

WPCAMR Quarterly Meeting
May 17, 2007

Watershed Coordinator's Report
Andy McAllister

PROJECT SITE VISITS , PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Attended two meetings of the Citizens Advisory Council; Harrisburg.
Attended one meeting of the Mining Reclamation Advisory Board; Harrisburg.
One Loyalhanna Creek projects update meeting; Greensburg
Participated in two planning meetings for the NW Regional Watershed Conference to be held in June 2007; Oil City & Franklin
Participated in two meetings for the South Sandy 319 Watershed Implementation Plan project to select the consultant that will be working on the Plan; Franklin

GENERAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND MEETING/EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Attended the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium and served as moderator for two sessions; gave a presentation about the Title IV educational efforts and presented the first public screening of the Draft Title IV film; Williamsport
Attended the West Virginia AMD Conference; Morgantown, WV
Continued writing Abandoned Mine Post Newsletter articles and, with the patient tutoring of Mr. Gerard, began training on how to continue Abandoned Mine Posts after his term is up in mid-May.
Created the first video version of the "Life in our Streams" series of WPCAMR's Abandoned Mine Posts and released it to the public on the associated Abandoned Mine Post and on WPCAMR's websites as flash video on May 11th.
Compiled and wrote meeting minutes for the previous WPCAMR quarterly meeting.
Drafted and released one Press Release concerning the Legislature's Watershed Awareness Month Resolution and one Press Release about the PA DEP Roundtables and SMCRA educational video.
Gave presentation about AMD and stream ecology to several groups of sixth graders as part of the Washington County Children's Water Festival; California

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No official Conservation District outreach meetings were conducted during the quarter. However, the Watershed Coordinator continues to work with the Elk County Watershed Specialist on ideas for AMD educational materials development and attends planning committee meetings for the upcoming NW Regional Watershed Conference put on by the NW Region Watershed Specialists and organized by Lance Bowes of the Venango County District. Also, the Watershed Coordinator at the request of Clinton County's Watershed Specialist and with assistance from the Regional Coordinator, drafted a support/commitment letter to assist Clinton District's efforts to obtain Growing Greener funding to update their Tangascootack system. Also, the Watershed Coordinator visited a potential remediation site in Butler County with Watershed Specialist, Ryan Harr to examine possible remediation strategies and ways that WPCAMR can assist with remediation efforts in their watersheds.

Title IV Educational Efforts/AML Campaign

In an effort to time the release of the Title IV educational film ahead of the public roundtables, most of the Watershed Coordinator's work this quarter centered around teaching himself the finer points of several filmmaking computer programs while finishing the SMCRA Title IV film and assisting the Regional Coordinator with his efforts to develop other Title IV educational materials. During this past quarter and part of the previous quarter, the four chapters of the Title IV film were written, storyboarded, audio recorded, filmed, screencasted, and continuously edited over a period of 15 weeks. Post-production edits took one week and the final draft was completed on May 4th. OSM Vistas Jeff Gerard and Stefanie Chitester proved to be an immense help in the project, reviewing audio and video and providing editing assistance. Mr. Golden continuously provided direction, co-wrote the scripts, and interviewed on-camera. The Title IV video was rendered to flash video and has been made available to the public on WPCAMR's website since May 9th. DVD production is occurring at the time this report is being written and should be completed shortly after the WPCAMR May 17th 2007 board meeting.

During the quarter, WPCAMR staff traveled to Harrisburg and showed portions of the draft Title IV film to the Citizen's Advisory Council and Mining Reclamation Advisory Board meetings. The draft versions of the film were well received by both of those committees. Also, WPCAMR Regional and Watershed Coordinators met with legislative staff in Harrisburg to explain the details of how the amended Title IV program operates and worked with AML Campaign members on a letter to the PA Legislators.

Additionally, the Watershed Coordinator, along with other representatives of the AML Campaign, met with Governor Rendell and Secretary McGinty in Harrisburg to discuss Title IV funding and other AML initiatives and thanked the Governor for his support in getting SMCRA reauthorized. The Watershed Coordinator continued to participate in Title IV educational sessions conference calls to clarify duties and discuss the particular needs of the educational component of the Department's proposed public roundtables. At this time, it appears that the public meetings/educational sessions are slated for the end of May through the first week of June.

2007 AMD CONFERENCE

WPCAMR staff continues to assist EPCAMR with organizing the 2007 AMD Conference to be held in State College on July 20 through 21st. Staff assisted Ms. Chitester in her efforts to obtain WREN grant funding for this year's conference. Speakers are being lined up and other details are also coming together.