

VISTA Quarterly Report-WPCAMR Board Meeting  
Stefanie Chitester  
May 17, 2007

### **WPCAMR**

- Continued working with Turtle Creek Watershed, did some grants research, worked on her website, recommended she get a VISTA, board was unsupportive of the cost share but it looks like she will be able to get a summer associate at no cost for 8 weeks
- Wrote WREN grant (main application, partner forms, budget) and submitted in support of AMR conference
- Wrote a nomination for WPCAMR for the Western PA Environmental Awards, for which John Dawes wrote a letter of support, unfortunately didn't win.
- Began the process of starting a new watershed group dedicated to the conservation of the Monongahela River Watershed in the Mon Valley, Friends of the Mon", based in Western Westmoreland County. Our first activity is a road adoption and clean up near the small tributary Speers Run which is impacted by AMD to be held on May 19. I have registered the event with PA Cleanways and the Great PA Cleanup. The township is picking up the trash for us. Local businesses and individuals have donated money to cover publicity costs and food for a hot dog roast afterwards.
- Friends of the Mon will be my second watershed group in addition to Turtle Creek. I have attempted to contact the other two suggested at the last meeting by emailing the conservation districts and got no response. So I am still looking for a third watershed group. I would really like contact info for Mountain Laurel in Somerset and Wolf Creek in (Mercer?). I didn't really get enough information last time and since I didn't know anyone's name, I don't remember who told me about them.
- Finished my work plan
- Had a booth at Westmoreland Earth Day at St.Vincent College
- Attended West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium, obtained scholarship to cover cost
- Attended Nonprofit Summit in Pittsburgh, obtained scholarship to cover cost
- Presented to local elementary students about AMD and watershed awareness in conjunction with PA watershed awareness month and Americorps week

### **ACCWT**

- Wrote press release about former OSM/VISTA site in Crellin, MD that received the Presidential Environmental Youth Award, was published in Pittsburgh OSM Regional Newsletter
- Attended several Green Media Tool shed trainings
- Wrote draft of VISTA recruiting brochure
- Held 2 conference calls with Northern coalfields VISTAs
- Attended Southern Coalfields Training-Fiscal Sustainability Track-learned a lot about board development, fundraising and grant writing

- Wrote PR about Southern Coalfields Training in conjunction with the Southern Coalfields Coordinator
- Attended Northern Coalfields Training-Water Monitoring Track-learned a lot about water sampling, chemistry, AMD treatment
- Wrote Quarterly Report for ACCWT
- Wrote personalized PR to announce Americorps Week for all Northern VISTAs, including myself, and sent to their local newspapers, my local newspaper has agreed to print pictures of the watershed awareness presentations and the clean up.