

**WPCAMR**  
**Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2010**  
**Colver Co-Generation Plant, Colver, PA**

**In attendance:**

Jim Panaro, Robindale Energy, President	Barry Gibbs, Crooked Creek Watershed Association
Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD, Treasurer	Dave Kemp, Somerset CD
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD, Secretary	Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Melissa Reckner, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team
Anne Daymut (Staff)	Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA
Robb Piper, Cambria CD	Julie Maxwell, Green CD
Jeff Fliss, PA DEP	Jim Shaner, Beaver CD
John Stefanko, PA DEP, BAMR	Dick Smith, Beaver CD
Jim Resh, Indiana CD	

**WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting chaired by Jim Panaro and called to order at 10:45am. Colver Power plant welcomed our meeting with a video on plant safety.

**Secretary's Report** (Jim Eckenrode):

Review of past meeting minutes. Jim Eckenrode requested the change of adding himself to the attendance list.

**Motion (Smith/Resh) to accept the minutes as amended. Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report** (Greg Phillips):

Greg discussed a balance sheet. We just received the audit yesterday however some of the notes are not from our file. Those notes should be faxed later this morning.

See also treasurer's report.

**Motion (Smith/Resh) 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** (Anne Daymut):

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 that relate to WPCAMR interests.

- Blair CD is doing some educational projects and is also working with Robindale Energy to remove a refuse pile.

- DEP watershed mining managers are restricted in their work to primacy bond forfeiture sites. DEP regular watershed managers are still allowed to do other types of projects. Stefanko commented on the charging for GFCC.
- Cambria CD wrote a letter to EPA about the support of the beneficial use of fly ash and has also completed a fly ash project. Cambria CD is excited about the prospect of constructing and active treatment plant on the worst discharge contributing to AMD pollution in the Little Conemaugh River. Completed design for treatment at Cresson Discharge. The Wierum discharge progress was also discussed.
- Indiana CD completed another phase of the Bear Run Renaissance, in which they removed 10,000 tons of burnable refuse. The next phase will begin soon. They have placed a lime dosing silo in Bear Run. Resh commented on the amount of maintenance required for lime dosing silos, of which they have experience with. They are pumping the lime slurry sludge back into a mine opening down dip of discharge point.
- ARIPPA is pleased with the outcome of the Celebration award. He is planning to approach his board with a proposal to continue a partnership with WPCAMR in some fashion in the future. McNelly urged each person to submit their knowledge of the use of ash and whether you think it is useful and safe. You may use Cambria's letter as a template.
- Somerset CD has completed a treatment project and is performing maintenance at two other projects. They are working with KC Stream Team on Paint Creek.
- Westmoreland CD reported that a farm and watershed fell into a sink hole. They were able to restore both. Loyalhanna Watershed Association celebration of the Saxman Run Hydroelectric project. Lober is working beautifully. They are currently draining and recycling iron at the St. Vincent College site.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Natural Gas Severance Tax – Andy McAllister and Brenda Shambaugh (PACD)**

With Brenda on speaker phone, a discussion and question/answer session ensued. Rumor has it that something will be passed by October. Most parties are willing to consider a severance tax but the question is in the details including generation and distribution of funds. It is likely that a severance tax would help to support the General Fund (50%), and the rest would be divided between Conservation District support, Growing Greener III (including Watershed Specialists), PFBC/PGC, and the environmental Stewardship fund. PEC, WPC, and the Renew Growing Greener Coalition are part of a group that is working on this issue with the general assembly. They meet on a weekly basis to develop strategy. Caucuses are predicted to start no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Analysts estimate that the proposal could raise \$15 Million by 2014. To help with the effort, individuals (watershed group members and CD board members) are encouraged to write letters, attend local media events, and follow the progress, all of which are still being developed by PACD. There has to be pressure put on members of the general assembly stressing the specific uncertainties (distribution in particular but not into percentages). Some Conservation Districts (Westmoreland, Cambria, and Somerset) have already begun efforts independently. Severance Tax may possibly also be applied to shallow wells. WPCAMR discussed their support

**Motion (Resh/Phillips) to send letter supporting severance tax and specifying a percentage of funds go to the Environmental Stewardship fund, Conservation**

**Districts, and local governments and conservation outreach. Motion (Resh/Phillips) made to amend previous motion to read “letter support severance tax and portion of funds to go to environmental stewardship and Conservation Districts”. Passed.**

**ARIPPA Watershed Award review committee report – Anne Daymut**

WPCAMR has partnered with ARIPPA to celebrate ARIPPA’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by awarding \$10,000 to a watershed organization or Conservation District for an on-the-ground AMD/AML project. Anne developed an application and evaluation protocol. Eight applications were collected and reviewed by a committee consisting of one BAMR representative, one CD representative, and both WPCAMR employees. The review committee recommends that the award be given as follows: \$8,000 to Clearfield Creek Watershed Association and \$2,000 to Evergreen Conservancy. The recommendations were discussed

**Motion (Resh/Smith, abstained by Piper) to recommend that ARIPPA present the award in the amount of \$8000 to Clearfield Creek Watershed Association and \$2000 to Evergreen Conservancy. Passed.**

**KC Stream Team as a C-Saw provider through WPCAMR – Andy McAllister**

The board met in an executive session to discuss having a formal contract with KC Stream Team. There are concerns about a legal agreement and administrative concerns. Some felt it more suitable for KC Stream Team to be a separate C-SAW partner. Discussion was tabled to gather more information.

**Other New Business**

McAllister would like to get approval to pay an accountant \$1000 for time to help with the books.

**Motion (Phillips/Smith) to allow Andy to hire an accountant for no more than \$1000. Passed.**

Resh asked to have WPCAMR look into providing some funds to help with GFCC’s on some of the smaller piles. John Stefanko is going to get us more information on the topic, specifically what the two-tier fee entails.

**Motion (Resh) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 14:09.**

*Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut*