

WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Ohio River Watershed Celebration Planning meeting, Pittsburgh
2010 PA AMR Joint Conference Committee, Pittsburgh
EQB public hearing, Ebsburg
Loyalhanna Watershed Coalition meeting
Appalachian Regional Reforestation brainstorming meeting, Bedford

TRANSITIONING TO REGIONAL COORDINATOR

In early January, I interviewed with the WPCAMR Executive Committee for the position of Regional Coordinator. Many thanks to the Executive Committee for their vote of confidence in selecting me to succeed Bruce. I am looking forward to doing my best to help WPCAMR do its best. Several weeks prior to Bruce's last day on the last working day in January, I began to learn the various programs pertinent to the Regional Coordinator's job and in particular, those that pertain to fiscal management of our grants and accounts. I began assuming the duties of Regional Coordinator on February 1st.

The Executive Committee has filled the position of Watershed Coordinator at WPCAMR. Anne Daymut, Watershed Specialist with Indiana Conservation District will be assuming the role of Watershed Coordinator as of March 15, 2010. Anne will be a great addition to the WPCAMR team!

CHEMICAL SNAPSHOTS FOR PASSIVE TREATMENT

Our FACTS grant is being used to organize two chemical snapshots of PA's publicly funded passive treatment systems. The first of the snapshots is complete with respect to sampling and analyses.

We gratefully acknowledge DEP (BAMR, DMOs, and regional watershed managers), without whose cooperation and manpower the snapshot would not have been possible. Stream Restoration, Inc. (SRI) (primary contractor for the grant), the Stream Team, individual watershed groups, and the Senior Environmental Corps were also indispensable. Roughly 200 passive treatment systems were sampled during the first round. That is the most comprehensive look at PA's AMD treatment systems ever. SRI is now in the process of assimilating and incorporating all of this information into Datashed, our internet data management system for treatment systems. The second snapshot will occur in April.

FINANCES

Cash flow was tricky for a while during the last quarter of 2009. With several DEP grants coming to an end, coupled with the hold back provision, coupled again with the budget impasse in Harrisburg during summer and fall 2009, we held our breath that all would turn out well. Fortunately, we were able to get by through dipping into our line of credit and pulling from our reserves we'd built up. While we are still waiting on reimbursements for

FACTS, our 319 reimbursements began to arrive in late 2009 and early 2010 and we're finding ourselves on much better ground.

We have the following grants currently:

1. 2009-12 DEP 319 funding for WPCAMR operations.
2. Quick Response Program (II and III)
3. FACTS (II)
4. Iron Oxide Recovery Statewide

We believe we will hear soon if we've been successful in our efforts to secure Growing Greener Plus funding for Quick Response(IV) for an additional \$100,000.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Work has slowed down a bit on our Abandoned Mine Post (AMP) Newsletter articles in January and early February due to training for the Regional Coordinator's position. However, in an effort to begin a type of "year-end report", I did get a year-end AMP out that covered some of the major events that were important to our community and in which, WPCAMR played an important role. Feedback from that article has been positive. New articles will be coming out soon. Archived Abandoned Mine Post articles may be found at the Abandoned Mine Posts blog site: www.amp.wpcamr.org.

2010 AMR CONFERENCE: LOOKING AHEAD

I continue to work with the American Society for Mining Reclamation (ASMR) and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on the details of a joint AMR conference in Pittsburgh, June 5-11, 2010. It will be held at the Radisson Green Tree. The theme is: "Bridging Mining Reclamation, Science, and the Community". These meetings and/or conference calls have been occurring on a regular basis.

The 2010 conference involves: ASMR, The PA AMR Conference, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), and OSM's Technical Transfer program...essentially, four conferences in one. There will be two sessions; one for the peer-reviewed technical papers that are a staple for ASMR and OSM conferences, and one session called, "Science, Community, and Reclamation" that will have the mix of technical and non-technical presentations...the latter is more of the flavor of the PA AMR Conference.

The deadline for the ASMR-type technical presentations (peer-reviewed) has passed (January 11th) however, there is still time to submit an abstract to present during the Science, Community, and Reclamation" (SCR) session. That deadline is March 15th. There will be an Abandoned Mine Posting sent out shortly about the conference and calling for papers for the SCR track.

If you are interested in presenting at the 2010 Joint Conference for the "SCR" track, please go to the website and submit an abstract. The website is: www.pghminingreclamationconf.com

As reported in my last quarterly, we hope to have funding in place for scholarships for the conference but need to iron out some details with the rest of the Joint Conference Committee. Check back often during the coming months as more information is posted on the website.

2009 OHIO RIVER WATERSHED CELEBRATION

The Cruise planning committee continues to locate sponsor for the 2010 Riverboat Cruise. Once again, this effort in 2010 will continue to showcase and celebrate the good environmental work going on upstream.