

Little Juniata River Association Meeting
October 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Bill Anderson, President. Directors present were Bill Anderson, Scott Kavanaugh, Carl Reed, Angi Spagnoli, Logan Stenger, Denny Johnson, Gary Miller and Lee Pryor.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Dr. Peter Petokas. Dr. Petokas gave a presentation on the ecology and conservation of the eastern hellbender salamander. We thank him for an educational evening and for all the excellent work he does to conserve this species.

Rutters Project

Bill Anderson gave a synopsis of the Rutters project and what the LJRA has been doing to try to ensure that proper procedures are followed to protect the Sandy Run Wetlands and the Little Juniata River. Eric Oliver reported that there have not been any problems recently due to no heavy rainfalls. Also, they have made changes putting permanent installations in. They have grass growing and they have put geotextile matting down and are starting to install the rain infiltration system. We will continue to monitor the site and do water testing after every significant rainfall. Gary Miller reported that there are plans for underground storage for run off as well as a rain garden with native species. There is concern that if we have a season with heavy rainfall that these backup systems will fail and the run off will go in the river creating a big problem.

Bells Gap Run

At the August meeting there was discussion concerning relocating brown trout from Bells Gap Run to the Little Juniata. Denny Johnson reported that there has been no further progress on this as Fish and Boat needs to be involved. Denny and students from Juniata College did a survey of this water. They found a large population of fish. The lower section had more brown trout. The higher up they went, they found more brook trout. Their study verifies that there is a healthy population of fish in this stream. They are also planning to do a survey for macroinvertebrates which will require additional help for that study.

Bells Gap Reservoir Project

The Bells Gap Reservoir project continues as a source of sediment. The Water Authority lost their permit to take their dredged material to Reed Township. They are piling the sediment up and every time it rains hard, a large plume of sediment goes down into the river. At this point, they have not found another location to dispose of this material. A motion for adjournment was made and carried by common consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Lee Pryor, Secretary