

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2009
Eat N' Park Restaurant
Indiana, PA

In attendance:

Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD,
Treasurer
Bruce Golden (Staff)
Andy McAllister (Staff)
John Dryzal, Cambria CD
Anne Daymut, Indiana CD
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD
Bill Doney, Westmoreland CD
Lance Bowes, Venango CD
David Beale, Armstrong CD
Jeff Fliss, PA DEP
Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited
Carl Undercofler, CCSEC
Gene Gibbs, Scrubgrass Cr. W.A.

Laurie Gillespie, Scrubgrass Cr. W.A.
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD
Adam Cotchen, CrCWA, Indiana CD
Ron Horansky, PA DEP
Dave Kemp, Somerset CD
Mark Killar, WPC
Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh
Stream Team
Dave SteelUSDA, NRCS, So.
Alleghenies RC&D
Craig Barras, BAI
Garry Price, PA DEP
Sherene Hess, Penns Corner RC&D

WPCAMR Business Meeting:

Meeting chaired by Greg Phillips and called to order at 10:05am. Greg welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

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

Review of past meeting minutes. There was a question as to who made the motion to accept the treasurer's report at the August 21st meeting. Jim Eckenrode mentioned that it was he who made the motion. Eckenrode's name will be added to that motion. No other comments on the minutes.

Motion (Daymut/Bowes) to accept the minutes once the motion to accept the treasurer's report was amended. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Greg Phillips):

Greg said that we had dipped into the credit line and talked about the various reimbursements that will be coming. Jim Eckenrode asked how we're paying the interest. Bruce replied that we're paying the interest with the General Fund and that Quick Response was the main reason we needed the line of credit.

Gene Gibbs mentioned that WPCAMR should look into low interest loans for municipalities. He wasn't sure if it would apply to WPCAMR, but it may and that maybe we should talk about it with a bank or a lawyer.

See also treasurer's report.

Motion (Eckenrode/Daymut) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Old Business

Watershed Group Capacity Building Project Presentation (Gwen Johnson – Foundation for PA Watersheds)

Gwen talked about the genesis of this pilot project and about the capacity building needs of the watershed groups. They're also working on organizing a Watershed Summit to be held in May, 2010.

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

Robindale Charity Golf Outing—Andy McAllister

WPCAMR is once again one of the recipients of the Robindale's annual Charity Golf Outing. WPCAMR is very grateful for the support from Robindale Energy!

Bernie Hoffnar is leaving the area—Bruce Golden

Long-time WPCAMR board member and watershed advocate, Bernie Hoffnar is moving to New Mexico. Bernie said that we have a lot of work ahead of us and is glad that he has been a part of the organization for so long. We will miss Bernie greatly and wish him good luck!

WPCAMR Policies and Procedures—Bruce Golden

Bruce went over the need for additional policies that relate to filing tax papers. The policies are: A conflict of interest policy, A compensation determination policy, A joint venture policy, and a policy on document retention. Bruce said that the explanations of these policies are available on the webpage for the August 2009 meeting. For these policies to take effect for the current tax year, we need a resolution to put these policies in

place. Bruce suggested that the board provisionally approve this subject to the WPCAMR executive committee approving it and making some changes.

Motion (Eckenrode/Steele) to provisionally approve the additional policies subject to final approval by the executive committee. Passed.

Greg said that since we've already heard about the following topics in the staff reports: *DEP delivers 2 more years of support for Watershed Specialists; Watershed Group Support Update*, we would move on to the next topic of New Business.

On the Prospect of Having NPDES Permits for AMD Systems—Bruce Golden

Bruce explained that EPA considers Abandoned Mine Drainage as non-point source pollution. He also explained the concept of point source pollution that requires NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits.

He talked about the concern held by many in our community that our AMD passive treatment systems would be required to have NPDES permits even though they're treating non-point source pollution and ways to deal with this potential threat.

Other New Business

Greg said that the next WPCAMR meeting tentatively set for Friday, February 11, 2010 at the Eat N' Park Restaurant in Indiana, PA Also if anyone is interested in hosting a WPCAMR meeting, let Bruce know. Greg also said that between now and the February meeting on February 11th the Executive Committee will get together. Greg asked Andy or Bruce to schedule something for the week of November 30th.

No other new business was brought up so Greg asked if someone wanted to make a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn (Beale). Meeting adjourned at 13:30.

Minutes taken and prepared by Andy McAllister