WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2011
PA DEP District Mining Office, Ebensburg

In attendance:

Jim Panaro, Robindale Energy, President
Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD, Treasurer
Denny Beck, Cambria CD, Vice President
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD, Secretary
Andy McAllister (Staff)
Anne Daymut (Staff)
Dave Beale, Armstrong CD
Lance Bowes, Venango CD *phone*
Amy Wolfe, TU
Dave Steele, Southern Alleghenies RC&D
Jeff Fliss, PA DEP
Ron Horansky, PA DEP
Katie Oberthaler, Evergreen Conservancy
Mark Killar, Western PA Conservancy
Scott Koser, Clinton CD *phone*
Heather Fowler, Fayette CD *phone*
Eric Cavazza, PA DEP, BAMR
Pam Milavec, PA DEP, BAMR
PJ Shah, PA DEP, BAMR
Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP, BAMR
Andy Patterson, Huntingdon CD
Rob Piper, Cambria CD
Ryan Petryshak, Cambria CD
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD *phone*
Dan Sammarco, PA DEP
Julie Maxwell, Green CD *phone*

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting chaired by Jim Panaro and called to order at 10:10am.

Secretary's Report (Jim Eckenrode)**:**
Review of past meeting minutes. Requests were made to change the minutes. "Ted Kopas". "Greg discussed a balance sheet. We just received the audit yesterday. The audit notes should be faxed later this morning." "Jeff Kostelac" was misspelled and Eric Cavazza was present.
Motion (Patterson/Phillips) to accept the minutes as amended. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Greg Phillips)**:**
See report for details.
Motion (Beale/Patterson) 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.

- Dan Sammarco reported that John Varner retired and that he has assumed the Acting District Mining Manager position. He looks forward to working with everyone.
- Eric Cavazza reminded us that the funds for the emergency program have been eliminated. However, they have done 8 projects since the last WPCAMR meeting through the accelerated program that normally would have been deemed emergencies, such as subsidence.
- Pam Milavec gave an update on the Set-Aside funds. They are actively working on a HUP for the Blacklick Creek Watershed. She commented on the complicated nature of the modeling. They are using Geochemists Workbench with the help of Brent Means. Pam also noted on the multiple projects that are under construction. Those present asked how to write a HUP and if DEP is accepting new HUPs. Milavec commented that the watersheds that have Restoration plans already written have a good start but should work with DEP and OSM to beef them up. They are not accepting new HUP's now but may in the future.
- PJ Shah, who is nearing retirement, stressed concern with landowner issues.
- Mark Killar mentioned he is working with Anderson Creek to write a HUP. They already have an AMD restoration plan but need more detailed Biological surveys.
- Ron Horansky mentioned his work on the Primacy Bond Forfeiture sites. They should be under construction this summer. He is concerned about the need for NPDES permits. He also mentioned that there are a lot of retirements and concerns for the budget.
- Katie Oberthaller of Crooked Creek Watershed and Evergreen Conservancy reported on the work on both groups as well as the Indiana County Conservation District.
- Dave Beale reported that Armstrong is working on a number of stream bank stabilization projects. They are trying to get a reforestation project done on an AMD reclamation site.
- Jeff Fliss mentioned his blood runs black and gold. He commented that the counties that are planning to put in data loggers for Marcellus Shale monitoring should work together to have a plan that everyone uses and is consistent. He believes every county should work on getting this equipment. Jeff warned that there will be overlap and that spikes in the data could cause a reactionary response. Jim Eckenrode added that Dave Sewak is available for this type of training and wants to gets every county doing this type of monitoring.
- Andy Patterson mentioned some of his work with a watershed group to restore a watershed. The last remaining discharge, Dudley Discharge or the Alvin Project, will completely restore Shoop's Run.
- Malcolm Crittenden echoed Horansky's announcements and concerns.
- Rob Piper said they have continued to work with watershed groups on AMD treatment systems. One of their groups was awarded a Growing Greener grant.
- Amy Wolfe announced that TU received funding for the TAG to help with watershed assistance for AMD related work. She gave an update on Kettle Creek.
- Dave Steele made comment on the Marcellus Shale monitoring training. It is in their strategic plan to assist with this monitoring.

