

## **SCRIP Meeting Minutes**

**July 21, 2022**

A SCRIP meeting was held on July 21, 2022 at the Stonycreek Launch in Foustwell. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Melissa Reckner, Karllice Makuchan, Robb Piper, Malcolm Crittenden, and Pam Milavec.

The meeting was also attended by Jeff Sarver of Shade Creek Watershed Association, Jackie Ritko of Cambria County Conservation District, John Wenzel of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, Dave Thomas of DEP, Tyler Crooks with PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Dave Wright with Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited.

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

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

Via a text, Jim Eckenrode reported that SCRIP has \$3,084.07 in its checking account. We have a bill to pay from Recharge Web Design and Reckner has a couple receipts for SCRIP's P.O. Box annual rental fee and stamps. Sarver/Makuchan made a **MOTION** to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

A few stories about Randy Buchanan, who recently passed away, were shared and a moment of silence was held. SCRIP will make a donation in his memory once those details are known.

### **Partner Organization Reports**

#### ***Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team***

Wenzel bought several new handheld meters, which have a 2-year warranty, for volunteers. A few two-hour macroinvertebrate ID workshops are coming up. Contact him for details.

### **Stonycreek River**

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

Lichvar said the trust remains around \$50K. It is meant to be a long-term trust. Lichvar/Milavec made a **MOTION** to contact Senator Toomey and ask him to support the STREAM Act. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### ***Quemahoning Creek***

Lichvar said the tailwater habitat project is still under construction. Rosebud is closer to being allowed to revamp the Jenners Treatment System.

### ***Oven Run Re-dedication Ceremony***

Lichvar said the District will hold a re-dedication ceremony on Thursday, September 1 at 11:30 AM at Oven Run Site D along Route 403. Senator Casey is slated to speak. A tour and lunch will follow.

Lichvar said the South Fork Bens Creek stream improvement is going on now and that the woody debris addition on Higgins Run is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August. Quick Response funds will help tweak Rock Tunnel.

Thomas said Ridge Energy is using a GFCC to remove old refuse in Stoystown and is utilizing water from Oven Run Site F for dust suppression. They may bring back fly ash to amend the soil.

Clark said he has access to papermill sludge, which has a high pH. Clark used it to amend soil for food plots, but it might not be economical to truck far distances. It is classified as hazardous waste.

### **Paint Creek**

Clark said 35K trees were planted on 50 acres this spring in the headwaters of Paint Creek. He saw the site last week, and there is good survivorship.

Thomas and Clark discussed the GFCC at Mine 42 in Windber.

The Cooney trust fund is 99% completed.

### **Shade Creek**

Sarver reported that the SGL 228 system is working. He was creative with stones to hold back sediment. SCWA's permit amendment came back with some questions. Their grant extension request was submitted. Limestone dosing is occurring at Shingle, Panther, and Berkebile Runs. Adam Cotchen with Western PA Conservancy is working with American Rivers to potentially take out an old reservoir on Beaverdam Run. SCWA wants to host an open house this fall to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Clark said he spoke with a DEP rep, who said a treatment plant for Shade Creek is still in its que. Ground was broken for the Wehrum plant. Design is moving forward on the L. Conemaugh, which might result in 2 systems there. Thomas said iron and pH are still trending down at the Reitz #4 discharge. Water quality has to return to pre-injection quality to show Title V activities did not affect it. DEP's Jay Winter is retiring next week, so someone else will be reassigned to review those data.

### **Little Conemaugh River**

Ritko said they are working with PFBC on projects along Blacklick Creek. She noted that 5 of the 9 projects the District submitted to Growing Greener are in the L. Conemaugh watershed.

## **Public Relations**

**Action item:** Makuchan said September 8 is the deadline for the next newsletter. Send items to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net). She recapped ideas she has to date.

Reckner said Jessie Kohan, the educator at Blue Knob State Park, will be hosting a Growing Up Wild workshop on August 11 from 9 AM – Noon at the park. It's an excellent curriculum guide for working with children ages 3-7. To register, contact Kohan at [jkohan@pa.gov](mailto:jkohan@pa.gov).

Via email, Gorden reported on the Family Fishing Program SCRIP and PFBC did in June. Despite a nasty forecast, 17 of 22 registrants participated. PFBC's Kristi Niekamp did an excellent job. Thanks to Gorden, Makuchan, and Lichvar for assisting. If future events are coordinated, additional volunteers will be needed. SCRIP's handouts and display are "woefully out of date" and need updating. **Action item:** Find someone to update SCRIP materials and create a display.

## **New Business**

A regional O&M position is sorely needed to alleviate the pressure on the NPOs that are largely responsible for the care of treatment systems. DEP used to have staff out of Slippery Rock that did such work. The DEP has an Environmental Trainee position open. Thomas said BAMR expects to add over 70 positions. Perhaps a few could be used for this work. **Action item:** Clark will speak to Jon Smoyer about it.

Clark said the NFWF Central Appalachian grant round is closed now, but they are looking at reforestation of mine sites especially to support early successional species.

Nation TU has created priority watersheds and the Laurel Highlands is one of those focal geographies. Aimee Wolfe applied for funds to do a planning document. Much of the work will be geared towards specific species like brook trout and climate change impacts.

A discussion about the influx of funds for remediation followed. Clark said he believes DEP is preparing to accept quarterly grant applications and that the first round might open in October. He's already preparing applications, since Jon Smoyer shared draft documents during his presentation at the AMR Conference. Scroll to find that presentation on this site:

<https://2022.treatminewater.com/presentations/>.

Lichvar said the Concert for Conservation will be held Saturday, September 17 at Peoples Natural Gas Park in Johnstown. Three bands will play from 4:30-9 PM. \$20 ticket in advance or \$25 at gate. Several conservation groups will benefit.

## **Next Meeting Date**

September 15, 3 PM potentially in Portage.

Reckner/Sarver made a **MOTION** to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.  
Adjournment: 4:39 PM