

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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February 11, 2016

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

AMR Conference Call (4)

Good Samaritan Legislation Conference calls (6)

Westmoreland Conservation Breakfast

Growing Greener III Conference Call (1)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In November, word came from DEP that they are working on a possible Growing Greener III program. I surveyed our Conservation District Managers and Watershed Specialists as well as WPCAMR delegates and alternates and other constituents as to what they would like to see in a new GG program. Of course, a major issue was continued funding for Conservation District Watershed Specialists. In January, I listened in on 1 Growing Greener Conference Call.

I have been aiding Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association to complete and submit an application for an OSMRE Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program grant to be the match for their new Growing Greener Grant for the Kolb AMD Treatment System. In November, I secured a contract with the lowest bidder for a Phase II archaeological study and amended the OSM grant to include the Phase II study. In December, the lowest bidder for the Phase II archaeological study began work and actually finished work early. The recommendations were then sent off to PHMC. As of January, they have are still awaiting approval of PHMC to commence with the project. They have received an executed grant agreement for their Growing Greener grant and once the PHMC clears the project, the OSM grant will be finalized as well.

In November, two WPCAMR board meeting reminders and two regular AMP articles were distributed including one article about recent legislative proposals for Good Sam and other issues and a second regarding a survey that DEP is conducting on a possible Growing Greener III program. In December, one AMP article was distributed regarding an environmental night that will be held at PNC park.

2016 PA AMR CONFERENCE

Planning is underway for the 2016 PA AMR Conference. The committee would like to move the conference to a new location for 2016 so that we can offer a traditional AMD/AML tour. In November, it was decided to begin contract formulation with Indiana University of Pennsylvania for June 22-23, 2016. The committee met and began working on tour ideas, presentations, and fundraising. In December, it was decided that we will hold a day-long tour on Wednesday of the conference. I collected bids from bus companies. I also began reaching out to the nearly 2 dozen possible presenters and notified them that they are invited to submit an abstract for consideration by February 15, 2016. In January, I started collecting and organizing abstracts from potential presenters. I also began working on tour stops and speakers. I measured distances between tour stops and arranged for an en-route speaker from the Indiana County Tourist Bureau.

PA AML Campaign

Several conference calls were held during the last quarter regarding Good Samaritan efforts on a national level. In November through January, I began working with Geoff Lincoln of PA DEP to compile an updated list of all AMD projects registered with the PA Environmental Good Samaritan Act. I began reaching out to owners and operators of AMD projects to encourage them to register if they have not done so already. However, many issues need to be worked out within DEP before I devote much more time to this. In January, I aided in reviewing documents that were developed with potential legislative language.

I did some research on the amount of lobbying allowed to non-profits by the IRS.

ARIPPA AWARD

I have begun to update the Award RFP for this year's ARIPPA Award. A due date has yet to be selected but will most likely be late May and the amounts should stay the same.