

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

AMR Conference Call (3)

OM&R Committee Meeting (1)

Title V/SMCRA Reauthorization meeting

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

I am on the recently re-convened OM&R workgroup, a committee of AMD community members who are concerned with the long-term OM&R of the 300+ publically funded AMD treatment systems across the state. The workgroup has met several times over the last few months. As a result of these meetings, a white paper is being developed to present to possible funders of an OM&R trust fund. During the November 2014 meeting, it was determined that there are many data gaps in the data being used to calculate the total amount of money needed. In November, I began work with conservation districts to try to fill in those data gaps. I sorted the data by county and worked with Watershed Specialists and District Managers to get in contact with the parties who are responsible for the OM&R of treatment systems in question and collect data, most importantly, the initial cost of the systems and the types and extent of previous OM&R conducted. Then, I compiled all of the data I collected and shared it with the rest of the committee.

I am working with Ann Donovan of Center County to develop the Centre Region Sustainability Tour for the 2015 PA AMR Conference.

One AMP was prepared in November regarding Loyalhanna Creek's nomination for River of the Year. Another AMP was written in November and distributed in January regarding the 2015 PA AMR Conference and a request for submissions into the conference's associated film festival.

I have been aiding Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association to complete and submit the contract paperwork for their new Growing Greener grant. Andy and I met with the group this month to discuss issues about non-profit management and grant administration that they are concerned with.

2015 AMR CONFERENCE

Planning for the 2015 AMR Conference is underway. The planning committee has met and decided to once again partner with ARIPPA. The conference will be held on June 25-26, 2015. This month, I began securing presentations and plenary speakers. We already have nearly a dozen presenters lined up. I co-wrote an article for Abandoned Mine Posts to advertise the conference and collect entries for the conference's film festival. We have collected 2 films for our film festival. In addition for the film festival, the conference will offer two networking opportunities. We will once again host a golf outing and

encourage anyone interested in golfing to participate and network with ARIPPA representatives. This year's tour will focus on sustainability in Centre County. I have been working with Ann Donovan to organize the tour. We will be visiting Penn State's new Arboretum, the Forest Resources Green building, the University Area Joint Authority, Tate's Farm, and the Seven Mountain Winery. Lastly, we have decided to once again have a silent auction to raise money for EPCAMR and WPCAMR. We would like to double our income from the silent auction this year, which would net us \$1000 each. We are asking our boards to help secure silent auction items. Last year we had primarily art and photography. This year, in addition to the art and photography we would like to offer outdoor and recreational items specific to our regions and coal mining history.

ARIPPA AWARD

We will once again be partnering with ARIPPA to award \$5000 to AMR projects across the state. The WPCAMR region will distribute \$2500 of those funds. I have updated the award RFP, which will be distributed soon. A due date for the proposals is yet to be determined. The RFP will be available on WPCAMR.org.