

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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May 11, 2017

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

PA AMR Conference Call (3)
Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watersheds planning meeting (4)
Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations (2 days)
Indiana CD Legislative Breakfast (1)
Environmental Justice Listening Session (1)
Meeting with Pam Snyder in regards to PAEGSA (1)
RECLAIM Call (4)
League of Women Voters Environment and Economy Summit (1)
Blackleggs Meeting with BioMost for Act 13 (2)
Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited Spring Banquet (1)
Good Sam Call (1)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

I served on the planning committee for the Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watersheds, which was held March 5-6, 2017 in State College. In February, I participated in two planning conference calls. I aided in reviewing the conference agenda. I attended one conference call in March to help with last minute details and one call after the conference to go over evaluations and give final thoughts. I agreed to give two presentations at the conference, one on PA EGSA and one on Rules and Regulations of Lobbying for Nonprofit organizations. Both of these presentations were extremely successful and I got a ton of great feedback. I also made many new contacts. I felt that this was a very worthwhile conference and I hope that it is held more often.

In March, I attended the Indiana County Conservation District Legislative Breakfast, where I was asked to give a brief introduction to WPCAMR and the partnership we have with Indiana County Conservation District. I was also allowed to advocate for the reauthorization of the collection fees associated with SMCRA and a federal Good Samaritan legislation.

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 order to finish the grant, they will need an extension. I have been helping BioMost to request an extension, update the grant budget, and develop a contract with Blackleggs. In April, the extension was granted. Lastly, the matching funds for the Act 13 grant, to be supplied primarily by OSM, have not been applied for yet. In March and April, I continued that application and began pulling together the application requirements.

In February, two AMPs were distributed including one RFP for presentations for the 2017 PA AMR Conference and one for the Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations and as a reminder for the WPCAMR Quarterly meeting. In March, one AMP was distributed for Amy Wolfe's award Women in Conservation Award acceptance. In April, one AMP was written for the ARIPPA Award but was not distributed.

2017 PA AMR CONFERENCE

In February, one Conference planning committee meeting was held. I continued collecting and organizing abstracts for presentations. The tour is currently being organized as well as an alternative activity for those who do not wish to go on the tour. In March, one Conference planning committee meeting was held. I continued collecting and organizing abstracts for presentations. I contacted all of those individuals who submitted abstracts that were accepted by the committee to let them know that they would be presenting. In March, I also began updating this year's program and packet materials and collecting logos from sponsors and names of exhibitors. In April, one Conference planning committee meeting was held. I continued collecting and organizing abstracts for presentations. I contacted all of those individuals who submitted abstracts that were accepted by the committee to let them know that they would be presenting. In March, I continued updating this year's program and packet materials and collecting logos from sponsors and names of exhibitors.

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. One phone meeting was held with IMCC to discuss developments and concerns with Reauthorization, RECLAIM, and Good Sam. I also attended 2 meetings in March and 2 meetings in April regarding the RECLAIM act and the bills that were introduced in March.

In February I continued to work with the updated list of PAEGSA registered projects. DEP has advised that they are working on a guidance document to help prevent inconsistencies in the future. I have offered my assistance to watershed organizations and conservation districts trying to submit applications. This work will continue in the coming months as WPCAMR continues to encourage organizations to register for coverage. In March, 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. We had a meeting with PA Representative Pam Snyder in April to discuss the possibilities and need for a legislative fix. 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.

ARIPPA AWARD

ARIPPA is once again sponsoring the ARIPPA Award. In March, I updated the Award RFP and drafted an Abandoned Mine Post to open the award round. In April, further updates were made to the ARIPPA Award RFP. An AMP advertising this year's ARIPPA Award RFP was distributed in May.