organizations present at the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra's "Growing Our Future" event before and during intermission of their "Mountaintop Masterpieces by Perry and Brahms" concert on February 10, 2024. Makuchan and Crittenden will represent SCRIP.

She said NatureWorks is slated for March 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the BottleWorks with the same format as in the past. Makuchan and Hutchinson will lead SCRIP's activity of making chalk colored with iron oxide. She will check to see if SCRIP needs more iron oxide.

At the last meeting, Gorden had mentioned choosing a date soon, if enough volunteers would help, to co-host another educational activity this summer with PFBC, be it an Intro to Fishing or Kayaking program. Reckner said, if Sarver is successful with securing grants for Joey's Jackets, that perhaps a joint program could be done honoring that project. Sarver could coordinate that effort. Cable and Crooks said the application period for PFBC's "["R3" education grants](#)" that support fishing and boating is open now through March 1.

### **New Business**

Lichvar said the Keystone Coldwater Conference is slated for February 23 & 24 and registration is open on the PATU website.

### **Next Meeting Date**

March 5, 2024 at the Fifth on Scalp Avenue at 3:00 p.m.

Sarver/Reckner made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 4:05 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.