- Julie Maxwell gave an update on Dunkard Creek. Dunkard Creek is still having TDS problems due to the pumping of AMD from the Dana Mine. They are looking at pumping that water to the Monongahela River to dilute the pollution more.
- Heather Fowler reported on Fayette CD budget problems and as a result they are unable to travel. They hope to increase participation in the future. They have not been doing as much AMD work in the last year. They will also be participating in Marcellus Shale Monitoring.
- Lance Bowes is completing a 604b sampling grant.
- Scott Koser reported his boss is a Packers fan and he likes his job so is not wearing black and gold. He reported on a treatment system that is under construction and a 604b sampling grant. He is also working on a project on Muddy Run that has a potential for delisting the stream. He thanked the board for the chance to call in and save travel expenses.
- Kelly Williams reported that were three major Growing Greener projects awarded in 2010 for AMD treatment in her county.
- Greg Phillips noted several projects that are ongoing in Westmoreland County. They are doing some innovative work with Biosolids to treat AML. They have a GFCC in the county but the fees are very prohibitive. They are working with DEP to reduce the fees.
- Denny Beck reported that Cambria County has asked the water authorities to put in monitoring for Marcellus Shale. He mentioned that there are raised levels of arsenic in brine water.
- Jim Panaro mentioned a project involving wind mills on Rock Run. He echoed concerns about permitting cost issues for GFCC.s. They will no longer be taking piles less than 10,000 tons. He reported that Robindale has had an extremely active quarter in refuse reclamation. They are working on a treatment trust for the discharges after reclamation.
- Jim Eckenrode is also working with monitoring.

NEW BUSINESS

Formal Approval of Delegates and Alternates
As per our By-Laws we must approve the official voting members o our membership, CD Delegates and Alternates. Comments included correcting spelling errors.
Motion (Eckenrode/Patterson) to accept the named Delegates and Alternates. Passed.

WPCAMR Budget Corrections
Some corrections were made. Andy explained the categories. See Budget attachment. The fiscal year is the calendar year. Panaro noted that changes to the Budget of an organization do not constitute adopting a new budget. It was suggested in this case to adopt an amended budget to make it less confusing. Phillips would like a budget report at all future meetings.
Motion (Eckenrode/Phillips) to rescind the previous budget and adopt the presented adopted budget. Passed.

WPCAMR Draft Policy Manual

The WPCAMR Policy Manual was emailed to Delegates and Alternates and posted on the meeting materials on our website.
Motion (Phillips/Patterson) to accept WPCAMR Policy Manual. Passed

Quick Response V Contract
We received a contract for the next round of Quick Response, funded by Growing Greener. This grant will be direct deposit which will speed up the process.
Motion (Phillips/Eckenrode) to sign contract for Quick Response V. Passed.

St. Michael's Discharge Discussion
Rosebud Coal Company set up a non-profit to clean up the St. Michael's Discharge. They have agreed to fully fund the project. They would mine the coal and dewater the mine pool, which may eliminate the discharge. The non-profit is working with DEP to estimate money needed to take care of the discharge in-perpetuity. The non-profit would like support from WPCAMR. Andy mentioned that it is vital to make sure they have secured funding for OM&R. The trust fund has not been agreed upon. Rosebud would like Title IV money to pick up OM&R. The general consensus is that support is a little premature. Eric Cavazza stated that there are questions as to whether this could be support by Title IV money. This decision will be in the hands of OSM.

NPDES Issue Update
WPCAMR has been working with many other Appalachian states to follow the possibility that NPDES water quality permits may be required for AMD projects. We are concerned that watershed groups and conservation districts may be required to obtain NPDES permits for AMD treatment systems. Andy reviewed some of the possible avenues for our protection and the pros and cons of each. Amy Wolfe noted that TU, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and others are trying to work with EPA to have a ruling that would come up with a ruling to exempt our projects for NPDES permits. An EPA ruling may still be challenged.

Other New Business
Amy Wolfe requested that WPCAMR become a member of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition and gave a description of the group.

Russ Wagner sent a thank you note for our donation.

The Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team was accepted as a C-SAW provider.

Stream Restoration Inc, who is partnering with WPCAMR on Datashed and FACTS, sent a thank you note for partnering.

GFCC Investigation
Motion (Phillips/Eckenrode) to have staff gather data supporting the good work being done as result of GFCC projects, how the increased fees associated with these projects is impacting watershed restoration, and to request to DEP investigate and consider ways to waive or reduce the fees as an incentive for these projects to continue. Passed.

The rest of the year's WPCAMR meetings were set for Thursdays of May 12 (Indiana Eat N Park if possible), August 18 (Location TBA), and November 10, 2011 (Location TBA).

Motion (/Phillips) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 13:06.
Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut