

WPCAMR  
**Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2015**  
**Westmoreland Conservation District Barn, Greensburg PA**

**In attendance:**

Denny Beck, Cambria CD, President	Cassandra Allen, Evergreen Conservancy
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD Delegate, Vice President	Rob Piper, Cambria CD Delegate
Greg Phillips, Treasurer	Alex Veto, Armstrong CD
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Shaun Wessel, Jefferson CD
Anne Daymut (Staff)	Grace Pesselato, Jefferson CD
Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration, Inc.	Jay Hammond, private citizen
Rob Cronauer, Westmoreland CD	Eric Cavazza, PADEP
Jared Zinn, Green CD Delegate	Gary Stokum, Washington CD
Ron Horansky, PA DEP	John Stefanko, PA DEP
Amy Wolfe, TU	Betty Conway, US EPA Region 3
Adam Cotchen, Indiana CD Alternate	Pam Milavec, PADEP
Brook Esrey, Indiana CD	Cassandra Vivian, private citizen
Chelsey Walker, Westmoreland CD	Dave Beale, Armstrong CD
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD	Emilie Rzotkiewicz, Allegheny Land Trust
Rachel Kester, TU	Melissa Reckner, KC Stream Team

**WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:04am with Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

**Secretary's Report** (Denny Beck):

Review of past meeting minutes.

**Motion (Piper/Phillips) to accept the November 2014 minutes. Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report** (Greg Philips):

See report for details.

**Motion (Cotchen/Williams) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.**

**Approval of 2015 Membership, Delegates and Alternates**

**Correspondence** (Andy McAllister):

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Regional Coordinator's Report** (Andy McAllister):

See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.

**Watershed Coordinator's report** (Anne Daymut):

Wrong report included in packet. Anne will send out correct report and update website.

## **Special Presentations:**

**John Stefanko, PADEP Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations**

**Amy Wolfe, TU, Update on the OM&R Workgroup**

## **Conservation District/Agency/Watershed Association reports (All present):**

Those in attendance reported on current and future activities within their respective organizations that relate to WPCAMR interests.

- Denny Beck discussed several new treatment systems. He noted that the Miller Shaft discharge is actually discharging from another mine. Rob Piper followed up with a report on Erenfeld Abandoned Mine site's possible reclamation. This could clean up 20 acres of AML.
- Amy Wolfe reported that the TAG will enter in its 11<sup>th</sup> year with another grant this year. TU is aiding in research and use of manure to treat AMD.
- Ron Horansky noted that some of his systems are converting to Hydrogen Peroxide. He has 4 sites under primacy bond forfeiture ready for construction. EPA has a grant program available for AMD treatment.
- Jim Eckenrode is waiting for Cresson plant to be constructed.
- Greg Phillips noted that Bernie Hoffnar is back in PA and plans to attend the Conference.
- Chelsea Walker announced that a discharge on Pine Run may soon be addressed. The Conservation District is hosting a Watershed Networking Dinner.
- Jared Zinn reported that Green does not currently have any projects going, but he mentioned the ground breaking and progress of the Mather pile.
- Dave Beale noted on a couple of AML restoration projects. They have also received a GG grant for an AMD project on Huling Run.
- Rob Piper noted that he contributed information to Datashed and the OM&R workgroup. Dee Columbus is retiring.
- Adam Cotchen noted that Bear Run is seeing tremendous rehabilitation. They are hoping for the Weirum discharge will be addressed soon. Brook Esrey noted that Evergreen Conservancy is installing a Trompe at Tanoma Wetlands.
- Gary Stokum is monitoring a lot with dataloggers.
- Shaun Wessel noted the progress the county has made in current AMD treatment projects.
- Kelly Williams discussed the maintenance and monitoring of projects that the conservation district is working on. Two new systems will be constructed this summer. Morgan Run will also have two AMD treatment systems constructed this summer. The Anderson Creek Watershed is going to begin monitoring for improvements. They are hoping for an active treatment system in Little Anderson. Kelly had two projects that were not funded this round.
- Missy Reckner reported that the Stream Team received a grant that will allow them to add a biological component to their sampling of the systems they are responsible for. She has multiple Trout in the Classroom projects that have AMD components. Paint Creek was able to stock trout for the first time in 80 years.
- Cliff Denholm noted that Stream Restoration Inc has a grant to provide emergency maintenance to ailing AMD treatment systems. He asked that any new sites being constructed add information to Datashed.
- Betty Conway reported that EPA has formed a Good Sam workgroup and she would like to come to our meetings in the future.

- Eric Cavazza began a discussion about the OSMRE proposed budget. See Andy's report for more details. Andy welcomed comments on this discussion, which he will pass along to DEP.
- Pam Milavec announced that the draft set-aside guidelines are going to be published in the PA Bulletin at the end of February. The Cresson plant is getting close to construction after many real estate issues and some technology updates. Weirum is in the design and feasibility phase right now and may be ready for construction in summer 2016. During this round of Growing Greener, they funded 6 projects with set-aside funds that are in Qualified areas. The West Branch of the Schuylkill River may soon be a QHUP. Pam noted that the "R" in OM&R now stands for Rehabilitation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **OSMRE Proposed Budget and how it affects WPCAMR.**

**Discussion of Future Activities for WPCAMR, reinstate financial and marketing committees, applying for private foundation funding, Consider membership dues for non-profits, increase conservation district dues, OM&R trust fund admin**

**2015 WPCAMR Meeting Dates: May 14, 2015 in Ebensburg, August 13, 2015 somewhere outside, November 12, 2015 tentatively at Westmoreland CD Barn.**

**Meeting adjourned at 1pm.**

*Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut*

*Approved by Jim Resh on May 7, 2015*