

SCRIP Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2022

A SCRIP meeting was held on March 26, 2022 at the Shade Creek Watershed Association's office in Central City. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, Adam Cotchen, John Dryzal, Joe Gorden, Karlice Makuchan, Robb Piper, and Dave Leiford. Jim Eckenrode, Jr. and Malcolm Crittenden joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Sam Faith of DEP and John Wenzel of CVC. Dave Thomas of DEP joined the meeting in progress.

Hutchinson welcomed all to SCWA's office.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM by Clark.

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

Guests

Wenzel introduced himself as the new Executive Director of the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. He has been in the position since March.

Partner Organization Reports

Center for Watershed Research and Service

Eckenrode said he downloaded a logger on Shingle Run. Cotchen said limestone dosing will occur in the next few weeks. Eckenrode said SFU is almost done with their part of the Incline Plane discharge - monitoring and testing - and then it's up to John Deitz of Tetra Tech to develop a 30% treatment design, which is expected by the end of the year. Water might go to Johnstown Wire. Eckenrode said SFU is testing several of USGS' Chuck Cravotta's hypotheses, including one on Rare Earth Elements.

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

Wenzel said quarterly sampling is coming up and welcomes input from volunteers. He said it's inspiring to see what's happening on the eastern side of Laurel Ridge.

Hutchinson said SCWA requests reimbursement from SCRIP for sampling Reitz #4/MD31.

Action Item: SCRIP to reimburse SCWA for Geochemical Testing fee. The monitoring frequency of this discharge was discussed. DEP DMO & BAMR and PBS are monitoring the discharge. Jay Winter of DEP is compiling and graphing the data. Thomas said the iron is trending down, pH is dropping, and alkalinity is lowering. Hutchinson should focus monitoring efforts on high precipitation events... monitoring a couple days after a heavy rain event.

Western PA Conservancy

Cotchen said he helped with some Trout in the Classroom field days, and he continues efforts on Bens Creek. They will be electrofishing on June 13. He is collaborating with SCWA about dosing reports.

Stonycreek River

Quemahoning Creek

The tailwater habitat project is under construction right now. Treatment of the Gondar discharge was discussed.

Eckenrode said BioMost finished construction at Oven Run Site B, and an intern is creating as-builts this summer. He said they're looking at Puritan Run in the L. Conemaugh watershed. There is a limestone bed and limestone batch system, which fills in an hour, sits for maybe 12 hours, and then empties at the same time. SFU is checking the efficiency of this treatment method.

Paint Creek

Clark said 50 acres were reforested in the headwaters of Paint Creek. A professional planting crew installed 33,000 trees in a day and a half! SCRIP's proposed volunteer tree planting effort did not go through due to a lack of volunteers.

Clark said PCRWA received the needed DCNR permit today to finish the Babcock project.

Ridge Energy is removing a portion of the Mine 42 coal refuse pile through a GFCC. Clark said Crevel Supply may be putting in a satellite office there.

Reckner reported that four volunteers removed 15 bags of litter and just 4 tires during this year's litter cleanup along Berwick Road. There is a newly identified tire wall that will need removed in the future.

Clark shared that SCWA and PCRWA should discuss consolidation.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said SFU is coming on June 4th to sample macroinvertebrates at 6 sites. SFU still has a logger on Shingle Run; Hutchinson would like a copy of those data. He said SCWA secured another extension for SGL228, making this year 8. A Coanda Screen is to go in. DS1 (Dark Shade at Lambert St.) is measuring a pH of 6. Cotchen said they are dosing on Shingle, Panther and Berkebile this summer. WPC and SCWA approached the water authority about revamping the Central City Reservoir on Beaverdam Run to allow for fish passage. Cotchen is to inquire if American Rivers can assist. Hutchinson explained some work on Reitz #1 system, and the goal of redoing that system.

Eckenrode said it would be nice to sample the mouth of Shingle Run again. Stream Team had done it years ago.

Clark shared that infrastructure fund guidelines were issued earlier this week. Everyone should check them out.

Clark said the Cresson plant is running better, but DEP is still working to pull down the pool so they can manage water during a precipitation event.

Little Conemaugh River

Dryzal said the ATP – Active Treatment Plant – design may be put out for bid this fall.

A \$28 million bid was awarded for construction of the Wehrum ATP.

OSM is working to model a program using set aside funds to support existing and pending systems, including Shade Creek's. Cartright and Casey introduced the Stream Act.

Dryzal recapped who was at the South Fork L. Conemaugh meeting on March 29. He said it was a good meeting. They know money is coming and it's now or never to clean up lots of discharges. Sulfur Creek borehole should be transported to the St. Michael treatment plant. Dryzal said the mine pools of other discharges need surveyed to see if the St. Michael ATP is large enough to accommodate them.

Dryzal said he heard there might be \$25 million of AMLER funding from 2021 to be partially designated for SCRIP. WPCAMR spoke of maintaining an O&M crew.

Public Relations

Action item: Makuchan said June 2 is the deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at karlice@atlanticbb.net. She recapped ideas she has to date.

EVENT: Gorden said a Family Fishing Event will be held on June 16 from 6:30 – 9 PM at the Que Family Recreation Area. Four volunteers are needed. **Action item:** Reckner to email the board and members who have said they'd like to volunteer. Makuchan could set up an online registration if PFBC doesn't do it. All board members are expected to help publicize the event.

Thomas said there is a 4-day fishing camp for kids in Hooversville on June 20-24. Register at the Tackle Box: <https://tystacklebox.com/>.

Reckner thanked TIC instructors for assisting with this year's release days.

New Business

At the WPCAMR meeting, attendees discussed the need for a regional O&M position.

NFWF Central Appalachian grants are due in July. They want an extreme emphasis on reforestation. Send sites and acreages to Clark. Green Forest Works pays for the trees and often the workers, which counts as match.

Reckner said Penguin Court is co-hosting a Pollinator Photo Challenge. There are categories for adults and youth. Submissions due August 5. Prizes will be awarded at the “Monarchs, Milkweed and More” event on August 21 in Ligonier. Details may be found here: www.brandywine.org/photo-contest.

Gorden said Don Meyers, co-owner of The Launch in Foustwell, said we could meet at their pavilion. Thomas shared that Seanor was previously called Livingston and that steel was made there before it was made in Johnstown.

Next Meeting Date

July 21, 3 PM at [The Launch](#) which is located at 2856 Seanor Road, Hollsopple, very near the boat launch on the Stonycreek in Foustwell.

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

Adjournment: 5:06 PM

Hutchinson shared that A River Reborn will be shown at the Silver Drive-In on June 28.