

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

Anne Daymut

May 12, 2016

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

AMR Conference Call (3)
Good Samaritan Legislation Conference calls (3)
Growing Greener Conference Call (1)
WPCAMR Annual Meeting (1)
Blackleggs Pre-construction meeting (2)
AML Campaign Meeting (3)
PEC Watershed Needs Survey meeting
West Branch Susquehanna Symposium (1)
Saltsburg Elementary Trout In the Classroom release day (1)
RECLAIM Act webinar (1)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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. As of February, they have completed a Phase II archeological study and are 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. Also in February, a pre-construction budget meeting was held with Blackleggs, their accountant, and the construction contractor to review and agree upon a construction contract amount. I helped the group to combine all of the money they have into a spreadsheet and label each item by cost. In March, they applied for the 20% up front working capital from the GG grant. I also began working on a request to OSM for an additional \$10,800 to cover the cost of the Phase II Archeological study. Additionally, in March, I aided Blackleggs in compiling a Final Report for the Gen On grant for Whiskey Run #9 and an Interim Report for the Gen On grant for Big Run #3. In April, they were awarded the extra \$10,800 from the OSM WCAP grant to cover the costs of the Phase II archeological study. Also in April, PHMC reviewed both the Phase I and Phase II archeological studies and determined that the project could begin. Word came soon after that OSM released the money and approved the commencement of construction. I requested 2 reimbursements from the Growing Greener Grant and One for the OSM WCAP grant to cover work done to date.

I attended the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Watershed Group Needs Survey meeting for the Southwest PA Region in March where they reviewed the results of the survey they had conducted and led a discussion for local groups. I volunteered to participate on a conference planning committee for a conference to be held in Spring 2017 on watershed group needs.

I presented at the West Branch Susquehanna Symposium in April on the Pennsylvania Environmental Good Samaritan Act.

I participated in the Trout In the Classroom release day in April for Saltsburg Elementary. I presented on mining history and how it relates to water quality. The students got to see mining artifacts, fossils, and pictures and played the Mine History game.

Two AMPs were distributed in March including one advocating the SENSE Act and one announcing the 2016 ARIPPA Award RFP.

One AMP was distributed in April for the WPCAMR quarterly board meeting reminder.

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 February, I collected the first round of abstracts and organized them. I began mapping the tour and contacting individuals to present at each stop and formulated a tentative schedule. I also began working on tour stops and speakers. I worked with IUP to answer questions and concerns that the committee had regarding the draft contract.
- In March I continued to collect and organize presentation abstracts. We now have nearly all of the presentations needed. I also reached out to plenary speakers. I finalized the tour route and speakers and arranged for transportation and fun activities on the tour.
- In April I communicated with IUP regarding the contract, menu choices and other needs. I began working on the program and supporting materials for the registration packets. I collected ads from sponsors and developed a sponsor request letter that I distributed to past sponsors. Also in April, I developed a presentation that I will give at the conference on non-profits and lobbying.

PA AML Campaign

Several conference calls were held during the last quarter regarding the RECLAIM Act. In February, I continued reaching out to owners and operators of AMD projects to encourage them to register if they have not done so already. I am helping several groups complete the project proposal paperwork. I also participated in multiple conference calls related to potential Good Samaritan legislation and helped review documents that the campaign produced. In March, I attended an AML Campaign meeting at Juniata College followed by a Conference Call to discuss the RECLAIM proposed legislation. In April, I registered for and watched a webinar for the RECLAIM Act.

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

ARIPPA AWARD

In February, I completed updating the 2016 ARIPPA Award RFP. In March, the RFP for the 2016 ARIPPA Award was distributed. Applications are currently being accepted and are due July 8, 2016.