

WPCAMR Quarterly Meeting
February 15, 2008

Watershed Coordinator's Report
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**PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT
ATTENDANCE:**

Attended a Loyalhanna Creek projects update meeting in Greensburg in January.

Performed a final review and comment on revised C-SAW fact sheets and handouts and attended C-SAW meeting in New Cumberland.

Met with representatives of Rettew, Inc. and Mackin Engineering to learn about their AMD collaborative efforts in Western PA.

Met with Dave Sandstrom of Conestoga-Rovers Associates to explain WPCAMR's history and activities.

Discussed WPCAMR's role as a presenter in a possible Allegheny County watershed forum with Darrell Rapp from Plum Creek Watershed Association. A potential topic for presentation is SMCRA Title IV and how it could affect Watershed groups. Copies of the WPCAMR SMCRA educational video may be burned for distribution at the meeting.

Attended an inter-agency meeting about the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative in Harrisburg and discussed possible ways that Initiative could be more fully explored in Pennsylvania's mined lands.

Attended the Southern Alleghenies RC&D quarterly meeting in Bedford in January.

Attended the week long grant writing workshop at Robert Morris Univ. in downtown Pittsburgh presented by the Grantsmanship Center and Bayer Center. This workshop was extremely helpful and I thank the Board for approving my attendance. I look forward to sharing the information with anyone who may be interested.

GENERAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND MEETING/EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Continued writing Abandoned Mine Post Newsletter articles, sending them out and archive the postings on the blog site each week. Subscription at this time is around 400 covering 4 states.

Compiled and wrote meeting minutes for the previous WPCAMR quarterly meeting.

Attended the West Virginia Watershed Network conference in Morgantown.

Participated in West Branch Susquehanna Remediation Strategy conference calls and reviewed the final draft of the strategy and provided comments.

Continued various work-related administrative duties. Compiled meeting notes from last WPCAMR quarterly meeting. Took meeting notes at WPCAMR Executive Committee meeting.

Attended Mining Reclamation Advisory Board meeting in January.

Began preparing a presentation on options for AMD funding and technical support at the request of PA DEP. The presentation is to be at a meeting for agencies/groups active in reclamation within the 34 DEP 319 priority watersheds being held Feb. 28th in State College.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

No Conservation Districts were visited this quarter. Appointments have been made to visit Fulton County and Bedford County at the end of February.

Continued working with Elk Conservation District on AMD/Mining History educational materials development.

SMCRA TITLE IV

After the final two Title IV Roundtables were held in September at the Clearfield campus of Lock Haven University and Indiana University's Northpointe Campus, the PA DEP turned its attention to the formation of the "Focus Groups" as the next step in determining how the Title IV funds should be spent. In January, WPCAMR staff assisted the PA AML Campaign in their work by helping them to understand the current state of the watershed movement, the value of watershed associations with regard to AMD remediation, and the need for project funding.

PREVAILING WAGE OUTREACH

Began to research the PA Prevailing Wage and Senate Bill #333 (as requested by the WPCAMR Board at the November 2007 quarterly meeting). Contacted AMR professionals in the private sector, builders/ contractors associations, and academicians for individual opinions on Prevailing Wage and how it affects the bottom line. Began laying out the foundation for a campaign that seeks to educate the AMR community about Prevailing Wage and educate constituents on how to voice their opinions on proposed legislation. Authored and published the first article for distribution through Abandoned Mine Posts with additional articles/alerts to follow in the weeks ahead.

2008 AMR CONFERENCE PLANS CONTINUE

The organizational conference calls continue monthly for the 2008 Pennsylvania AMR Conference. WPCAMR continues to play the lead role for this year's conference: taking meeting notes and organizing communications and meeting dates with other members of the committee and subcommittees. The Watershed Coordinator spent considerable effort in locating possible venues and dates and obtaining cost estimates for the various facilities so the conference committee could make an informed decision. As it turns out, this early start was fortuitous due to many activities happening across the state next summer and the tight timeframe with which to have the conference. The Watershed Coordinator continues to put particular effort in the financing and food subcommittees.

The date for the 10th PA AMR conference is set for August 12-14, 2008 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, State College. The conference will have two major aspects: first of course, is the AMR portion, the second aspect is a industrial history/preservation component. Both the Regional Coordinator and Watershed Coordinator have been active in getting participation and cooperation from those in the Historical preservation field to assist with that aspect of the conference. We will continue the planning activities and will be updating the conference website (www.treatminewater.com) in the near future.

Related to this, the Watershed Coordinator continues working on his own time to research and produce an historical documentary video about the lives of coal mining communities in Western Pennsylvania from the mid 19th century until the mid-20th century. The idea is to relate what we see today in terms of abandoned mining problems to the mining communities of the past. It is hoped that the trailer will be completed and released well before the conference and that the rough cut of the production will be ready for screening at the 2008 AMR Conference in August.