

WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

Andy McAllister

May 14, 2010

Chemical Snapshots for PA's Passive Treatment Systems (Snapshot two completed)

Our FACTS grant is being used to organize two chemical snapshots of PA's publicly funded passive treatment systems. Work on the first of the snapshots was completed during the winter months. During this quarter, the second snapshot was conducted and all field sampling and analysis is completed. The last of the data are rolling in along with the last of the invoices from the analytical labs. Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI), the primary contractor for the grant, is now in the process of assimilating and incorporating all of this information into Datashed, our internet data management system for treatment systems (www.datashed.org). This grant ends at the end of June, so I will be working with SRI to complete this project in a timely manner. As with the first snapshot, roughly 200 passive treatment systems were sampled. This project couldn't have been done without the cooperation of DEP (BAMR, DMOs, and regional watershed managers). SRI, the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, individual watershed groups, and the Senior Environmental Corps were also indispensable. These two snapshots are the most comprehensive look at PA's AMD treatment systems ever. All the data will be entered into Datashed and will be accessible by anyone.

This year's AMR Conference, the "Joint Mining and Reclamation Conference"

With the conference less than a month away, the planning committee is working furiously to get all of the details squared away. We have been getting the speakers lined up as well as the schedule set. You can view the schedule at: www.pghminingreclamationconf.com

This year's conference is a bit more complex than our normal annual conferences due to the involvement of several organizations and their respective conferences.

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.

We have been very fortunate once again to receive funding from DEP and the Foundation for PA Watersheds to help with conference expenses and to provide scholarship funds. PA Watershed groups and County Conservation District staff are qualified for scholarships to help defray the cost of attending this year's conference. All scholarships will be on a reimbursement basis only. The cost of attending the entire conference is already discounted for Watershed groups and Conservation District personnel but we will also consider requests for scholarship reimbursements to assist with registration and lodging costs. Additionally, the extra cost of attending the Boat Cruise on Tuesday evening, June 8th can be considered for scholarship reimbursements. Any County Conservation district staff that wish to register for the "non-profit" rate of \$135.00 can do so, but they should let Andy know so he can give

those in charge of registrations a "heads up". Registrations are being handled by the American Society for Mining and Reclamation (ASMR).

To request a scholarship reimbursement, go to:

www.treatminewater.com/scholarship10.htm and fill in the online form. Depending on the amount of scholarship requests received and funds available, we will be able to reimburse up to 50% of the qualifying expenses.

Our new Watershed Coordinator

Anne Daymut began working at WPCAMR as the Watershed Coordinator on March 15. With her experience and contacts, she was able to be up and running in a very short time. During our first couple of weeks in the office, I worked with Anne to get her up to speed on several projects. I'm pleased to report that Anne has done a magnificent job during her transition to this position and I'm looking forward to tackling new projects with Anne as part of the WPCAMR team.

Iron Oxide recovery project

Our Growing Greener project, "Iron Oxide Recovery Statewide", is scheduled to end on June 30th. We've asked for an extension because work on that grant was not able to move forward during the grant period. The unexpected recession and the fact that anticipated sludge projects in the Anthracite region never materialized, made it impossible for Bob Hedin, our contractor on this grant, to get the work done. Fortunately, the market for iron sludge appears to be improving but we're running out of time. In order to utilize the funding for this grant, we've requested a year extension. Hedin has also come up with a way to tie together the sludge removal work being done at St. Vincent with our Growing Greener Iron Oxide recovery project. After meeting with DEP and St. Vincent staff, it appears that linking the two projects will work, that is, if the Grant Center will grant the extension.

Potential Water Monitoring Workshop

We're exploring the potential for conducting Water Quality Monitoring workshops in western PA through our CSAW partnership and in partnership with the Southern Alleghenies RC&D. This potential project is still in the formative stages but we are looking for assistance with putting this series of workshops on by enlisting the aid of the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team as a potential sub-contractor to be funded through our CSAW allotment.

ARIPPA's Anniversary

ARIPPA has asked WPCAMR and EPCAMR to help them with an award program this summer as part of their anniversary celebration. Watershed Groups and County Conservation Districts are encouraged to apply to be considered for this monetary award. WPCAMR and EPCAMR have been working with ARIPPA to fashion an application process. Anne will report more on this.