

# WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

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## **Chemical Snapshots for PA's Passive Treatment Systems (FACTS Grant completed)**

The FACTS II grant is now completed and the final report went to DEP last month. Overall, the sampling snapshots went without any major hitches and a lot of good information was gathered about 230 of the potentially 280 passive treatment systems throughout the state. Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI), the primary contractor for the grant, is still in the process of assimilating and incorporating all of the information gathered from the second snapshot into Datashed, our internet data management system for treatment systems ([www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org)). The DEP has received this project very well and understands the value of Datashed and the importance of getting data on those treatment systems for long term OM&R needs. Datashed is especially important since I understand that OSM is no longer maintaining their database on treatment systems in the state. Literally, a multitude of people, groups, and agencies were instrumental in this project's success: DEP (BAMR, DMOs, and regional watershed managers). SRI, the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, individual watershed groups, and the Senior Environmental Corps. These two snapshots are the most comprehensive look at PA's AMD treatment systems ever. All of the data are being entered into Datashed and are accessible by anyone. You can become registered to enter data into Datashed by contacting SRI.

## **Quick Response continues to be successful**

Quick Response continues to get used and is continuing to be a successful avenue for emergency funding for emergency repair for Growing Greener eligible projects. As requested by the board, I will be submitting a Quick Response V grant application in this round of Growing Greener due in September. I had requested an extension for the Quick Response II grant but haven't heard back yet if it's been extended. In the meantime, we're just about finished with the Quick Response II funding and will be working on Quick Response II funding. I hope to close out the Quick Response II grant by the next board meeting.

## **Office Operations**

I continue to make progress in understanding all of the nuances of running the WPCAMR office. After some difficulties with our payroll company making mistakes, I got another payroll company and things have been much better. One of the most helpful things I've done is to hire a CPA on a as-needed basis, pre-paid. The CPA has been infinitely helpful in getting all the accounts in order and helping me to understand how to work with Quickbooks. I would very much like to have the CPA come in periodically to help with the books and to be available for any questions concerning accounting and Quickbooks. Overall, things are coming together well and I am confident that our internal operations are moving in a good direction.

## **This year's AMR Conference is over**

After about two years of planning with various agencies, organizations, and individuals, the 2010 conference went off without any major hitches. I'm in the process now of getting our scholarship reimbursements out and accounting for the rest of the conference sponsorship money to the joint conference committee. I don't have the total number of attendees at the conference but I suspect it was around 300 people. The committee will have a final conference meeting to close out the books. There may be additional costs that our sponsorship funding will help with but I won't know that for another week or two. Many, many thanks to the people at the Pittsburgh office of the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, who gave an incredible amount of effort to make sure that this conference was a success! We owe a debt of gratitude to the DEP for their sponsorship funding and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds for their conference sponsorship funding as well! You can view the presentations from the conference at: [www.pghminingreclamationconf.com](http://www.pghminingreclamationconf.com)

## **Robindale Customer and Vendor Appreciation Golf Outing**

WPCAMR is, once again, a beneficiary of the Robindale Charity Golf Outing. This year, it's called the Customer and Vendor Appreciation Golf Outing and will be of a totally different format than in years past. Robindale will accept donations on behalf of the charities (WPCAMR and St. Vincent DePaul Family Kitchen) with the intention of matching all contributions collected prior to or on the day of the outing. I plan on being at the golf outing on **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort and Conference Center and hope to see some of you there! Registration is at 10AM. The funding we receive each year from the Robindale Golf Outings is vital to helping WPCAMR achieve its goals. Many, many thanks to Robindale Energy Services, a long-time WPCAMR partner!

## **ARIPPA's Anniversary**

As mentioned at the last WPCAMR meeting in May, ARIPPA has asked WPCAMR and EPCAMR to help them with an award program this summer as part of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Watershed Groups and County Conservation Districts were encouraged to apply to be considered for this monetary award of up to \$10K. WPCAMR staff and volunteers judged applicants and are submitting those awardees for your recommendation to ARIPPA. Anne has worked hard on this project and will have more to say in her report.