

**SCRIP Meeting Minutes**  
**November 1, 2023 @ 3:19 p.m.**  
**Coal Miner's Diner, Jennerstown, PA**

A SCRIP meeting held on November 1, 2023 at the Coal Miner's Diner was called to order at 3:02 p.m. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Len Lichvar, Jim Eckenrode, Melissa Reckner, Joe Gorden, Larry Hutchinson, John Dryzal, Jeff Sarver, Dave Leiford, Malcolm Crittenden, Jackie Ritko, and Karlice Makuchan.

The meeting was also attended by John Wenzel of Conemaugh Valley Conservancy and Sam Faith of the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

Sarver/Wenzel made a **MOTION** to accept the September meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Eckenrode said SCRIP has \$3,935.19 in its checking account.

**Partner Organizations**

***Center for Watershed Research and Service***

Eckenrode said the Laurel Highlands Conservancy is run by Ed Smith, who donated land to CSA as their Hinckston Run property is adjacent to it. The Conservancy has an Environmental Education Center that has good public access. Perhaps SCRIP could meet there in the future.

Eckenrode said the Center received an OSM grant to look at rare earth elements.

***Conemaugh Valley Conservancy***

Wenzel said a meeting will be held at JAHA on November 29 for water within rural communities. Registration is required, as lunch will be provided. He will forward details for distribution soon.

***Cambria Somerset Authority***

Lichvar said there will be an event on May 8-9, 2024 that will highlight lake habitat and related work at CSA properties in Cambria County. SCRIP may be invited to participate.

**Stonycreek River Progress Report**

Lichvar said the Oven Run trust fund continues to receive some donations, but could use more PR.

Crittenden said he's building a cabin in Foustwell along the Stonycreek at which SCRIP could potentially meet in the future.

Lichvar doesn't have an update on the oil spill in Carpenter's Park.

Lambert's Run is on hold as that project needs revamped.

The District is going to sample Que Creek above and below the Gondar discharge to see if it could be treated.

Lichvar said the District did a stream habitat project on the South Branch of Bens Creek, and it's been vandalized. The perpetrators installed a gate on the guard rail, cut logs, and ran their ATVs through the stream. It's been reported to the PA Fish and Boat Commission, who is investigating. The District is considering signage.

Lichvar said SRI will refurbish the trompes at Rock Tunnel this month.

He said the District has asked PFBC to revise its fisheries management program and consider the impacts of conservation efforts.

### **Paint Creek**

Reckner shared an email from Wenzel that says Rosebud Mining Company is seeking to expand its Mine 78 operations. There will be a public meeting on November 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Windber Recreation Park.

Sarver said the Mine 37 project was permitted, a road installed, and refuse is being removed.

### **Shade Creek**

Sarver said SRI is replacing a valve at Cottagetown. SCWA received a Growing Greener grant extension to put in the Coanda screen at SGL228.

He said Saint Francis University will be collecting macroinvertebrates in the watershed this month.

Sarver shared that SCWA's Research and Development grant application was approved for the Big 5 project. A discussion followed.

Faith said DEP is developing a mine pool GIS project out of their California office with a goal to have a 3D modeling program to determine how mine pools interact with each other. They'll start in the SW part of the state. They have several proficient GIS technicians and geologists available who could comment on the Shade Creek project. A discussion followed.

Shade Creek Watershed Association will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Stay tuned for details!

### **Little Conemaugh Progress Report**

Ritko said the District received a grant to design the removal of a spoil pile above Beaverdale. Dryzal said policies and procedures for procurement and fiscal management of federal funds are unclear (CFR200). FPW is looking at it, and, at the AMR Conference, Branden Diehl of FPW said documentation is very important. A procurement attorney is \$1,800/hour, though. Basically, the government wants to ensure there is no fraud. A discussion followed. Ritko noted that the first round of grant awards have not yet received their contracts, and it's been six months.

### **Public Relations**

Makuchan said December 1 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).

Reckner said a limited number of conservation organizations will be sharing information about their groups before the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra concert on February 10, 2024. SCRIP will have a table that she can staff. This event is geared towards adults.

Reckner said the NatureWorks event will be March 9 at the BottleWorks with the same format as in the past.

Eckenrode questioned if the District has ever worked with a sportsmen's club in Loretto regarding a dam removal, and Dryzal said they have.

Lichvar said he'll be speaking at the Benscreek Canoe Club Christmas party this year.

### **Old Business**

Lichvar said the amendment was removed from HB 1300 by the House of Representatives. Public comment did have an impact. Langerholc sent SCRIP a response, which was shared with the SCRIP Board of Directors.

Faith said they've been monitoring MD31 – the Central City firehall discharge (Reitz #4) – and DEP and the company believe its back to baseline. The company wanted to stop monitoring it, but DEP said no; they will still need to sample it. It is a Sub F site. Faith said there were a few blips where water quality went above the 95<sup>th</sup> confidence, hence the desire for additional monitoring. Monitoring will continue for at least one more water cycle, and then they can put a report together, but Title V should not be a problem now. Leiford asked that DEP put that in

writing so BAMR can move forward. Faith will be speaking with John Stefanko within the week.

### **New Business**

Sarver said the parents of the young man who drowned in the Quemahoning Reservoir is developing a project called “Joey’s Jackets” to make PFDs available for free for use at the Quemahoning. The family approached Benscreek Canoe Club for assistance. Sarver said SCWA will be the applicant to help secure life jackets, as there are some grant programs that do this. Reckner said there was a very positive response to the initial email shared with SCRIP followers. Eckenrode suggested approaching UPMC, as they give away bicycle helmets and lights. He said to contact Glendale Lake / Prince Gallitzin State Park for a contact. Lichvar noted that PFBC has a “Wear it” program. Faith is a member of Boat U.S. and noted their foundation supports such things. It is one of the grant programs Sarver identified.

Gorden said if SCRIP is planning to have another education event, that we should plan it at the January meeting. He noted we need board/volunteer participation, though. Crittenden, Lichvar, and Reckner, as well as Dave Wright from MLTU, assisted with the 2023 Intro to Kayaking program.

Hutchinson said SCWA wants to have a kids rodeo in May at Laurel Run. The Beavertdale Trout Club will hold some fish for them. There might be a tour/picnic, too, later in the year to celebrate SCWA’s milestone anniversary.

Hutchinson said the [West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium and International Mine Water Association Congress](#) will be in Morgantown, WV on April 22-26, 2024. It was noted that several groups are researching AMD sludge for rare earth metals.

### **Next Meeting Date**

January 16, 2024 at the Windber Hotel at 3:00 p.m.

Reckner/Dryzal made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 4:41 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes by Reckner.