

SCRIP Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2022

A SCRIP meeting was held on March 24, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Malcolm Crittenden, Pam Milavec, James Eckenrode, Jr., Joe Gorden, and Dave Leiford.

The meeting was also attended by Sam Faith of DEP, Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association, and Aaron Capouellez.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM by Clark.

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

Treasurer's Report

Eckenrode reported that SCRIP's checking account has \$2,985.33 and that there are no changes to the PA Invest or Community Foundation accounts at this time. He has some reimbursements due to Makuchan and Reckner for newsletter/membership costs. The \$1000 check was cut for the Stonycreek Trust Fund. Reckner/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Partner Organization Reports

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Eckenrode reported that Saint Francis University is sampling the Inclined Plane Discharge. The school's flyfishing club is planning a small tree planting along Soap Hollow Run with MLTU.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

John Wenzel, former director of Powdermill Nature Reserve, was recently named Executive Director of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said he'll be starting the visual assessment on Bens Creek next week and to help, contact him. Cotchen also said they're about ready to start on the large woody debris project on Higgins Run.

Stonycreek River

Stonycreek Trust Fund

Lichvar reported that it is over \$51,000. The District is considering applying for a DCED grant to help with Oven Run Site E.

Quemahoning Creek

Lichvar said the fuel spill source was found after several weeks and has been addressed.

Other

The District did send in a request to WPCAMR for assistance to upgrade Rock Tunnel. Lichvar said he spoke to Kathy Shaffer, owner of the Tackle Box in Hooversville, and said a grassroots initiative will be required to address the Fallen Timber discharge.

Paint Creek

Clark said, per our last meeting, SCRIP sent a letter to DEP about the Mine 78 expansion. SCRIP is not for/against coal mining, but said strong reclamation practices should be used.

Clark said various agencies are working together to reforest the headwaters of Paint Creek (50 acres on Jack Stefanko's property). Volunteers are needed to help plant tree plugs on April 9 from 9 AM - Noon. Lunch will be provided. Sign up by April 4 at <https://forms.gle/nx1hXKzity9FdqqH9>.

Reckner said PCRWA/MLTU's annual litter cleanup in the Little Paint Creek watershed is slated for April 23 at 8:30 AM. Volunteers are needed and are to meet along Berwick Road.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said the Shade sewage authority is hopeful that something will happen with the large AMD in the area.

He said SCWA moved into the Shade Township building, which offers more space.

Sarver said a blow out at Reitz #1 dumped water in residents' yards. The DEP flushed the pipe and kicked out a lot of iron. The treatment system's VFR is plugged up and that's contributing to the backup.

Sarver said Luke Jensen told him that two of the four discharges might not be included in the Big 4 active system. The two Reitz #2 discharges are so low in metals, they may not be worth it. The QHUP sampling should have modeled whether they do affect Dark Shade Creek. **Action item:** Sarver will request the results of the QHUP sampling from a few years ago.

Sarver shared that SCWA submitted a permit amendment to swap out intake at the Gahagen system. That paperwork will cost \$1300. Perhaps SCWA could reach out to WPCAMR and request Quick Response Funds to help. **Action item:** Clark to set up a meeting with WPCAMR and SCWA.

Sarver said a kids fishing rodeo is planned in April at the Reitz #1 / Laurel Run site.

Cotchen said he reached out to Berwind to improve the dosing site at Berkebile Run, but hasn't received a response yet. They are working on data loggers to monitor the dosing's impact.

Capuleez said he founded a nonprofit organization this year focused on the conservation of frogs, toads, invertebrates, and plants. He has started filming for Frog Week 2022 and is hosting frog walks. Contact him to co-host a Frog Walk or to have him complete amphibian surveys. aaron_capouellez@yahoo.com

Little Conemaugh River

Jon Smoyer told Dryzal that DEP intends to put out an RFP later this year for the active treatment plant design. Clark said there's still chatter about getting the Sulfur Run borehole to the St. Michael system. DEP will own the St. Michael treatment plant after 15 or 20 years, and it went online about 2012. A discussion followed.

Dryzal said there is an upcoming meeting to discuss the South Fork L. Conemaugh discharges. There has not been much guidance on infrastructure bill funds and how they may be spent. Dryzal met with Senator Langerholc this week and spoke a lot about AMD.

Dryzal said there is a tree planting at 1889 Park on April 9, too.

Milavec/Eckenrode made a **MOTION** to accept Dave Leiford as a board member. All in favor. Motion carried. He accepted. Leiford will try to attend the South Fork L. Conemaugh meeting.

Public Relations

Action item: Send items to SCRIP's newsletter editor at karlice@atlanticbb.net.

Action item: Gorden said he will reach out to Mandy Smith (PFBC) to discuss a summer boating or fishing event to co-host. Clark would like to see SCRIP have quarterly programs.

New Business

Lichvar said Brad Clemenson is planning a music event to raise funds for conservation.

Eckenrode shared a spreadsheet that showed how variable water quality data was among four local laboratories from one sample, collected 2/1/22, of the Inclined Plane discharge. They're using similar methods.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday May 26 at 3 PM at SCWA's new office in the Shade Township Municipal building located at 1221 #1 Road, Cairnbrook.

Reckner/Cotchen made a **MOTION** to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 6:36 PM