

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2012
Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg PA

In attendance:

Jim Eckenrode, *Blair CD Delegate,*
Secretary

Denny Beck, *Cambria CD, Vice*
President

Andy McAllister (*Staff*)

Anne Daymut (*Staff*)

Donna Carnahan, *PA DEP*

Pam Milavec, *PA DEP*

Jeff Fliss, *PA DEP*

Carl Undercoffler, *Clearfield CD*

Adam Cotchen, *Indiana CD Delegate*

Bob Richie, *Cambria CD*

Tom Clark, *SRBC*

John Stefanko, *PA DEP*

Ron Horansky, *PA DEP*

Rob Cronauer, *Westmoreland CD*

Rob Piper, *Cambria CD*

Dave Beale, *Armstrong CD Delegate*

Tom Grote, *WPCAMR volunteer*

Julie Maxwell, *Green CD Delegate*

Megan Baskerville, *Crooked Creek*

Watershed Association, Evergreen

Conservancy

Dee Columbus, *Cambria County*

Conservation and Recreation Authority

Melissa Reckner, *K-C Stream Team*

Malcolm Crittenden, *PA DEP*

Eric Cavazza, *PA DEP*

Robb Piper, *Cambria CD*

Von Holquin, *Clearfield CD*

Amy Wolfe, *Trout Unlimited*

Nate Marsh, *Cambria CD*

Jackie Ritko, *Cambria CD*

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting chaired by Denny Beck and called to order at 10:15am with the Pledge of Allegiance and around the table introductions.

Secretary's Report (Jim Eckenrode):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Beale/Richie) to accept the minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Andy McAllister):

See report for details.

Motion (Eckenrode/Richie) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Correspondence (Andy McAllister):

Letter from Senator Toomey's office in regards to the OSM/BLM merger.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Coordinator's Report (Andy McAllister):

See report for details. Report on WPCAMR meeting webpage. Additional pertinent documents also available on website. John Stefanko added comments to several aspects. Specifically, all comments collected on the merger of OSM and BLM are negative. DEP is currently accepting and expediting applications for use of AMD in fracking. The PA DEP sees potential in SB 1346. Jeff Fliss added comments to the proposed impact fee.

Watershed Coordinator's report (Anne Daymut):

See report for details. Report on WPCAMR 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.

- Amy Wolfe of TU reported much of the same legislative issues that WPCAMR is working on and well as some additional issues. TU continues to offer the TAG and continues to implement projects in several watersheds throughout PA. The 6th West Branch Susquehanna Symposium will be on April 29th at the Ramada Inn, in State College.
- Tom Clark reported on progress in the Bear Run Watershed and the rebound of trout in the stream. SRBC is working on an AMD database to be used by the oil and gas industry.
- Jackie Ritko gave updates on some operations and maintenance on their AMD treatment projects. She also has a WREN grant for water resource issues education.
- Dee Columbus talked about the Barns Watkins site and the building of soccer fields on the site. The Webster project is not functioning properly.
- Jim Eckenrode talked about some stream assessments that he is beginning. He also has an AMR project underway.
- Pam Milavec discussed three projects that are currently in various stages of development: Cresson active treatment plant, Wihrum (Smoyer handling), and Alvin in the Broad Top with the help of Army Corps. Kovalchic owns the Alvin property and there is a possibility it could be a remaining project, which would save the state considerable funds on the stream reconstruction end, however this has temporarily put the project on hold. Lancashire 15 is now treating water and is working beautifully in only 2 months. Hollywood plant is also in construction and scheduled to be complete early this summer. Glen Rider is her new boss and is doing well at learning the position.
- Julie Maxwell is hosting a workshop for Oil and Gas. Her district is working with Army Corps on a TDS study of the entire Mon River watershed.
- Jeff Fliss is working with Allegheny County to implement a data logger system.
- Dave Beale is working on an ARRI grant and Gen-On grant on for the Roaring Run Watershed Association. Armstrong CD and Clarion CD are working together on a large tract of land to reclaim a high wall and build a passive treatment system.
- Melissa Reckner expanded on Fliss's report on the data logger system and database for the Kiski-Conemaugh River basin. K-C Stream Team is now a member of C-SAW and is coordinating some trainings and assistance were needed. Reckner encourages those needing training to apply. The Little Paint Creek Water Conservation Plan was published. The Stoneycreek was named River of the Year. There will be events throughout the year to celebrate.
- Adam Cotchen continues to partner with SRBC in Bear Run. He introduced the new VISTA, Megan, who will be working with CrCWA and Evergreen Conservancy. Megan reported on the maintenance at Tanoma Wetlands.
- Ron Horansky reported on some of his remaining permits and projects. He is primarily working on the Primacy Bond forfeiture projects and some 319, TMDL,

- and Growing Greener work. At the Settler's Cabin in Allegheny County they are building a botanical garden and there is remining involved.
- Carl Undercoffler discussed some problems he has with a huge beaver dam. Clearfield County is doing a bond forfeiture. The CD and Susquehanna Greenways are sharing an OSM VISTA.
 - Donna Carnahan announced that Gary Price left to go to EPA and she will likely be our grant advisor. Steve Lathrop's position will also likely be changing. She announced that there is a new AMD video up that was funded by the marketing grant.
 - Colin Lenox, Eco Islands, researching wetlands and bioremediation.
 - Malcolm Crittenden added that there will be a big tree planting at the Flight 93 project. He is also always exploring and researching new AMD treatment technologies.
 - Von Holquin stood in for Kelly Williams today. He reported on the multiple projects and grants that the Clearfield CD and watershed groups are involved in. Carl Undercoffler added that the Morgan Run sites are working well and construction is underway on two sites. There will be a river sojourn (5 days) and a triathlon and all are welcome. Happy Birthday Carl!
 - John Stefanko added that there will be a ribbon cutting for Lankashire 15. He gave updates on the permitting issues and the trust fund at the St. Michaels discharge.
 - Denny Beck reported on some of the things he is involved in with planning Earth Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Project with Shale Gas Company (Andy McAllister):

A shale gas company has proposed the drilling of water wells into a large mine pool. They would like WPCAMR to own the well and provide the water to industry for fracking. Specifics on this proposed project are available to WPCAMR board members only due to propriety concerns. Jeff Fliss has concerns of what the mode of operation is for this proposal. Stefanko feels that the purpose of this is because they typically hire others to do portions of the work. Andy added that they are interested in PR, saving money, and liability concerns. Andy will collect comments from WPCAMR board. Motion (Richie/Beale) to form and ad hoc committee to gather more information and report in May 2012. Passed.

Grant Proposal

The Research Technology Partnership for America has a grant out for RFP. Amy Wolfe reported on a grant TU envisions which has several components; 1. Where are the discharges and what is the feasibility, 2. What is the ability of watershed groups to source AMD to the shale gas industry, 3. Interactive GIS database for public use, 4. Economics associated with developing this resource and how do we sustain permanent AMD treatment. Amy would like to ask WPCAMR to be a partner. March 6, 2012 is the proposal due date.

Strategic Plan Proposal

Tom Grote described the strategic planning process and his proposal. The steering committee will include the executive officers, staff, The first meeting will be on March 7th or 8th. Motion (Eckenrode/Cotchen) to approve a contract with Tom Grote to facilitate the strategic planning process for \$3500. Passed.

2012 Meeting Dates

Dates were chosen as May 17th, August 16th, and November 8th, 2012. Sites TBA

Resignation of our President

At the May meeting there will be elections for a new president.

Quick Response VI contract signature

Motion (Eckenrode/Richie) to sign the contract when it arrives. Passed.

Motion (Richie) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:56pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut