

**WPCAMR**  
*Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation*  
*Quarterly Meeting Minutes*  
*February 12, 2025 @ 10:00 AM ET*  
*Via Zoom*

*In attendance:*

Dennis Beck, Cambria CD, President  
Maria Sorce, Armstrong CD Delegate, Vice President  
Amy Miller, Allegheny CD Delegate, Secretary (phone)  
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate  
Andy McAllister, Staff  
Anne Daymut, Staff  
Jon-Marc Burdick, Cameron CD Delegate  
Ben Wenger, Indiana CD Delegate  
Lenny Lichvar, Somerset CD Delegate  
Logan Lichvar, Bottomlands Conservancy  
Jeffrey Kim, Washington CD Delegate  
Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc  
John Wenzel, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy  
Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited  
Bailey Kozalla, Venango CD Delegate  
Ben Smith, Jefferson CD Delegate  
Jon Smoyer, PA DEP BAMR

Jeff Painter, PAGC  
Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental  
Deb Nardone, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
Chelsea Walker, Westmoreland CD Delegate,  
Kylie Schultz, Westmoreland CD  
Micaela Lefever, Elk CD Delegate  
Natalie Lamagna, Stream Restoration Inc  
Rachel Fallon, Clearfield CD Alternate  
Jim Eckenrode, St Francis University  
Robbie Fulton, OSMRE  
Sara Speedy, Natural Streams Foundation  
Jacob Levendosky, Westmoreland CD  
Jim Panero, Robindale Energy  
Tiffany Stewart, Greene CD Delegate  
Jeannie Shay, Lawerence CD Delegate  
Brian Turk, Natural Streams Foundation  
Crystal Biggans, Headwaters Headwaters Charitable Trust

**WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am.

**Secretary's Report (Andy McAllister):**

Review of past meeting minutes from November 2024 with a correction to Walker did not submit the grant application, Schultz submitted the application.

**Motion (Walker/Miller) to accept the November 2025 minutes with corrections. Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report (Kelly Williams):**

See report for details.

**Motion (Wenger/Walker) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Staff Reports**

Regional Coordinator's Report (Andy McAllister): *See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.*  
Watershed Coordinator's report (Anne Daymut): *See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.*

**PA DEP BAMR Update:**

Jon Smoyer noted that it is business as usual at PA DEP currently.

**Partner Updates (All present)**

- Maria said beavers were trapped at Darmac and she got funding to remove sludge. She is working on getting funding to remove spoil piles.
- Kelly Williams and Rachel Fallen have a number of BIL-funded projects in different stages of development and construction. She has 319 projects that she needs to trim the budget for. She submitted a final report for State Game Lands 98.
- Amy Miller is working on the Montour Run system. She has AG BMPs at a preserve farms.
- Jon-Marc noted that there are two systems running when streams freeze over so he plans to switch to the Coanda type of intake screens. Cameron wrapped up a fish survey. He is planning a legislative tour for this summer of his treatment systems.
- Ben Wenger is wrapping up a watershed assessment. Indiana CD is not pausing work on any of their federally-funded projects.
- Lenny gave updates on the two AMD discharge projects he is currently trying to get BIL funding for. He is also working on a couple coal refuse removal projects. He is trying to work in cooperation with the beavers, who actually assisted with AMD treatment in one instance. The Oven Run projects on Stonycreek River are working well as a fish surveys show 5 species of fish. They may trap and transfer wild brook trout to Oven Run. They formed the Bottomlands Conservancy. Jon Smoyer noted that any new BIL applications must now have pre-application coordination meetings.
- Logan Lichvar talked about the newly formed Bottomlands Conservancy and the work they hope to do. They will shortly take over ownership of Oven Run treatment systems and others.
- Jeffrey Kim talked about some sampling that he just wrapped up in Washington. He is doing a Growing Greener Stream Restoration project.
- Cliff and Natalie talked about their TAG program to evaluate problems with treatment systems and even small maintenance tasks. SRI is planning a 2025 statewide snapshot of treatment systems that takes samples of all samples and upstream/downstream monitoring. They had Datashed trainings in the fall and they have fixed and updated the SIS upload tool through DEP's lab.
- John Wenzel thanked WPCAMR, BAMR, OSMRE for the AMD Passive Treatment Course. CVC finished a study on Inclined Hill in downtown Johnstown and is in design phase. John talked about the appreciation luncheon he recently hosted and how successful it was.
- Amy Wolfe talked about the various stages they are in for all of their BIL-funded projects. Amy was in DC last week and was able to meet with multiple legislators. She talked about the Hard Rock Good Sam and TU's interest in a federal Good Sam for abandoned coal. TU VPs have met on the severity of the funding pause. Amy advises that the most important aspect of this is to show that it creates real jobs. Amy also advised people to call local representatives offices.
- Bailey Kozalla talked about Scrubgrass Creek Watershed Association and a grant they have. South Sandy Watershed Association has dissolved. Vanango no longer has any WIPs.
- Ben Smith gave a brief update on his projects.
- Jeff Painter noted that PAGC has projects in many counties. Jeff will be retiring in April.
- Bob Hedin has stopped work on projects where contracts are in place.
- Chelsea Walker, Kylie Schultz and Jacob Levendosky talked about sampling they did in Wolford Run. The treatment system there have improved the conditions since 2015. The recommendations are to expand the system. Chelsea talked about removing Iron Oxide from systems and the problems there. Chelsea asked if Growing Greener is still a funding option for AMD treatment and Smoyer responded that it will be situational which funding avenue to take. Chelsea asked if BAMR will participate in the review of GG. BAMR won't likely participate in GG as much in future. This is a problem for projects like sludge management that require frequent attention and funding. Kylie noted that they were awarded a BIL for design and permitting of an AML site. They also have a BIL application submitted for a treatment system on Irwin Discharge, which is very large.

- Micaela Lefever talked about the West Creek project, where they are bidding out the project and WCAP funds will be spent first. She finished monitoring of Johnson Run Passive treatment system for rehab. She is hoping to submit BIL applications for rehab of another system. She is also monitoring a treatment system on Dentz Run.
- Jim Eckenrode shared that St Francis is working with Indiana CD and Hedin on assessments on Two Lick Creek. They are nearing the end of the project. St Francis is working on an REE project with Chuck Cravota. St Francis is working with BioMost and Hedin on redesign of the automated agridrain.
- Deb Nardone updated that FPW has a new hire, Maggie Anderson, as an administrator who will be the primary contact for grant applications. Deb noted that she is hearing many groups are having working capital needs and she encouraged people to reach out to her to discuss the issues, that FPW may be able to help. FPW has put a temporary stop on projects that are federally funded. Deb
- Robbie Fulton noted that they are no longer allowed to refer to BIL, it is now IIJA. They are also not allowed to bill to BIL. Current WCAP projects should continue to be paid out. AMLER funding is also flowing. New grants announcements are on hold, including the next round of WCAP and the Passive Treatment Maintenance program. Kelly asked about FY 24 grants, and Robbie noted they are also on pause.
- Sara Speedy and Brian Turk Natural Streams Foundation signed off early.
- Jim Panero signed off early.
- Tiffany Stewart signed off early.
- Jeannie Shay signed off early.
- Crystal Biggans, Headwaters Headwaters Charitable Trust signed off early.
- Dennis Beck noted that we need to highlight efficiency and cost savings. PA is a model of efficiency.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Staff Raise for Andy McAllister (Dennis Beck)**

Motion (Williams/Walker) to approve a 1% staff raise retroactive to November 2024 for Andy McAllister. Passed.

### **Uncertain Times for 319 and IIJA Funding (Andy McAllister):**

Andy requested that all WPCAMR CD members reach out to legislators in these uncertain times.

### **2025 Meeting Schedule: (Locations TBD)**

Next Meeting: May 14, 2025

Meeting adjourned @ 12:19 am

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 5/6/2025