

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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November 14, 2019

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

NAAMLPL Conference Call/meetings (4)
RECLAIM meeting (1)
PA AMR Conference Committee meeting (5)
WPCAMR Quarterly meeting (1 day)
PA AML Campaign meetings (7)
Joint NAAMLPL/ PA AMR Conference (4 days)
Appalachian Voices webinar (1)
Congressional staff advocacy conference call with IMCC (1)
PA AML Campaign Advocacy Meetings with Legislator Offices (8)
IMCC mid-year meeting (4 days)
PEC webinar for new database for recreational land use (1)
Blackleggs Meetings for Grant Administration (2)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Blackleggs Watershed Association has an Act 13 grant, which was set to expire in June 2019. An OSM WCAP grant is the match for the project.

- In August 2019, construction continued and they are now about 90% complete with the entire project. An OSMRE WCAP grant application was submitted to purchase limestone for BR#2 and do other repairs on the Big Run complex.
- In September 2019, I worked with OSMRE to answer a few questions about the WCAP grant application.
- In October 2019, I met with our grant manager to work out details with the newest Growing Greener grant. I worked with the engineer, Bio Most, to decide on next steps of construction and materials purchases and to develop another reimbursement request.

Abandoned Mine Posts included:

- In August 2019, two AMPs were distributed to help advertise for the OSMRE WCAP round.
- In October 2019, two AMPs were distributed including one on the need to reauthorize SMCRA's AML Fund and the other to announce the quarterly WPCAMR board meeting.

PA AMR CONFERENCE

2019 PA AMR Conference

A joint conference with the 2019 NAAMLPL Conference was coordinated. The PA AMR Conference participated by aiding in planning tours, proving the website and means of registration, and helping with promotion and sponsorships. Scholarships were awarded to allow for affordability of the conference to the typical PA AMR Conference registrant.

- In August 2019, three meetings were held with the entire NAAMLPL conference planning committee and two meetings were held with the PA AMR Conference Committee. I continued to coordinate the scholarships and be the go-between with the NAAMLPL portion of the conference. I developed and printed save-the-dates for the 2020 PA AMR Conference, coordinated our exhibit tables, and worked on the conference budget with the help of PA DEP.
- In September 2019, one meeting was held with the entire NAAMLPL conference planning committee and two meetings were held with the PA AMR Conference Committee. The conference itself was 4 days. I continued to coordinate the scholarships and be the go-between with the NAAMLPL portion of the conference. I set up WPCAMR's exhibit table, served as a moderator, helped a volunteer with duties on the boat cruise, and many other duties. Post-conference, I continued to work with the scholarship reimbursements.

2020 PA AMR Conference

We have begun preliminary work on coordinating the 2020 PA AMR Conference. It will be held at the Ramada in State College June 24-25, 2020.

- In September 2019, I began planning an agenda for our first planning committee meeting.
- In October 2019, our first planning committee meeting was held. I began working with Kelly Williams of Clearfield County Conservation District on a draft tour schedule. I also began developing an excel sheet to document in-kind contributions to include with final reports to our 2019 sponsors.

PA AML CAMPAIGN

In August 2019, I attended one meeting focused on RECLAIM. I completed a video advocating for the AML emergency program funding. I continued to maintain the shared databases for the campaign and I updated the PA AML Campaign website. I established a database for internal use to track in-kind contributions to the campaign.

In September 2019, I attended three PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each. I continued to maintain the shared databases for the campaign and I updated the PA AML Campaign website. I started a database to track leveraged funds by NGO's who serve as the pass-through for AML grant contracts. I worked with NGO's in other states to sign resolutions. I modified PA's sample resolution to work in other states. I sent announcements to my congressional staff contacts to remind them of our needs. I worked with ARIPPA to get their member plants to send support letters for our needs. I attended one Webinar with Appalachian Voices to see how they fit into the reauthorization advocacy efforts. I attended one conference call with congressional staff to see what ways the grassroots NGO's can help with advocacy. I researched national environmental conference and submitted a proposal for a presentation at the National Environmental Justice Conference.

In October 2019, I attended four PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each. I continued to maintain the shared databases for the campaign and I updated the PA AML Campaign website. I continued to update a database to track leveraged funds by NGO's who serve as the pass-through for AML grant contracts. I worked with NGO's in other states to sign resolutions. I attended the IMCC mid-year meeting. I have been working on resolutions relevant to other states. I have been reaching out to those in PA who have already signed resolutions and are in congressional districts that have not cosponsored yet and encouraging them to reach out directly to their congressman. I have also been contacting construction contractors who have had contracts with PA DEP BAMR and asking them to contact their legislators in support of PA's AML programs. I have 8 advocacy meetings with congressional staff to discuss the need for reauthorization. I have worked with Frank Howard and PA DEP BAMR to plan a legislative field trip.

ARIPPA AWARD

No new activity to report

GOOD SAMARITAN

No new activity to report

CONTRACTED VIDEO WORK

In coming months I will begin new video work including:

- video1: assessing stream conditions before and after reclamation
- video2 and associated materials: smcra title iv fee reauthorization
- video 3: about conservation districts in the region paying special attention to watershed specialist positions and how they've furthered reclamation in the state.