

**WPCAMR**  
**Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 7, 2013**  
**Westmoreland Conservation District Barn**

**In attendance:**

Denny Beck, Cambria CD Delegate,  
Acting President  
Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD Delegate,  
Secretary  
Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD  
Alternate, Treasurer  
Andy McAllister (Staff)  
Anne Daymut (Staff)  
Adam Cotchen, Indiana CD Delegate  
Kelly Corsey, Evergreen Conservancy  
Pam Milavec, PA DEP  
Dan Mikesic, PA DEP  
Ted Kopas, Westmoreland CD Delegate

Rob Cronauer, Westmoreland CD  
Donna Carnahan, PA DEP  
Dave Beale, Armstrong CD Delegate  
Gary Stokum, Washington CD Delegate  
Thurman Korns, Wells Creek Watershed  
Association  
Amy Miller, Allegheny CD Delegate  
Jim Resh, Indiana CD Delegate  
Ron Horansky, PA DEP  
Carl Undercoffler, Clearfield Creek  
Watershed Association  
Tom Grote, WPCAMR volunteer  
Steve Putt, Elk County CD Delegate

**WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:31 am with Pledge of Allegiance around the table introductions.

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

Review of past meeting minutes.

**Motion (Kopas/Beale) to accept the minutes. Passed.**

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

See report for details.

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

**Correspondence** (Andy McAllister): none to report

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Regional Coordinator's Report** (Andy McAllister):

See report for details. Report on meeting webpage. Eric Cavazza added comments to Andy's report on the AML Funds. PA did not yet receive the 2013 funds. If nothing happens by the end of March with the federal budget, there will be cuts. Eric has been working closely with OSM to report the dangers of the cuts to PA. PA DEP is actively trying to deal with this problem.

**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.

- Thurman Korn reported that Wells Creek is currently working on a grant application for an AMD Treatment system. They also had their annual chicken BBQ.
- Rob Cronauer reported on the learning process of permitting biosolids for reclaiming AML. He noted that Westmoreland CD took advantage of the Trout Unlimited TAG. With Bob Hedin's help, paid through the TAG, they were able to save a lot of money on a treatment project. He encourages everyone to look into this program. He is also working with Hedin on the Brush Run AMD.
- Steve Putt reported that Elk County has a new position filled. They are still collecting base line data throughout the county.
- Kelly Corsey announced that the Evergreen Conservancy is very busy with a datalogger program.
- Carl Undercoffler discussed the Ross site in Morgan Run is doing much better than previously expected. Construction is nearly complete. He is working on some stream bank restoration.
- Ron Horansky reported that the Title V program, active mining, may be affected by the federal budget as well. He brought it to the board's attention that there is a new grant program for AMD reclamation through ACT 13. Information can be found at DCED and DEP websites. This grant program is similar to Growing Greener. An interesting aspect is the ability to place up to 65% of your grant in an OM&R fund. There is an application fee of \$100 and the final report requires CPA audit. Monitoring is an eligible expense. Applications due by July 31, 2013. Ron also noted that there is a much smaller grant program dealing with mine maps.
- Eric Cavazza noted that there are 25 projects, 18 in WPCAMR's area, estimated around \$25Million, going through bid process. They will be under construction this summer. DEP is working on looking at reclaiming some of the refuse piles that have little value but contribute greatly to pollution. DEP is also monitoring some of the mine fires that are of concern. He noted that one that causes a lot of problems is at the old Pittsburgh Airport.
- Donna Carnahan reminded us that Steve Lathrop retired and they are now interviewing for his position. She is working on 319 grant reading and believes the decision will be made and announced soon. They hope that the next Growing Greener round will be open in June.
- Dave Beale is working on an ARRI grant and Gen-On grant on for the Roaring Run Watershed Association, where over 9K trees were planted by 100 volunteers in 5 hours. Cowanshannock Creek Watershed just did major OM&R of the White Lake AMD Treatment system. Crooked Creek Watershed Association has been constructing stream bank stabilization along Plum Creek. Dave noted that Clarion County is interested in re-joining WPCAMR.
- Adam Cotchen continues to partner with SRBC in Bear Run. The final phase is under construction. SRI is helping with some OM&R issues throughout the county. They are working on a partnership with a coal company to get some alternative funding for land reclamation. His OSM/VISTA has moved on.
- Brynn Wylonis of Shade Creek gave a report.
- Gary Stokum mentioned that he is working with BioMost on a River's Conservation Plan. He also has dataloggers throughout the county. Gary is

concerned about mine water rights and the ownership of treatment systems of mine water used by the fracking industry. Eric Cavazza and Ron Horansky were able to add to the discussion and some solutions PA DEP is exploring to solve the problems.

- Dan Mikesic is the new “Pam Milavec”.
- Denny Beck reported on Cambria County. He would like to see more detailed reports on the flow back from fracking including amounts returned and chemical make up.
- Amy Miller has helped with some OM&R activities in the Montour Run Watershed Association’s AMD Treatment system. She is working on a Datalogger project. She is also working on a Watershed Implementation Plan for Pine Creek for stormwater runoff.
- Pam Milavec discussed the Hollywood treatment plant. The Set Aside guidelines are being updated. Pam talked about 3 dams along the Schuylkill River that are hazardous. There are no funds to fix them. She is working on filling some other positions. The department is working on updating QHUPs. They hope to finish one for the Upper Little Conemaugh in light of Amfire getting a permit for the Hughes Site where they will contribute \$5.5 Million to the watershed. Likewise, Rosebud is under construction with the St. Michaels Discharge as part of their permit conditions. They will contribute a trust fund for the treatment system. DEP is also looking at the Vintondale “Three Sisters”. They are also looking at the Webster. They may be some updates to several active and passive systems that are in failure.

#### **Special Presentation: Title IV Set Aside update and New Staff**

**There will be a public meeting for the Set Aside program and WPCAMR has offered to help with coordination.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion (Eckenrode) to adjourn meeting for the election of officers. Passed.**

**Election of Officers (Dave Beale):**

**Motion (Stokum/Miller) to accept the slate of Conservation Delegates and Alternates as presented in Agenda Packet. Passed.**

**Motion (Stokum/Putt) to accept slate of nominated officers as follows: Denny Beck, President; Jim Eckenrode, Vice President; Greg Phillips, Treasurer; Jim Resh, Secretary. Passed.**

**Meeting reconvened and called to order at 12:55pm.**

**Strategic Plan (Tom Grote)**

**Motion (Phillips/Eckenrode) to accept the Strategic Plan. Passed.**

Financial Committee volunteers include: Jim Resh (Chairman), Anne Daymut, Greg Phillips, Tom Grote, Andy McAllister

Marketing Committee volunteers include: Jim Eckenrode (Chairman), Steve Putt, Denny Beck, Andy McAllister, Anne Daymut, Kelly Corsey

**Meetings for the rest of the year are as follows, locations TBA:**

**May 9, 2013**

**August 15, 2013**

**November 14, 2013**

**Motion (Miller/Beale) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:39pm.**

*Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut*