WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

Andy McAllister November 4, 2026

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

STATE

A $50.8 billion state budget was signed into law on July 12, 2026, for the 2026–27 fiscal year, passing about 12 days after the June 30 deadline

FEDERAL

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in late September announced that they had reached a deal on permitting reform legislation titled the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026. The legislation includes a variety of reforms and permitting efficiencies as it relates particularly to the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Federal PowerAct, Endangered Species Act, and judicial reviews. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) scheduled a vote to proceed to the bill for November 9, 2026, It isn't certain that this latest attempt at permitting reform will gain enough support to pass.

FY 2027 Budget

It appears as though the IIJA AML funds will remain through their 15 year period as stipulated in the IIJA…for at least this year. Congress is still actively debating FY 2027 spending levels via stopgap continuing resolutions and appropriations bills, with sharp divisions remaining between lawmakers. The current continuing resolution ends in the middle of December 2026. Congress must pass another stopgap extension by December 11th or pass a 2027 appropriations bill or risk a government shutdown.

AML Campaign Work

The AML Campaign continues to meet weekly with regard to understanding and potentially mitigating issues surrounding implementation of the Infrastructure funding . The Campaign communicated with the PA Delegation on the importance of the IIJA funding and was opposed to the redirection of a portion of those funds. Unfortunately, our (and other groups) efforts were unsuccessful in preventing the redirection in the spring. The Campaign now continues to prevent

any further redirection in the 2027 budget. The Campaign has also started a monthly call with NGOs concerned about implementation issues for IIJA funds.

Tom Shope continues to work in DC for the foreseeable future while Lanny Erdos has been assigned the DOI assistant Secretary position as well as the directorship of OSMRE. Tom Koptchak is serving as the field office director in Pittsburgh. We are happy to report that the AMD class was held in September and NGOs signed up for the class. We may continue to sponsor this class every other year based on need and interest from the NGO community.

ACOE

Regarding the WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) funding from the Army Corps of Engineers, Section 1345 AMD funding. It is not being implemented just yet as they continue to develop implementation guidance. According to what we know, sites up to 1982 may be eligible.

Visit this site for any updates:
this website to track when the guidance for this section is published:
https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Links/wrda_2024/

OTHER ITEMS

Growing Greener Quick Response Program

We have now finished our Quick Response 10 grant and are awaiting approval for the final report/reimbursement. We had received our QR11 grant and will begin expending funds from that.

2026 Statewide AMR Conference

The 2026 AMR conference was held in October and was a success. Anne will have more on that. The committee will continue to plan for the 2027 conference in Pittsburgh in June 2027.

Administrative

I continued to perform the usual administrative duties and work with our Treasurer Kelly Williams on account reconciliations, check signing, etc. Kelly's term is up and we're looking for a new Treasurer. If you would like to be Treasurer, please let me know.

Due to oversights from section 319 staff and us, we will be getting our new 319 grant funding around Oct/November 2026 instead of July 1 2026 (when our current grant expires). I requested an amendment to our existing 319 contract in the fall of 2025 to bridge the gap between where our

current grant ends (June 2026) and fall 2026 . However, in order to amend the current grant, we will have to go without reimbursements for about 3 or 4 months. Those funds will come to us but only once the extension approval process is completed. We received a working capital loan for our salary and benefits from FPW while we wait on our extension request to be approved. EPA approved our extension request and we've started the extension request process. We past the 3 month wait time and have used the FPW loan to meet payroll. We started to received reimbursements from Feb, Mar, and April. We have started to receive reimbursements from the extension to our contract which will end in October. Once we start to receive our reimbursements for our new contract (contract not received as of the date of this meeting) we will pay back the FPW working capital loan.

Other Meetings

- PA annual AMR conference planning committee
- Weekly AML Campaign phone calls ongoing as required.
- Various phone calls from watershed groups, NGOs, and/or others.