

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

PA AMR Conference Call (4)
Natural Resources Sub Committee hearings (4)
Saltsburg High School Trout In the Classroom Release (1)
Shannock Valley Elementary Career Day (1)
PA AML Campaign Conference Call (2)
Good Samaritan Legislation Conference Call (1)
Blacklick Creek Watershed Coalition meeting (1)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Blackleggs Watershed Association has an Act 13 grant which is expiring in June 2017 and they have not yet begun work. The group has decided that due to personal issues for the directors, they are not able to manage the grant. I have been helping them try to find an individual or organization to take over the grant administration. BioMost and Stream Restoration Inc is interested. In May, I helped Blackleggs draft a contract with BioMost. In May, I submitted the application for the OSM grant, which will be the match. In June, I helped Blackleggs execute a contract with BioMost for the Design, submitted followup materials to OSMRE WCAP for the approval of a grant that will be the match, and began drafting a construction bid package. In July, We got word that OSM has postponed the award of new grants until September. We are scheduling a meeting with all project partners to determine if we want to continue with the project.

In May, I attended the Trout In the Classroom Release Day for Saltsburg High School and taught about mining history and its impact on the environment to 9th graders. I also attended Career Day for Shannock Valley elementary school where I taught about the same thing to 5th and 6th graders.

In June I reached out to the member Conservation Districts to help DEP collect data on illegal dumps on Abandoned Mine Lands.

I attended the Blacklick Creek Watershed Coalition monthly meeting which focused on their hope to submit a QHUP for the watershed. They have received a TU Technical assistance grant to aid in this publication. The Kiski-Conomaugh Stream Team along with many other sources, will be submitting data to Hedin Environmental, who is drafting the document.

In May two AMPs were distributed, the first for the ARIPPA Award RFP and the second for DEP to announce the acceptance of new QHUPs and to advertise for the PA AMR Conference. In June, one AMP was distributed for the PA AMR Conference registration deadline.

PA AMR CONFERENCE

In May, two Conference planning committee meetings were held. I continued collecting and organizing abstracts for presentations. I finalized the program, program insert, and evaluations. I also coordinated the presentation schedule with the presenters. We are currently working on a deal with NAAMLPA to hold a joint conference in 2019. I will be presenting on the PA AML Campaign, so I began working on my presentation.

In June, two Conference planning committee meetings were held. I finalized all of the materials for the registration packets, organized the moderator schedule, and did the printing. The conference was held June 21-22, 2017 in Wilkes-Barre. We had approximately 100 registrants for the presentations and 50 for the bus tour. See www.treatminewater.com for details. We are currently working on a possible collaboration with NAAML P for the 2019 Conference, which would be held in Pittsburgh.

In July, the evaluations were compiled and a wrap up conference call for the planning committee was scheduled.

The planning committee is considering a possible joint conference with NAAML P in 2019 in Pittsburgh. We have entered discussions with NAAML P in regards to how finances will be handled.

PA AML CAMPAIGN

This quarter, I continued to develop a story line for a longer film advocating for the reauthorization of the AML fund collection fees. I also continued to work on details for the AML Campaign website.

In May, I continued to develop a story line for a longer film advocating for the reauthorization of the AML fund collection fees. I also continued to work on details for the website. I listened in on two hearings for the Natural Resources Committee regarding the RECLAIM Act and a potential Good Samaritan Act. I submitted an abstract as a presentation proposal for the 2017 NAAML P Conference.

In June, one PA AML Campaign conference call and one hearing on reauthorization were held. I continued to develop a story line for a longer film advocating for the reauthorization of the AML fund collection fees. I also put the website up for public view.

In July, one PA AML Campaign conference call was held. I continued to develop a story line for a longer film advocating for the reauthorization of the AML fund collection fees. I presented WPCAMR's efforts including the 4 minute commercial at the PA AMR Conference. I submitted a presentation and was accepted to present at the 2017 NAAML P Conference in Lexington this September. In July, I began to pull together that presentation. I also began research into the Federal AML Fund spending on administration nationwide.

ARIPPA AWARD

ARIPPA is once again sponsoring the ARIPPA Award. In May, we began advertising and accepting applications. In June, we encouraged submissions and had discussions about potential submissions. In July, I collected applications for WPCAMR and EPCAMR and reviewed them for administrative completeness. WPCAMR received one application. The ARIPPA Awards Recommendation Committee reviewed the application and is recommending that WPCAMR award Sewickly Creek Watershed Association \$2,500 for the construction of an educational pavilion at the Lowber Treatment System.

GOOD SAMARITAN

In May, I continued to research the PA Environmental Good Samaritan Act. DEP has advised that they will no longer be granting registration to applicants who have previously constructed systems. This means that a legislative fix will be needed so that previously constructed systems may still apply for registration and receive liability protections for the OM&R work conducted. We have been researching and discussing the best ways to go about this. For the time being, I have stopped promoting PAEGSA registration to groups unless they are just beginning construction on a new system. We are also pursuing the need to have registration required for all new systems. Congress has had a hearing on possible Federal Legislation for Good Samaritan protection in May. We listened to the hearing and provided feedback.

In June, One hearing was held by the Natural Resources subcommittee on potential Good Samaritan legislation. A Bill is being introduced. We had the opportunity to review and submit comments on the Bill in June. We are also pursuing the need to have registration required for all new systems in for the PAEGSA as well as possibilities to have previously existing systems grandfathered into the PA EGSA.

In July, One conference call was organized for potential Good Samaritan legislation as well as to discuss drafted amendment language for PAEGSA. This language was distributed to a small focus group for comments. Once our community is comfortable with the drafted language, we will look for a champion to introduce it as a Bill.

CONTRACTED VIDEO WORK

WPCAMR has been contracted by the Westmoreland County Conservation District to produce a video for municipalities about stormwater basin retrofits. WPCAMR will be paid \$1,400 for this video. In July, I began filming and had discussions with WCD staff about scripting, editing, and deadlines.