

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2019
Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg, PA

In attendance:

Dennis Beck, President, Cambria Delegate
Chelsea Walker, Treasurer,
Westmoreland Delegate
Andy McAllister (Staff)
Anne Daymut (Staff)
Cliff Denholm, SRI
Janis Long, Blacklick Watershed Association
Ron Horansky, Westmoreland CD Volunteer
Josh Brown, Indiana CD Delegate
Len Lichvar, Somerset CD Delegate
Branden Deihl, FPW

Jeff Painter, PGC
John Dryzal, Cambria CD Delegate
Diane Thomas, Blair CD Delegate
Maria Source, Armstrong CD Delegate
Bob Onyshko, Harsco Environmental
Dane Kowanalski, Clearfield Creek
Watershed Association
Rich Beam, PA DEP BAMR
Pete Dalby, Mill Creek Coalition
Tim Hummel, Venango CD Delegate
Dave Lieford, PA DEP BAMR

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report (Anne Daymut):

Review of past meeting minutes with the correction of spelling errors.

Motion (Brown/Dryzal) to accept the May 2019 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

Motion (Dryzal/Brown) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Correspondence (Andy McAllister):

OLD BUSINESS

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.*

NEW BUSINESS

Conservation District/Agency/Watershed Association reports (All present):

Those in attendance reported on current and future activities within their respective organizations that relate to WPCAMR interests.

- Cliff Denholm reported on SRI and BioMost. They are still entering data for the most recent Snapshot, updating the Datashed.org website, and conducting the AMD treatment system OM&R grant. Initial findings of Snapshot include that a fair amount of systems need maintenance and several are not even in operation. Some of the sampling was not done, possibly due to weather.
- Janis Long reported that Blacklick is struggling to do recon for the QHUP. They need to ID all of the discharges. The weather is also affecting their progress. She is happy that Indiana CD is doing a lot of advocacy recently and is having a legislator outing in a few weeks.

- Pete Dalby reported that Mill Creek is rehabbing a treatment system and will begin another once the first is finished. A third system needs completely rebuilt.
- Ron Horansky reported on his retirement. He has taken on the role as Alternate for Westmoreland CD.
- Chelsea Walker is working on maintenance at the Booker site in Armstrong County. She is also hoping to submit a Growing Greener proposal in the up-coming round.
- Denny reported that Cambria CD was awarded 6 Growing Greener projects in this last round. A lot of them are streambank restoration projects. They have also been into education, taking tours and conducting cleanups
- Dane Kowanalski is President of Clearfield Creek Watershed Association. He will be accepting the ARIPPA Award. He welcomed people to ask him about what the watershed is up to.
- Josh Brown talked about the troubles of operating and maintaining a lime-dosing silo.
- John Dryzal talked about a project with Robindale to get rid of coal refuse in the Blacklick watershed. Denny Beck added that they are also looking at another pile. They have been working with ARIPPA members for the coal refuse tax credit. He is looking for letters of support.
- Jeff Painter is granting access to one of the gamelands to consolidate discharges. In Slippery Rock Watershed, a landfill needs to mitigate wetlands, and they have agreed to construct AMD treatment systems. Broad Top Twp just installed a system on Sandy Run, which should be one of the last on this stream, capturing the last major discharge. They took an inventory of systems on Game Lands (60-70) in various states of function and repair.
- Bob Onyshko noted that Harsco Minerals changed their name to Harsco Environmental. They are revisiting the treatment briquettes.
- Maria Sorce is the new Watershed Specialist for Armstrong CD. She has a handful of AMR projects including Kimmel. They are having problems with ATVs
- Diane Thomas is working with Jim Eckenrode on AMD sampling
- Len Lichvar continued the theme of 20+ yr old treatment systems that need rehab. Somerset CD is working on Site E in Stoneycreek to double the amount it will treat. They upgraded the intake on Site A. They also have money for Site F and the grant is expiring. They are waiting for confirmation of funding for two additional sites. They recently completed upgrades to Rock Tunnel. Good news is that PFBC made it a class A brown trout water. They are also coordinating efforts for the Coal Run system with Shade Creek and are developing a plan with Castleman Run. SCRIP is pursuing efforts for a passive treatment system. Len has been chasing money for 30+ years and is hoping to develop a trust fund for his county for treatment systems. He noted that you have to have money to get money and if there were an OMR trust fund at least he would have match to apply for grants, because his main problem is coming up with match to apply for OMR grants.
- Branden Diehl gave an update on the Erhnfeld system and unexpected delays. FPW is involved in advocacy efforts for OMR funding on a national level but possibly starting with a Pilot project in PA. He has had several meetings with legislators to get things started. The education of elected officials needs to continue. There will be a request for letters of support coming soon. LOIs for grants due tomorrow.
- Tim Hummel talked about Venango being declared a state of emergency due to flooding. They have a lot of emergency permits to deal with. Scrubgrass Creek Watershed Association has a GG Grant to address the worst Al discharge. They are working with Hedin Environmental. They are hoping to start in 2020. Scrubgrass also has another system but the limestone needs overturned more frequently than what was expected. They have been doing sampling and the water quality seems to be declining, pH dropping and more Al. He is also discouraged by the age of those people running watershed groups. He is trying to recruit younger people. Venango is also involved in oil well plugging. Cliff offered Tim the SRI Maintenance Program.

- Dave Lieford talked about problems at the Cresson plant. He couldn't give a projection when the plant will be online. The unofficial date for release of the Growing Greener applications is mid-late September.

Presentation of ARIPPA Award

Applications for Funding

Motion to approve the next 319 Grant application (Dryzal/Thomas). Passed.

Motion to approve the application for Operations and strategic plan for \$10,000 with a deadline of August 31 (Dalby/Brown). Passed.

Motion to approve FPW AML Campaign grant application (Brown/Dalby). Passed.

Motion to apply to Growing Greener for Quick Response 9 for \$120,000 (Dalby/Brown). Passed.

SMCRA Resolution

Motion made to pass resolution to support the reauthorization of the collection fees associated with SMCRA that supports the AML Fund. (Brown/Dryzal). Passed.

Federal Tax Credit Bill for Waste Coal Generating Stations

Motion made to pass resolution once a Bill is introduced to support the Federal Tax Credit Bill with ARIPPA's endorsement. (Dryzal/Walker). Passed.

Remaining Meetings for 2019: November 14, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 8/12/2019