

**WPCAMR**  
**Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**August 21, 2009**  
**DEP Office**  
**Ebensburg, PA**

**In attendance:**

Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD, Treasurer	Eric Cavazza, PA DEP, BAMR
Bruce Golden (Staff)	Scott Koser, Clinton CD
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Adam Cotchen, CrCWA, Indiana CD
Jackie Ritko, Cambria CD	Ron Horansky, PA DEP
Anne Daymut, Indiana CD	John Dryzal, Cambria CD
Robert Ritchey, Cambria CD	Jim Resh, Indiana CD
Miranda Shoemaker, Armstrong CD	<i>Dave Kemp, Somerset CD</i>
Pam Meade, Armstrong CD	Mark Killar, WPC
David Beale, Armstrong CD	P.J. Shah, PA DEP
Jeff Fliss, PA DEP	Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD	Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team
Pam Milavec, PA DEP, BAMR	Kim Bonfardine, Elk CD

**WPCAMR Business Meeting:**

Meeting chaired by Greg Phillips and called to order at 10:35am. Greg welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**Secretary's Report (Greg Phillips for Jim Panaro):**

Review of past meeting minutes. No comments on the minutes.

**Motion (Resh/Meade) to accept the minutes. Passed.**

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

Greg gave more information about the various balances in accounts. Bruce said that now that one of the Quick Response Grants is coming to a close , WPCAMR had to take out a line of credit to cover the last 15% of the grant that's withheld until we can get that reimbursed. Bruce also mentioned that we're waiting for the FACTS reimbursement to come in. P.J. said that that reimbursement is on its way. There were comments from the attendees that the interest from Quick Response may be reimburseable.

See also treasurer's report.

**Motion (??/Meade) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.**

**Presentation “Super Seven AMD sites”**  
**(Jackie Ritko, Cambria Conservation District)**

Jackie presented plans to clean up the AMD in the Little Conemaugh River watershed.

**Old Business**

**Regional Coordinator’s Report** (Bruce Golden):  
See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.

**Watershed Coordinator’s report** (Andy McAllister):  
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*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**New 3-year WPCAMR 319 contract—Bruce Golden**

WPCAMR’s normally annual grant now is converted to 3 years. Bruce explained some additional deliverables including a joint project with EPCAMR. Greg asked if we needed a motion to enter into the 3 year contract or to approve it.

**Motion (Resh/Meade) to approve the 3 year 319 contract. Passed.**

**Considering changes to WPCAMR Policies and Procedures—Bruce Golden**

Bruce explained that the new IRS Form 990 revisions suggest adding policies and procedures. After some discussion, there was a consensus for Bruce to add the policies and procedures and bring that to the next meeting.

**BAMR Set-Aside Guidance Document finalized—Eric Cavazza and Pam Milavec**

Eric explained the guidance and the data as well as the benefit cost ratio. Pam talked about the tiered approach for achieving the overarching restoration goals.

### **Outreach to Conservation Districts Update—Andy McAllister**

Andy presented his results of his district outreach visits. Funding was the most mentioned category of needs, with Watershed Specialist funding being the top issue mentioned by most every district. Trainings was the second most mentioned category of needs. Education/Advocacy was the third most mentioned category of needs identified by districts. Andy also reported on the e-newsletter series on the Watershed Specialist program. He and Bruce are working with PACD to publicize the work done by the specialists. Others are also getting into publicizing the need for our Watershed Specialists. For more, see the Watershed Coordinator's report.

### **WV Environmental Groups call for NPDES Permits for AMD systems—Andy McAllister**

Some environmental groups in WV have included AMD systems in their call for WV DEP to have NPDES permits for mine drainage systems for bond forfeiture sites.

### **Obama nominates PA DEP BMR's Joe Pizarchik for OSM Directorship—Bruce Golden**

Bruce talked about Joe Pizarchik's nomination, the current response by some about his nomination, and asked if the Board wishes to submit a letter to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources supporting Joe's nomination

**Motion (Ritchey/Resh) to send the letter to the aforementioned Committee endorsing Pizarchik as Director of OSM. Passed.**

### **EPA considering reclassifying all coal combustion ash as hazardous –Bruce Golden**

Bruce explained that EPA is considering reclassifying ALL coal ash as hazardous. After some discussion on what to put into a letter, there was a motion to send a letter to EPA opposing the reclassification of ALL coal ash.

**Motion (Ritchey/Meade) to send the letter to EPA opposing reclassification of all coal ash as hazardous. Passed.**

### **OSM's Withdrawal of Emergency AML Funding to PA—Bruce Golden**

Bruce explained that the emergency AML funding to PA has been cut although there appears to be at least some support in the US Senate for reinstating at least some funding to the emergency program.

### **Changes to OSM's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program—Andy McAllister**

It appears that the language allowing the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program funding to be used as match for other federal funding has been reinserted into the FY 2010 appropriations bill. The bill has some hurdles to overcome but this is a hopeful sign.

### **Robindale Charity Golf Outing—Bruce Golden**

Once again, Robindale has listed WPCAMR as one of the beneficiaries of their annual charity golf outing. WPCAMR sponsored a hole last year for \$400. Bruce asked if the Board would like to do the same for this year. Golf outing is scheduled for Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are interesting in participating in the tournament, contact Andy or Bruce for a brochure.

**Motion (Resh/Ritchey) to sponsor a hole for the Robindale Charity Golf Outing for \$400. Passed**

### **Other New Business**

Bob Ritchey said that the State Water Plan is published and AMD is in the new plan. The plan is on the DEP website.

**Motion to adjourn (Ritchey). Meeting adjourned at 14:00**

*Minutes taken and prepared by Andy McAllister*