



Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Feb 19, 2009 10am – 2pm Eat'N'Park, Indiana, PA

Quarterly Meeting Agenda

Welcome	Bob Eppley
Review of Past Meeting Minutes	Bob Eppley
Treasurer's Report	Greg Phillips
PRESENTATION: Planning for OM&R Needs	Bernie Hoffnar
<i>Bernie presents the methodology to determine financial requirements in providing for long term operation and maintenance of an AMD passive treatment system.</i>	

OLD BUSINESS

- Staff Reports Bruce Golden, Andy McAllister, Rick Thompson

Reports & reminders from CD's, Agencies, Watershed Associations, & Guests

NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Employee Handbook Bob Eppley
2. Update: Ad-hoc Citizen Advisory Group for the Set-Aside Bruce Golden
3. FACT's grant: Chemical snapshots for PA's passive treatment systems Bruce Golden
An update on progress to sample and analyze water from most of PA's AMD passive treatment systems.
4. State of the Watershed Movement Survey Bruce Golden
We all have ideas how PA watershed groups are doing, yet finding current information is hard to come by. WPCAMR and the Foundation for PA Watersheds are in the early stages of developing surveys designed to provide current information on the watershed movement in PA.
5. Funding is running out for CD Watershed Specialists... What do we do? Open Discussion
6. PA's Financial Crunch and Future Abandoned Mine Reclamation Open Discussion
How will PA's current financial crisis and affect the future of AMR?
7. WV DEP Federal Court Decision - Clouds on the Horizon ?? Andy McAllister
We have concerns that a recent federal district court decision in West Virginia is one step further on a path that could lead to the requirement of NPDES permits for all AMD treatment systems. Because of the awesome implications of such a requirement, we have placed this issue high on our radar.
8. OSM's withdrawal of Emergency AML Funding to PA Bruce Golden
OSM proposes to eliminate AML emergency funding for things like blowouts and mine fires by shifting that burden to PA's annual SMCRA grant. A draft letter to OSM is offered for the board's consideration.
9. Changes to OSM's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program Andy McAllister
No longer can OSM's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program dollars be used as match for other federal grants, limiting some watershed groups' abilities to obtain funding for AMD treatment projects. The fix is "easy" if Congress will make it.
10. Appointment to Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board Bruce Golden
The PA State Conservation Commission has appointed Bruce Golden to serve as the conservation district representative to the Mining Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB).
11. Other new business

ADJOURN

August WPCAMR Meeting Now Scheduled
Friday, August 21, 2009 10:30am -2pm Penn Gables Restaurant, Ebensburg