

# WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

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## **Quick Response Continues to be Successful**

We've continued to have applications for our Quick Response program this quarter. The program continues to be a successful avenue for funding for urgent repairs of Growing Greener eligible projects. Currently, we are expending funds from Quick Response IV which has a deadline of June 30, 2012. We've received our up-front funding from Quick Response V and just recently received the fully executed Quick Response VI grant contract.

With the Board's approval, we would like to apply for Quick Response VII for the upcoming round of Growing Greener, whenever that round opens up. We would like to apply for same amount as for Quick Response VI, \$130,000.

## **DEP White Paper: Utilization of AMD in Well Development for Natural Gas Extraction**

For the past several weeks, DEP has been trying to address comments/questions that arose from the public meetings regarding the use of AMD by the shale gas industry. It appears that DEP is getting closer to releasing the final white paper. We have heard no firm date yet as to when the final version of the white paper will be released.

## **The Potential For WPCAMR's Involvement With A Mine Water Use Project**

WPCAMR was approached by a shale gas company to be involved in their use of AMD water for their gas extraction activities. At the February WPCAMR meeting, I gave a synopsis of how the industry would like us to be involved with this mine water use project. At that February meeting, I was instructed by the board to examine our involvement this potential project with the help of an "ad hoc"-type of committee. I will be reporting my findings at this meeting and my recommendations for moving forward if the Board chooses to do so.

## **Planning for a Forum To Discuss AMD Use By Gas Industry**

Together with Trout Unlimited, I've been working on putting together a forum in June to discuss the challenges and potentials for the use of AMD by the gas industry. I have a date set at June 28<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to have the Conservation Districts where gas reserves and AMD resources overlap get together with select watershed groups in that same area and representatives of the gas industry and DEP to discuss hurdles and ways to make the idea of using AMD a reality. As soon as I get a venue set up, I will be sending invitations out. This forum will be by invitation only.

## **LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP**

### **House Bill #1659 in the PA General Assembly**

In November, House Bill #1659 was taken up by the House and subsequently passed. As I read it, it appears that this Bill proposes to privatize DEP's permitting processes. Apparently, all of the permitting. At the time of my learning about this bill, I talked to DEP and they were examining the Bill. It is my understanding that this bill is still Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

### **Senate Bill #1346 in the PA General Assembly**

In November, Senate Bill #1346 was introduced in the Senate. The sponsors are: Kasunic, Yudichak, Soloby, Hughes, and Fontana. The Bill was referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in the Senate on the same day. In a nutshell, the bill addressing liability issues for landowners and shale gas companies who wish to use AMD for gas well development. As I read this bill, I became aware that it doesn't address the issue of nonprofits being involved. The last action reported on this bill is that it was referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy on November 21, 2011.

I have been told that the sponsors of this bill have been working with the DEP and the Industry on crafting better language for this bill and including members of our non-profit reclamation community within its scope.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **WPCAMR Strategic Planning**

Since the February meeting, the WPCAMR Strategic Planning efforts have been going strong. Tom facilitated meetings to revise the plan. Tom will be present to update the Board on the strategic planning activities.

### **2012 Statewide AMR Conference**

WPCAMR is the lead organization for the 2012 Conference. The dates for the Conference are August 2-4, 2012. The venue for the Conference will be the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College. We continue to flesh out the details of the conference but, at this time, our general theme will deal with working with industry. This draft theme and the resulting presentations, we hope, will showcase partnerships with the active mining industry and the shale gas industry and provide opportunity for industry to interact with watershed groups. The website for this year's conference is:

[www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com)

Anne will provide more information on the activities surrounding the conference planning in her report.

### **WPCAMR's Annual Audit**

I have been supplying Henninger & Associates with information required for our annual audit. They have just about completed our annual audit. We will have the audit results and management recommendations at the August WPCAMR meeting.