

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016
PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President	Eric Cavazza, PA DEP
Chelsea Walker, Treasurer	Missy Reckner, KC Stream Team
Jim Resh, Secretary	Brendan Diehl, Foundation for PA
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Watersheds,
Anne Daymut (Staff)	Adam Cotchen, Indiana CD
Brook Esarey, Indiana CD Delegate	Grace Pesseato, Jefferson CD
Ron Horansky, PA DEP	Donna Wagner, PA DEP
Tim Denicola, Skelly & Loy	Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP
Jeff Means, PA DEP	Dave Leiford, PA DEP
Jeff Painter, PA Game Commission	Greg Shoetzle, Western Pennsylvania
Dennis Simmers, Colver	Conservancy
John Stefanko, PA DEP	Greg Smith, Armstrong CD
Rachel Kester, TU	Mark Killar, WPC
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate	

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:12am.

Secretary's Report (Denny Beck):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Williams/) to accept the August 2015 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Eric Cavazza on the status of AML Fund and other AML Issues

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):

See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.

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 his appearance before the 114th US Congress regarding the SENSE Act. Dennis Simmers encouraged people to let their representatives know if they support the waste coal industry.
- Adam Cotchen and Brooke Esarey discussed the installation of a Trompe at Tanoma Wetlands. They mentioned the extreme success at Bear Run. At the PACD meeting this week, they voted to support the SENSE Act.
- Ron Horansky added to the discussion on the PA Good Sam Act registration. He discussed how to register. Ron mentioned a study by Penn State and the extraction of rare earth elements from coal. They have had great success.
- Jeff Painter discussed how the Game commission fits into WPCAMR's efforts with Good Sam. He mentioned a number of projects that are currently underway on Game Lands.
- Braden Deihl is working on updating contact information with Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. They are moving to a digital application process for their grants. There is progress towards construction at Hughes including digitizing of mine maps and georeferencing. Three discharges will be treated at one place. The project will be paid for through GenOn monies. They are also working on Erinfield restoration project.
- Dave Leiford discussed the 3 major projects that BAMR is working on currently. They are in the early development stages of Little Conemaugh Project (Hughes, Sonman mine pools, and Miller Shaft) which will be an active treatment project. The hope to put the drilling out to bid late spring. They are still working on permitting and access issues with property owners for the Cresson project. They hope to be constructed by the end of the year. A scope of work has been developed for the Weirum shaft and Vinton #6 and some others. The bid for this project will also be out this spring.
- Missy Reckner discussed the fish and macro surveys they did to update the Kiski Conemaugh Rivers Conservation Plan. She noted that on the Little Conemaugh enormous increase recovery is being documented. She is helping with Trout in the Classroom and gearing up for annual releases.
- Kelly Williams has 3 projects under construction which will be completed this spring. They have a project on State Game Lands 98 that they are designing.
- Rachel Kester updated us on the legislative and policy issues that Amy Wolfe is working on. They are planning the 8th West Branch Susquehanna Symposium and is looking for presenters. They have a website up. She is working with SRBC on monitoring in Moshannon headwaters and Potters Creek. She is also looking for some good news stories by resurveying waters that they believe can be removed from the impaired list.
- Grace mentioned that the Jefferson CD is completing one AMD treatment project. Another system has a beaver dam. She did some AMD tie-dyeing with kids and it was a positive experience.
- Greg Smith noted that Armstrong County is hiring a new Watershed Specialist.
- Tim Denicola introduced himself and his background and projects he is involved in with different watershed groups. He is participating in a wide range of treatment methods and projects across the state.
- Mark Killar is working on several projects as well. Brinkerton in Sewickley Creek for which they have several grants and will be going to construction soon,

- Glade Run in Fayette County, West Creek in Elk County, and Cherry Run in Elk County is in early design. Andersen Creek in Clearfield County on Surface Mine Reclamation. Roaring Run on Andersen Creek may be a possibility to delist.
- Dennis Simmers gave some statistics on the waste coal industry and thanked everyone for support.
 - Jeff Means discussed the reorganization. He discussed negotiations with SRBC over Cresson. There is also a funding issue. Jeff discussed the technical guidance on QHUs that DEP is working on which should be finished this year. He had met with Sewickley Creek, who developed a QHU plan, which was helpful to him.
 - Malcolm Crittenden said mine drainage is a growth industry with 3 legs (Growing Greener, now larger projects by DEP, and lastly, the bond forfeiture sites). Malcolm oversees trusts set up by coal companies that has approximately half of the money needed to take care of the maintenance. In WV, they have coal tax instead of trust for maintenance.
 - Donna Wagner updated everyone on the 319 project. She does not know when GG will be announced.
 - Jim Resh reported on the amount of guacamole consumed during the SuperBowl
 - Eric Cavazza discussed the set aside in remaining 3 AML Program Grants and the 2016 grant is just under \$42 Million. He announced the official return of BAMR doing water quality issues. Gave update on the additional funding proposed by federal government. He reviewed all of the currently approved projects that the DEP will be working on. Mather project is complete. Powderly is under construction. Genesville Mine Fire is contracted. Ernfield is budgeted. There are several additional large, high priority projects under construction and out for bid. \$2.5 Million is set aside for emergency projects. They went way over on emergencies so it impacted what could be spent on other large high priority projects. There is usually a big spike in emergencies in March and April each year. DEP is continuing to work on finalizing the AMD Set-Aside Guidelines. Eric plans to allow or start the development of new QHU's. He also plans to make money available for QHUs for grants for new construction. Eric also touched on the Reclaim Act and noted how it could impact some of the department's plans. Business as usual on GFCC sites until we hear otherwise from MSHA.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Motion (Williams/Cotchen) to retain the current slate of officers. Passed.

Contract with IUP for 2016 Conference

Motion (Williams/Cotchen) to allow Andy to sign contract with IUP. Passed.

Next Meeting on May 12, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Jim Resh on March 3, 2016