

Little Juniata River Association Meeting

March 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Bill Anderson, President.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was the “**Wet Fly Guy**” **Dave Allbaugh**. He gave us an interesting PP presentation and video on this effective and traditional fly-fishing method. Dave is a fly - fishing guide, an avid supporter of LJRA and is an LJRA business sponsor. Visit his website at -- <http://www.wetflywaterguides.com/>

Rutters

Gary Miller gave an update regarding the latest developments of the Rutters Project which now has approval from PADEP. Rutters has a schedule to ensure that devices for underground storage and infiltration are working properly. The problem, however, is that DEP is trusting Rutters to carry this out and do the right thing. Rutters schedule for inspection is weekly or after a quarter of an inch rainfall. They will supposedly have a rain gauge on site. There is one point of egress for the storm water to flow from that site which is a culvert under Sabbath Rest Road that enters Sandy Run, an Exceptional Value Wetland. We should consider putting some gauges on that culvert as it enters the wetlands to monitor temperature, conductivity and other parameters. Hopefully the Conservation District will assist in doing this and if not we should do it ourselves. This should be done as soon as possible to get a baseline to compare before and after data. We should also monitor this during construction as there will be sedimentation, etc. coming down through the culvert pipe at that time. We will need to work out what the nature of those parameters are which need to be established up front to start measuring in Sandy Run and the culvert. There are one hundred thirty acres available for development. Rutters will use twenty acres. There is a possibility that several other businesses will be there to take up the rest. All will drain into Sandy Run. Each new business will be required to get a permit. We will need to challenge each new site as it comes up. A committee of three, Gary Miller, Al Budinsky, and Denny Johnson will get together and determine what we need to do to set up the monitoring for baseline information.

Rutters is also proposing a site in Huntingdon near the old Crow Wetlands. There will be a public hearing for that project at some point. This is not in our watershed and not in our scope but we follow it as we are concerned any time we see this sort of thing happening.

Annual Riverbank Clean-up

Our clean-up of the river bank will be April 15. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Methodist Church in Spruce Creek or 9:00 A.M. at New Pig. Carl Reed and Bill King will be in charge of the upper river cleanup and Bill Anderson for the lower river. This is our nineteenth year for this event. Hopefully there will be a good turnout.

Member's Banquet

Our summer Member's Banquet will be June 3 at the Rivers Edge which is just upstream from the Spruce Creek Bridge. More information will be forthcoming.

Election of officers and board

Every year we are required by our by-laws to hold an election to reaffirm and fill any openings we have for our board of directors. At the directors meeting last February we elected to add two directors to our board of nine. A nomination from the floor was to add Gary Miller to fill one of the open director

positions. There was a second to this motion and this was carried by a majority vote of
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members present. Gary stated that he is willing to assume this role as director. There is still one opening to be filled. If anyone has a recommendation, let us know and this will be acted on at our next meeting. A motion was made to reelect all existing members. There was a second to this motion and was carried by a majority of members present. The LJRA bylaws will be revised to provide to increase directors from 9 to 11 and to add the officer position of Vice President. This new officer position will be filled at a later date.

The lease on the quarry property was renewed for another year. Bill thanked everyone who donated to this cause. \$5,000 was paid to New Enterprise Stone and Lime to keep this area open for fishing. New signs have been posted for the current year's

A question was asked about the Altoona combined sanitary sewer/storm sewer outflow. There is an ongoing study by the Altoona Water Authority which has been in the process for about three years and is to be completed in two more years. They are studying the impact of combined system outflow bypass which happens after every one half inch rainfall. **In 2018 there were fifty bypass events of raw sewage being dumped into the river.** It definitely has a detrimental effect on the macros in the river. Bill proposed that we do some macro studies on the upper river. We have the equipment and we have the protocol. We should do some of the old sites that we have done before so that we have baseline information for those sites. As part of this study, we should show the clear contrast between the area upstream where they do the flush and downstream as far as Tyrone. We need some young guys with good knees to volunteer for this study. Altoona is the second highest city in regards to dumping millions of gallons of sewage into the river being surpassed only by Harrisburg. LJRA Life Member and Environmental Engineer, Al Budinsky will compose a letter to DEP concerning this and send it to Bill to be forwarded to DEP.

With no other business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made, seconded and passed by common consent. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. Our next meeting will be held on April 13th same time and place.

Lee Pryor
Secretary