

WPCAMR Quarterly Meeting

May 15, 2008

Watershed Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Attended Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition meetings in Greensburg in March and April.

Participated in monthly Ohio River Watershed Celebration planning meetings in Pittsburgh as part of the celebration's planning committee. This year's Ohio River Watershed Celebration will be held on September 25th. An announcement of the date and the link to the Celebration's website will be made in Abandoned Mine Posts during the summer.

Attended Crabtree AMD/Wastewater treatment project feasibility study update meeting at the Westmoreland CD office.

Attended the joint SW/NW Regional Watershed Specialists Roundtable and site visit to a trout nursery in Armstrong County.

Attended DEP press conference for a highwall reclamation project at Darlington, Beaver County.

Continued to perform final reviews and comment on revised C-SAW fact sheets and handouts and attended C-SAW meeting in New Cumberland. Also assisted with a Growing Greener application for this round for CSAW.

Attended Growing Greener training session at the Donohoe Center in Greensburg.

Prepared for and gave stream macroinvertebrate taxonomy workshop through CSAW for watershed groups in Indiana County at the request of the Indiana CD. About a dozen participants attended. Plans for a follow-up workshop are in the works.

Attended the dedication ceremony for an Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) demonstration site at the Jennings Environmental Education Center near Butler. Videotaped the proceedings for "WPCAMR Video Diaries" as part of Abandoned Mine Posts.

GENERAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND MEETING/EVENT ATTENDANCE:

Continued writing Abandoned Mine Post Newsletter articles, sending them out and archive the postings on the blog site each week. This quarter saw the beginning of the WPCAMR Video Diaries, designed to bring attention to positive environmental work and activities in the WPCAMR region. Two video diaries were published this quarter (one in early April and one in early May) and they can be found at the Abandoned Mine Posts blog site: www.amp.wpcamr.org.

Compiled meeting minutes for the previous WPCAMR quarterly meeting in February.

Attended the West Virginia AMD Task Force Symposium in Morgantown in April.

Reviewed request for participation in an EPA-funded survey to be performed by The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT).

Continued various work-related administrative duties. Compiled meeting notes from last WPCAMR quarterly meeting.

Prepared and gave presentation about AMD and did an AMD tie-dye demonstration for participants at the Six Mile Run Watershed Festival in Bedford County.

Gave a presentation on options for AMD funding and technical support in State College in late February at the request of PA DEP. The meeting was held for agencies/groups active in reclamation within the 34 DEP 319 priority watersheds.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUTREACH

Conservation Districts visited during this quarter were:
Fulton CD and Bedford CD.

Continued assisting Elk Conservation District on AMD/Mining History educational materials development.

2008 AMR CONFERENCE PLANS CONTINUE

The organizational conference calls continue monthly for the 2008 Pennsylvania AMR Conference. WPCAMR continues to play the lead role for this year's conference: taking meeting notes and organizing communications and meeting dates with other members of the committee and subcommittees. The Watershed Coordinator has been responsible for communicating with the host facility (Ramada Conference Center, State College) regarding logistics (food, space, schedule, events, etc) and has been working on the sponsor request letter and should be able to have everything in place shortly to begin soliciting sponsorships for the conference.

The date for the 10th PA AMR conference is set for August 12-14, 2008 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, State College with an optional bus tour of AMD sites on Monday August 11th. The conference will have two major aspects: first of course, is the AMR portion, the second aspect is a industrial history/preservation component. Both the Regional Coordinator and Watershed Coordinator have been active in getting participation and cooperation from those in the Historical preservation field to assist with that aspect of the conference. Both the WPCAMR Regional Coordinator and Watershed Coordinator will continue leading the planning activities throughout the summer and will continue updating the conference website (www.treatminewater.com), which is nearly complete at the time of this report. A great deal of effort has been expended by the Regional Coordinator to produce a conference website that is not only functional but aesthetically pleasing.