

SCRIP Meeting Minutes

May 7 2026 @ 3:30 p.m.

Malcolm's Cabin, Foustwell

The May 7, 2026 meeting of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project was called to order by Chairman Adam Cotchen at Malcolm Crittenden's cabin at 3:43 PM. It was also attended by SCRIP Board Members Melissa Reckner, Karlice Makuchan, Len Lichvar, Larry Hutchinson, Joe Gorden, John Dryzal, Robb Piper, and Malcolm Crittenden.

Other attendees were Pete Mishko, Mike Maurer of Pheasants Forever, Tom Grote of Shade Creek Watershed Association, John Wenzel of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, and Kenton Ganster of Somerset Environmental Solutions.

Crittenden welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Maurer/Makuchan made a **MOTION** to approve the March meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Piper shared a written Treasurer's Report noting that SCRIP has \$3,352.88 in its checking account, adding that SCRIP has \$8,905 in its PA Invest account. He said the bank was given a copy of the March meetings minutes for the removal of Jim E., Lenny L., and Joe G. from their signature record. Reminder: Bank statements are dated the 12th of each month and these report dates and balances are based in the SCRIP Board meeting dates. Hutchinson/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Guests

Ganster gave a summation of his work with maelstrom oxidizers. Please reach out to him if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

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Partner Organizations

Bottomlands Conservancy

Lichvar said there has been no movement on the railroad agreement needed to remove some refuse near Oven Run.

They have worked with Pheasants Forever to complete plantings at the Boswell treatment system and a few other places.

Lichvar helped with a tour of AMD sites for Garrett County Community College students.

Cambria Somerset Authority

N/A

Center for Watershed Research and Service

N/A

Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

Wenzel said CVC is submitting a Growing Greener grant application to support Stream Team functions. BAMR has changed the grant guidelines making it more difficult to secure one grant to monitor 30 treatment systems.

Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

Reckner said members have been busy supporting Trout in the Classroom in seven schools with Release Day activities beginning in April and continuing through May.

Mishko said Kathleen Lavel (sp?) is working to study macroinvertebrates and fish on Boon Run near Lake Stonycreek.

Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association

N/A

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Lichvar said SCRIP was present at the PFBC's annual event at the Que for students. Gorden made a really nice display about macroinvertebrates.

Pheasants Forever

Maurer said they provided seed to Bottomlands Conservancy and the Somerset County Conservancy for projects. They will be at an educational day on June 20th beginning at 9 AM at Mensers Bottom.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Cotchen said they received a grant to do strategic wood addition (SWA) at Stewarts Run. They continue to work on Dark Shade's SWA project, and they are pursuing funds to work on Dalton Run. Cotchen has been helping with TIC projects, too.

Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Grote reminded that the AMR Conference is set for October 20-22, 2026 at the Harrisburg/Hershey Conference Center in Grantville, PA. There are scholarships available to help NPOs attend. Find details at www.treatminewater.com.

Grote said, in 2027, the AMR Conference will be held in conjunction with the American Society of Reclamation Sciences in Pittsburgh.

Stonycreek River Progress Report

Via email, Greg Shustrick reported:

- Rock Tunnel BIL award issued for design, consultant TBD

- Piney Run large wood project, slated for third week of June
- North Fork Bens Creek, bridge/ large wood project- permit in process
- Laurel Hill Creek fish habitat project – permit in process
- Oven Run Site E: Since 2018/19 rehab veg has overgrown some outlets/inlets of each treatment cell & the system was plugged with roots and there was more than one short circuit. SCD received funding from SRI to have Stoy Excavating repair system. System intake was unplugged and SAP forebays were cleaned out, system outlet was also opened up. Site is operational as of MAY 1, 2026
- SCD plans to re-submit Growing Green App to remove abandoned Windber Water Auth. dam on Piney Run. If funded project will reconnect over 15 miles of natural reproduction wild trout stream in the Piney basin to the greater Clearshade & Shade Creek watersheds.

Shade Creek

Hutchinson said SCWA is working to secure landowner agreements while the application for Phase 2 of the active treatment plant is under review.

SCWA hosted a Fishing Rodeo for kids and had 200 trout stocked in Laurel Run. Shade-Central City High School also released their TIC trout into Laurel Run.

A young angler caught a trout in Dark Shade Creek just upstream of Whispering Pines Road!

Little Conemaugh River Progress Report

Dryzal said the PACD Technical Assistance Team is no longer funded.

Public Relations

Makuchan said June 5 is the deadline for the next newsletter. **ACTION ITEM:** Please send articles and upcoming events to Makuchan.

Old Business

Lichvar reminded that June 28th is the Crossing the Que event in Boswell. SCRIP will have a table there. SCWA will, too.

New Business

There was a discussion regarding the board of directors. Technically, Lichvar is not on the board since he is no longer with the conservation district; however, he was renamed SCRIP Vice-Chairman at January's meeting. Gordon made a **MOTION** to add a position to the board of directors. Reckner said it really should be two positions to keep with an odd number. Dryzal wants to review the by-laws. Reckner will send them for review. People should send their comments/proposed changes to Piper a week before the next meeting.

Reckner said SCRIP was invited to an event celebrating the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail on June 28 from 9 – 3 at PNG Park in Johnstown. She noted this would overlap with the Crossing the Que event. SCRIP opted not to attend the LHHT event.

Reckner said Brandywine Conservancy's Penguin Court is spearheading an initiative to certify 250 properties in the Laurel Highlands as [Monarch Waystations](#) – habitats that support monarch butterflies in all of their life stages – as a way to honor the nation's 250th anniversary. Properties must be in Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, or Westmoreland Counties and applications have to be sent to Penguin Court to be included. Speak to her if you have questions. You may find the application at www.brandywine.org/penguin-court.

Maurer/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

July 9 at 3:30 p.m. at Greenhouse Park.

Hutchinson/Reckner made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 5:03 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes kept by Gorden and Reckner.