

# **WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report**

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**November 14, 2013**

## **PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:**

PA AMR Conf planning committee (monthly)  
ORWC Steering committee (monthly)  
ARIPPA Award Luncheon  
Jennings Celebration and Tour  
Blacklick Creek Watershed Association monthly meeting  
Meeting with treatment system engineer

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Several AMPs were released this quarter including one for celebrating Bruce Leavitt as the 2013 Mayfly Award recipient, one celebrating the 2013 ARIPPA Award recipients, one for the Monastery Run Improvement Project Symposium.

We surveyed Conservation District Watershed Specialists on why they believe attendance at the annual AMR conference by Conservation Districts and watershed organizations is dropping.

## **2014 AMR CONFERENCE**

The committee began working with Jeff McNelly to organize a joint effort between ARIPPA and the PA AMR Conference in 2014. The Conference will take place June 26-27, 2014 at the Ramada Inn, State College. 2014 will be ARIPPA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The conference layout will be changed from recent year's layout. As suggested by many CD Watershed Specialists, we will shorten the conference to two days and eliminate Saturday sessions. We are working on some fun and interesting networking activities.

## **2013 OHIO RIVER WATERSHED CELEBRATION**

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual event took place on Sept 19, 2013. This year I am participating by holding a benefit dinner at Mad Mex in Shadyside, hosted by the Big Burrito Restaurant Group. This event has the potential to raise \$2000 for ORWC. A date for the dinner is March 4, 2014. I am also coordinating outreach activities with Denny Tubbs of PFBC. This year's theme is: "Working together for Clean Water" and all event activities will focus on connecting watershed groups with local industry. I attended all meetings for ORWC held this quarter.

## **ARIPPA AWARD**

The ARIPPA Award RFP was revised for the 2013 year. I collected applications for both EPCAMR and WPCAMR and conducted the technical reviews. Each organization had \$2500 to distribute. Awardees for WPCAMR were as follows:

1. Allegheny Valley Land Trust requested \$2500 for construction of a system to collect sediment from a spoil pile along the Allegheny River.
2. Evergreen Conservancy requested \$1639 for the Renewable Energy Project at Tanoma Wetlands

## **319 GRANT DELIVERABLES**

Over the last three years, our deliverables include three education projects that WPCAMR and EPCAMR jointly engaged in. WPCAMR will be directed short films as an outreach tool to watershed organizations grappling with treatment solutions to acid mine drainage. Our first film discusses the origins and formation of abandoned mine drainage. EPCAMR developed a companion document as their portion of this deliverable.

In 2011, WPCAMR produced a video on AMD passive treatment options and EPCAMR will produce the accompanying poster insert based on Bob Hedin's passive treatment flow chart. The video depicts a conversation among some experts in the field of passive AMD treatment. They discuss how to choose the right technology, some key design considerations, emerging technologies and trends, and the future as they see it with regards to funding, OM&R, and the role of the Conservation District.

I have begun to filming and editing of the final year of this project. WPCAMR will produce a third video on the permitting challenges the watershed community faces when constructing an AMD treatment system. I began conducting interviews and planning a script. I visited a project in Indiana County where the Conservation District has had extensive experience with permitting issues when constructing an AMD passive treatment system. I visited a project in McKean County where the Conservation District is learning about the permitting challenges when constructing and AMD treatment system. During this quarter I interviewed Terry Schmidt of Skelly and Loy. I also began helping EPCAMR with their portion of the deliverable by working with Schmidt on making a flow chart poster on the process of permitting.

In addition, we will be producing a fourth video that is an advertisement/commercial for WPCAMR

## **NPDES ISSUE**

Aided in planning for a Federal Good Sam meeting.