

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2019
Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg, PA

In attendance:

Chelsea Walker, Treasurer	Kelsea, PA DEP
Jared Zinn, Vice Pres., Greene Delegate	John Dryzal, Cambria Delegate
Amy Miller, Secretary, Allegheny Delegate	Dean Baker, PA DEP
Andy McAllister, Staff	Gene Trio, PA DEP
Anne Daymut, Staff	Jackie Ritko, Cambria Alternate
Kelly Williams, Clearfield Delegate	Maria Sorce, Armstrong Delegate
Brooke Russick, Indiana Delegate	Diane Thomas, Blair Delegate
Robert Sabo, Indiana CD	Joe Stakel, WPCAMR volunteer
Jim Eckenrode, St Francis	Tim Hammel, Venango Delegate
Eric Cavazza, PA DEP	Brian Dailey, OSMRE
Pat Webb, PA DEP	Dave Lieford, PA DEP

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

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

Secretary's Report (Amy Miller):

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

Motion (Dryzal/Williams) to accept the August 2019 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

Motion (Williams/Sorce) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Special Presentation: Live Stream of House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Hearing on HR 4248 and the AML Fund

PA DEP BAMR Update: Eric Cavazza shared that the new round of PILOT is accepting applications. The Cresson plant is experiencing issues that are not yet resolved. The expected AML grant for this year should be around \$37 million. Eric noted a lot of other reclamation and watershed improvements across the state that they were involved in. A lot are in western PA and a few in eastern PA. There were 127 emergencies in 2018. The number of emergencies is related to the precipitation. So far this year we have had 80, about \$2.2 million and probably another \$1 million will get spent on emergencies.

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.

- Jared Zinn shared the projects that Greene County is involved in
- Amy Miller discussed what she is working on in Allegheny County.
- Chelsea Walker is working to rehabilitate the Booker Discharge. They had a Quick Response. She is also hopeful of a new Growing Greener grant with Sewickley
- Kelly Williams announced she will get a very large grant to work on the largest discharge in Morgan Run. In Deer Creek, they have found young-of-the-year trout finally, after building a large treatment system.
- Jim Eckenrode talked about a feasibility study that may get proposed for Growing Greener. He is working in a couple different counties for some sampling. Jim offered to have students look at data.
- Bob Sabo is the new Watershed Specialist for Indiana. Brooke noted that they will be sampling 35 sites this coming weekend on Yellow Creek.
- Maria Sorce shared that Armstrong county is wrapping up the Kimmel discharge. They are working on Silver Rock sites.
- Tim Hummel talked about Venango and the watershed groups. South Sandy Watershed meets quarterly but Tim doesn't know when their meetings are. Scrubgrass Creek Watershed works with Venango CD well. They have a project in Bullion Run. They are writing a River Conservation Plan. They found some additional AMDs.
- Dave Lieford shared that Growing Greener is due Dec., 20. About 25% should come to AMD projects. If your watershed is in an QHUP, you are encouraged to put in an application for the set-aside program. Not all of the money was spent yet. Malcolm Crittenden's replacement is DJ____. Ron Horanky's replacement is Ron Parr. Jeff Fliss also retired and Stewart Demansky is taking his place for the time being. Donna Wagner is putting out a survey on passive treatment systems. We are encouraged to complete the survey. Some money may come in for OM&R as a result of the survey.
- Jackie shared that they are applying for a project in Little Conemaugh. They also helped with a fish survey and found a rainbow trout and a few fish of interest.
- Diane Thomas continues with stream monitoring and Dirt and Gravel roads. They would like to do some live monitoring.

Audit Engagement Letter

Motion to approve the 2019 Audit Engagement (Russick/Miller). Passed.

Health Insurance for Staff

Based on costs and affordability on the report given by Andy, group health insurance will be offered to employees for 2020. (Williams/Russick). Passed.

2020 Budget Approval

Motion made to approve the 2020 budget which includes the 50% health insurance contribution by WPCAMR (Dryzal/Hummel). Passed.

Staff Merit Raise

Motion made to allow Dennis and Chelsea to work out the details in a separate executive session so long as it remains within the current budget. (Dryzal/Russick). Passed.

Strategic Planning

Suggestions were made to simply review the current strategic plan based on the uncertainty of SMCRA Reauthorization. We will prepare a presentation on the current strategic plan for the February 2020 meeting.

Contract with TU for the FPW Grant

Motion made to sign contract with TU to co-chair the PA AML Campaign through the FPW grant. (Dryzal/Hummel). Passed.

Margaret Dunn Scholarship Approval

Motion made to donate \$100 to the Margaret Dunn Scholarship Fund in Memorial to her husband, Mike Dunn. (Hummel/Williams). Passed.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2020 at the Armstrong Conservation District Office in Kittanning

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on November 22, 2019