



TCCCC, Inc.
P.O. Box 124
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www.tcccc-inc.org
2016 Newsletter #1

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS HELD: At the General Membership Meeting held October 20, 2015, the following individuals were elected to the positions noted:

President – Charlie Andrews
Vice President – Mike Bogaczyk
Secretary – Joyce Andrews
Treasurer – Joyce Andrews (Acting)

Two new members of the Board of Directors were elected for 3-year terms with terms beginning January 2016:

Al Boyer
Roy Siefert

Remaining members of the Board are:

Chuck Freeberg
Jack Vogler
Larry Smith
George “Buddy” Brooks

The TCCCC would like to thank Tom Augustine and Chuck Andrews for their many years of service as Board Members.

TCCCC SCHOLARSHIP: The TCCCC Scholarship Application is available for download on the website. Applications must be received by May 1, 2016.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: We hope you will continue to support the TCCCC by contributing to our Membership Drive. Dues remain unchanged but additional contributions are always greatly appreciated. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the address noted by March 1, 2016.

TCCCC-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES: Please complete the brief ‘questionnaire’ on the Membership Form to indicate your interest in the activities indicated. We would like to increase participation of our membership base and while we realize most people are not looking for another meeting to attend, perhaps you would be interested in participating in a tour of the new Fall Brook AMD Treatment Projects, in a watershed cleanup day, or in adopting a Tioga County corporation or civic organization to keep them informed about watershed reclamation efforts.

WATERSHED UPDATE

Water Treatment Begins on Fall Brook: Two separate treatment systems began treating four Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) discharges to the Fall Brook tributary in November of 2015. These projects would not have been possible without the generous funding and support of Southwestern Energy (SWN).

North Side of River Road Treatment System: A drainable limestone bed and a polishing/flush pond on the north side of River Road captures AMD from three separate small discharges and routes the polluted water through an underground network of pipes to a limestone bed where the water is retained for a designed period of time before discharging into the polishing/flush pond. Following retention in the polishing/flush pond, the water is discharged into Fall Brook.

South Side of River Road Treatment System: The south side system treats one large AMD discharge to Fall Brook. Three limestone beds were constructed to address the increased volume of AMD polluted water. Separate polishing and flush ponds were constructed.



Water samples taken below Fall Brook Falls to capture the results from both AMD treatment systems indicate an increase in pH from 3.6 to 7. Increasing the pH is only one component of the water chemistry that impacts the ability of fish and bugs to survive. Aluminum, iron, and manganese levels are also critical. It will take some time to purge the stream and Tioga River of the build up of these contaminants that coat the rocks and streambed. It is hoped that fish stocking in the Tioga River below the confluence of Fall Brook can begin in 2017. While fish may be seen in this section on occasion, it will take time for sustainable populations of bugs and plant life to return and hold the fish.

FALL BROOK HEADWATERS PROJECT: We are continuing to treat the headwaters of Fall Brook via the in-stream lime-dosing site established in 2011. The on-going operation and maintenance costs are funded by the watershed coalition. We sincerely appreciate Ward Township's donation of labor and equipment to add the limestone sand to the scour pool.

THANK YOU! To everyone that has worked so hard to help reach this milestone in reclaiming the Upper Tioga River Watershed, we would like to say "THANK YOU! for all of your hard work, volunteer time, and financial support. The support of the community and never giving up when so many thought it could not be done is what helped draw the attention of the DEP, our County Government, and finally Southwestern Energy to invest in the watershed and begin the process of restoring the Tioga River.

Thank you for helping with numerous fundraisers, lobster bakes, bake sales, stream and roadside cleanup events, writing letters of support, attending meetings and field trips to learn about treatment systems, financial support and donations of time and equipment to help construct and install the weir, the flumes, and collect water samples. Below are a just a few photos of the people involved in two of our largest projects and one of the stream cleanup events.



Participants – 2007 watershed cleanup event.

TCCCC & Hillside volunteers that constructed and installed the weir on Fall Brook DFB099.



TCCCC & Hillside volunteers that installed the flumes on 3 small AMD discharges to Fall Brook.

MORRIS RUN TRIBUTARY: Three flumes have been installed, water samples and chemical analysis are being conducted on a scheduled basis, and the GIS mapping of the underground mine complex has been completed. Data will continue to be collected and analyzed through 2016 to assist in the development of treatment alternatives. This project is funded by a grant from the Department of Community & Economic Development Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program.

BEAR CREEK TRIBUTARY: The TCCCC applied for and received a \$10,000 donation through Shell Oil's Environmental Grant program. These funds were used to install a flow monitoring station and data logger on Bear Creek, purchase a rain gauge equipped with a data logger, a shuttle to read the data loggers and download the information to a computer, and consulting time to review and analyze the data. The information obtained from the rain gauge is used throughout the watershed to study the relationship between rainfall and increases in AMD discharge flows.



Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Eric Potter and Deb Sawyer – Shell, Joyce and Charlie Andrews – TCCCC, and Amanda Peterson – Shell.

BARNEY'S HILL/7 LAKES: The Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, has awarded a contract to Berner Construction to regrade and revegetate approximately 68 acres in Hamilton Township in the area known as Barney's Hill/7 Lakes. This area was extensively deep and surface mined for coal. There are mine pools that are likely leaching contaminated water into the deep mine complex, and ultimately into Bear Creek.

By accumulating water chemistry and flow data history for Bear Creek, we will be able to determine what affect the reclamation will have on the AMD pollution impacting this tributary.

SAVE THE RIVER PROJECT: The TCCCC, on behalf of the watershed coalition, is soliciting 2016 donations to the *Save The River* project. While we specifically solicit larger donations from corporations and civic groups, anyone can donate to this effort that is seeking to accumulate funds that are being invested for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses for future AMD treatment systems and as matching funds for government grants. Government grants to fund the construction of treatment systems are only awarded if there are funds committed for the long-term O&M expenses. Because O&M is expensive, we need to begin building up our reserve so that we have a substantial amount invested when the next treatment systems are constructed.

CHECK THE WEBSITE: Please visit www.tcccc-inc.org to stay informed.

The Officers and Board of Directors sincerely appreciate your interest in and support of the TCCCC!