

WPCAMR

Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023 @ 10:00 AM ET
PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg PA

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President	John Wenzel, CVC
Kelly Williams, Clearfield County, Treasurer	Chelsea Walker, Westmoreland CD Delegate
Amy Miller, Allegheny CD Delegate, Secretary	Jon Smoyer, PA DEP
Andy McAllister, Staff	Chris Phillips, PA DEP
Anne Daymut, Staff	Pat Webb, PA DEP
John Stefanko, PA DEP	Maria Source, Armstrong CD Delegate
Jeff Painter, PGC	Tom Malesky, PA DEP
Robbie Fulton, OSMRE	Janis Long, Blacklick Watershed Assoc.
Jackie Ritko, Cambria CD Alternate	Ben Wenger, Indiana CD Delegate
John Dryzal, Cambria CD Delegate	Arica Ditullio, GAI
Alexis Blake, Washington CD Delegate	Michaela Lefevre, Elk CD Delegate

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am.

Secretary's Report (Amy Miller):

Review of past meeting minutes from May 2023.

Motion (Walker/Dryzal) to accept the May 2023 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Kelly Williams):

See report for details.

Motion (Wenger/Miller) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Reports

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.*

PA DEP BIL Funding Update (Pat Webb)

Pat gave a presentation update on the BIL funding. The issues with implementing the Stream Act were discussed more in depth. Pat also reviewed some of the new larger emergency projects that are coming down the line. Emergency plus regular construction contracts will equal \$8-10 Million. There are 18 more expected to be placed to bid by the end of the year. This could account for approximately \$30 million BIL funds. Information on the subrecipient award program was shared including the currently awarded projects. BAMR recently gave a field tour to Senator Casey's DC staff.

Partner Updates (All present)

- Kelly Williams recently met with Kate Bell of OIG. Kelly also discussed her research on all of the new requirements coming along for federal grants coming through DEP, like 319 grants. There is extensive confusion and remaining questions. Kelly will forward a link to the searchable database for businesses,

to meet the disadvantaged business requirements. Chris Phillips noted that the webinar and a fact sheet that addresses some of this should be made public soon.

- Arica of GAI is an approved contractor with BAMR and is looking forward to getting started. They are also a sponsor of the PA AMR conference.
- Micheala shared details of the Elk County WCAP. She is also assisting with rehab of treatment systems throughout the county.
- Amy talked about her Milk Run AMD project. She is also doing some planning in other watersheds.
- Cambria is working to get the Victor 10 WCAP project started. They also put in a subrecipient award proposal for a project in Little Conemaugh. John is very concerned with meeting the 2 CFR 200 requirements.
- Alexis is updating/rehab for a couple treatment systems in Washington County.
- Chelsea reported that Westmoreland has received a WCAP grant for a project. She is also working on a new passive treatment system that they would apply to BIL/IIJA funds.
- CVC has been awarded a BIL/IIJA project. They are about to put out an RFP. CVC has increased the Stream Team monitoring volunteer compliment.
- Blacklick Creek is finishing sampling on Upper Two Lick and will be starting one for the Lower Two Lick.
- Ben at Indiana CD is helping Blacklick with monitoring of Two Lick. He is also hoping to get advice on Bear Run lime dosing silos.
- Chris at DEP is helping to review the new GG round and hopes announcements will be made soon.
- Robbie reported that there is a staff shortage at OSMRE. They are already working on NOF for WCAP for next year, of \$1.4 million. Robbie shared information on the new Passive Treatment Protection Program which is currently under writing. This will be funds for OM&R. It is hoped it will cover costs not covered under WCAP including staff time and equipment. Robbie hopes the official announcement will be made by October with money being distributed by spring 2024. It should be \$1.5 million nationally.
- Pennsylvania Game Commission has several AMD/AML projects right now across the state using various funding methods in all stages of development. This directly benefits public lands.
- Maria at Armstrong CD shared that they intend to wrap up Huling Run project this fall. She also has a project on State Game lands. Maria is holding a fundraising 5K.
- Stefanko noted that DEP has a new communications director and encouraged us to work with him. The PA budget has also passed.
- Smoyer said that the Blacklick plant construction is ahead of schedule. There were questions about the Vintondale site.
- Denny is now president of PACD.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval for ARIPPA Award nominee(s) (Anne Daymut)

Motion (Souce/Wenger) to distribute the ARIPPA Award as nominated by the ARIPPA Award review committee as follows:

- **\$1,400 to Jabob's Creek for a flow meter only and**
- **\$2,900 to Clearfield Creek for sampling.**

Motion Passed.

2023 Meeting Schedule: (Locations TBD)

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10 am

Meeting adjourned @ 12:33 pm with a motion from Dryzal.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 10/30/2023