

Little Juniata River Association
Meeting July 13, 2023

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

Directors present were: Bill Anderson, Carl Reed, Angi Spagnoli, Bill King, Denny Johnson, Logan Stenger, Scott Kavanaugh, Ron Kunz and Lee Pryor.

Summer Banquet

The LJRA Summer Banquet went well. We had 65 in attendance. We should book the same site for next year as soon as possible. Thanks to Eric for shuttling people back and forth. Thanks also to the committee for organizing and setting everything up.

Rutters Project

Angie and Eric reported on their findings. They tested for total dissolved solids, turbidity, and 8 metals that are associated with construction. All metals came back nondetected. For turbidity there were two sites tested. Upstream from Rutters and one at the confluence of Sandy Run and the Little Juniata. There was a major spike in turbidity when comparing the upstream sample with the confluence sample. The next step will be to determine what's causing the turbidity. We will continue to monitor rain events to be sure they are operating within their permit. It was noted that an amendment to the original Rutters permit has been requested but we have not at this time been able to determine what the amendment is. We received a \$5000 grant from the Foundation for PA Watersheds to cover testing and equipment. About one fifth of this grant has been used at this point. If it runs out, we will find another grant. Bill noted that John Dawes is retiring from the Foundation for PA Watersheds. He has been a friend and solid supporter of LJRA and will be greatly missed. Bill received an email from Beth Futrick, of the Blair County Conservation District, informing him that grant funds are available for stream projects which we will take advantage of if needed.

Wreck on I99

There was a wreck on I99 with corrosive material possibly spilled. So far there is no evidence of stream contamination.

Fort Roberdeau

There has been an ongoing project at Fort Roberdeau to remove invasive and plant native species. They have many volunteers that are going to continue with this project to do the removal and planting as needed.

Logan Stinger Report

In April, Logan completed water quality assessments at three locations in the Little Juniata Watershed. Those sites are as follows: Little Juniata River below Lower Riggles Gap Bridge, Sandy Run above old 6th Avenue Bridge, Little Juniata River above East Pleasant Valley

Boulevard bridge before DelGrossos. The goal of this assessment was to collect three sets of water quality data in the form of water chemistry, habitat, and macroinvertebrates. Specifically using macroinvertebrates, he collected and calculated an index of biotic integrity (IBI). This score is one of the main ways DEP will list streams as impaired. Beginning from the Riggles Gap Bridge to DelGrossos is considered impaired. Also the IBI score for Sandy Run showed it to be impaired. Being impaired doesn't necessarily mean that these streams are unhealthy. There are still a lot of fish present in them. What it does is rank these streams a lot higher for grant proposals for stream improvement projects. It would be interesting to do more detailed monitoring of these areas. This data serves as a baseline to build on. Directors were emailed copies of this report and Logan has offered to email a copy to any others who are interested. Further studies of this nature would be helpful to compare with Altoona Water Authority's study. This study has been ongoing to determine the impact of the combined system outflows on the river. They want to use conductivity as a major indication as to whether the combined system outflow is having a negative effect on the river. We are arguing that there is much more to take into consideration than conductivity. We will invite them to attend a meeting to discuss these issues.

New Projects

We are going to explore Bald Eagle Creek to find erosion sites and other sediment contributing problems. There are reports that a lot of mud has been seen coming from the mouth of the Bald Eagle stream. If anyone has any other suggestions, let Bill know.

Questions

What is the status of the Walker and Jacobis easements? Bill stated that the Walkers have never been paid. The title search uncovered problems that were turned over to an attorney in Hollidaysburg who is not moving on it. Bill called their office several times and has not gotten a response. The Jacobis easement has not happened due to the demise of Betty Jacobis. The next step may be to talk about this with her children who are now in charge.

What is the status of the lease with NES&L? The lease has been paid by a grant from a new member. Donations continue to keep coming in to help with this payment. We will continue to talk with Fish and Boat to ask for their support of this cause.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed by common consent.

Lee Pryor
Secretary