

Little Juniata River Association Meeting
December 14, 2023
Minutes

The LJRA met at the Bull Pen for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order by Bill Anderson, President at 7:00pm. Directors present were Bill Anderson, Scott Kavanaugh, Denny Johnson, Logan Stenger, Joe Reese, Gary Miller, Bill King, and Lee Pryor.

Rutters Project

Bill Anderson gave a report on the Rutters project which is moving fast. The building is up and it looks like they are about to pave the parking lot. There has not been any significant rain events recently to give us suitable samples to measure for substances that might adversely affect Sandy Run and ultimately the river. We have a \$5,000.00 grant to pay for doing the sampling and have spent about \$3,000.00 so far. We are applying for another \$5,000.00 grant which will carry us through ongoing testing. Our goal is to make sure they remain in compliance with the regulations as stipulated in their permit for effluent coming off the project site.

Recent Juniata College Brook Trout Survey on Bells Gap Run

There is concern about the growing numbers of brown trout in what should be a brook trout fishery and what can be done about it. The starting point for this is to find out how many brown trout are there and what is the percentage of brown versus brook trout. Juniata College led by Denny Johnson, George Merovich, and a group of students did pack electro fishing of Bells Gap Run. This was done in mid to late October. Denny stated that they were there on two occasions. The first time they did two sites about a mile above where Shaw Run comes in. At that location they found 45 brook trout to 5 brown trout. They came back about two weeks later and did where Shaw Run crosses the road and found 20 brook to 15 brown trout. When they did below Shaw Run, they found almost exclusively brown trout. They also did below the reservoir and found that there was almost no fish present. This may be partly due to the dam project and huge amounts of sediment flowing down after rain events. The question becomes is it a worthy project to consider removing some of the brown trout and second, what is the projected improvement that we would expect. Would this actually be beneficial to the brook trout? This remains to be discussed with Fish and Boat biologists. Denny voiced concerns over how it would be physically difficult considering the amount of equipment to be taken in, the very steep terrain, and a limited parking for trucks on a narrow road. Bill reiterated that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to take the brown trout out because with the dam being gone, many of the brown trout have made their way down to the river. Once the dam is rebuilt, you will again have a dam containing many brown trout so there is much to be considered.

Guest Speaker Kurt Wagner – Pennsylvania Rural Water Association

Kurt gave us an interesting PP on the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association and what it is all about. It's a state wide association of water and waste water utilities. They are part of a national organization of about 1,500 members. Kurt is a source water specialist.

Bill met Kurt at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Watersheds and Rivers. Kurt offered to do an inter-active river map for the Little Juniata. There was much discussion as to what information should be put on the map. Some of the questions and ideas are as follows:

- parking sites to be included?
- should it be made public or should it be just for LJRA members
- include sites where improvement projects were done
- should it show the results from sites that were surveyed for fish population
- include access points
- private land issues?

A motion was made to have a meeting of directors to finalize what will be included on the map. The motion was seconded and carried by majority vote. This meeting will be held at Bill Anderson's house at 7:00pm on January 10.

The next regular meeting of the group will be on January 11 at 7:00 P.M. at Marzonis. A motion to adjourn was made and carried by majority vote. The meeting ended at 8:40 P.M.

Lee Pryor
Secretary