

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2010
Westmoreland Conservation District
Greensburg, PA

In attendance:

Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD, (Treasurer)	Zack Wolfe, Armstrong CD
Jim Panaro, (Secretary)	LeeRoy Vatter, Indiana CD
Dennis Beck, Cambria CD, (Vice Preseident)	Miranda Shoemaker, Armstrong CD
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Lance Bowes, Venango CD
Shaun Wessell, Jefferson CD	Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited
Jeff Fliss, PADEP	Carl Undercofler, CCSEC
Dave Beale, Armstrong CD	Ron Rohall, Westmoreland CD
Anne Daymut, Indiana CD	Adam Cotchen, CrCWA, Indiana CD
	Ron Horansky, PA DEP
	Mark Killar, WPC

WPCAMR Business Meeting:

Meeting chaired by Dennis Beck and called to order at 10:07am with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dennis announced the resignation letter of Bob Eppley as President. Dennis welcomed everyone and asked for an around-the-table introduction.

Secretary's Report (Jim Panaro):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Phillips/Beale) to accept the minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Greg Phillips):

Greg mentioned we are undergoing an audit, which was necessary due to change in staff.

Andy McAllister presented a financial snapshot. Greg advocates \$50,000 for internal credit line/revolving fund. He is worried about future shortfalls in the 319 program.

See treasurer's report.

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

Old Business

Regional Coordinator's Report (Andy McAllister):

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

Election of Officers (Greg Phillips)

Current slate of Officers:

Bob Eppley (President)

Dennis Beck (Vice President)

Jim Panaro (Secretary)

Greg Phillips (Treasurer)

Greg asked for a motion to open the floor to nominations for the above offices. Motion by Pam Meade to open the floor for nominations. Beale inquired if a quorum was present. McAllister stated that according to the by-laws, a simple majority of those present constituted a quorum. The following nominations and motions to close the floor to nominations were made:

- Jim Panaro, President **Motion (Beale/Daymut) to nominate Jim Panaro as President. Passed.**
- Dennis Beck, Vice President **Motion (Meade/Daymut) to nominate Dennis Beck as Vice President. Passed.**
- Greg Phillips, Treasurer **Motion (Meade/Beale) to nominate Greg Phillips as Treasurer. Passed.**
- Jim Eckenrode, Secretary **Motion (Daymut/Beale) to nominate Jim Eckenrode as Secretary. Passed.**

The County CD Delegates and Alternates were reviewed. The board requested letters to be sent to each county conservation district requesting dues and asking for their official delegates/alternates.

NEW BUSINESS

The rest of the meeting was chaired by Jim Panaro (President-elect).

WPCAMR Employee Policy Development – Executive Committee and Andy McAllister

Andy will have a draft for approval at the August meeting possibly modeled after a County CD policy manual.

WPCAMR Strategic Plan – Executive Committee and Andy McAllister

The board will begin the process of updating the strategic plan and will ask CD delegates to sit on a committee to help with the process. Greg Phillips and Jeff Fliss volunteered to help as appropriate.

DEP Budget Cuts – Andy McAllister

An unfortunate and unexpected outcome of the budget cuts was the forbidding of DEP Mining Watershed Managers to do watershed work. As a result, they are not permitted to sign Quick Response Repair Paperwork. Fliss announced that funding has become available to allow Mining Watershed Managers to do watershed-related work. More news will be announced soon.

Problems with GFCC Permitting – Andy McAllister

The fees of the GFCC will likely be increased. Many permits requests are being held up right now because of lack of staff, where funding should come from (Title IV or Title V), and questions on permit and inspection fees. Jim Panaro and Dennis Beck discussed how the funding of a GFCC is related to the "priority 1" and "priority 2" designation.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and AMD – Andy McAllister

Andy presented on our concerns that AMD treatment systems could be required to obtain NPDES permits as a result of the events of the past year in West Virginia and especially with recent problems with TDS in Dunkard Creek. He stated that this is also of concern because AMD treatment systems may be required to adhere to Total Dissolved Solids Standards set forth in any TMDLS that could be developed. The board discussed what TDS is, how it is removed from water, how these standards relate to the Marcellus Shale gas industry, and how it could relate to non-profit groups constructing AMD treatment systems. Further, Andy mentioned that there is once again a Federal Good Samaritan Bill (introduced by Udall, CO) on the table that we should be watching. Ron Rohall mentioned that we may consider relying on NACD to help initiate Good Samaritan Legislation that is appropriate for coal country.

Other New Business

The future meeting dates and potential locations were discussed. The next meeting will be held on May 14th, 2010. The location is to be determined. There will also be a meeting on August 12th, location to be determined, and on November 12th at the Eat N Park in Indiana, PA.

Reports/Reminders:

Meade announced the passing of a long-time environmental advocate and Armstrong CD board member, Bill Shaw.

Mark Killar was appointed to the MRAB.

Motion to adjourn (Vatter). Meeting adjourned at 12:12.

Minutes taken by Andy McAllister and prepared by Anne Daymut