

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2012
Westmoreland CD Barn, Greensburg PA

In attendance:

Denny Beck, *Cambria CD Delegate,*
President

Jim Eckenrode, *Blair CD Delegate,*
Secretary

Greg Phillips, *Westmoreland CD*
Alternate, Treasurer

Andy McAllister (*Staff*)

Anne Daymut (*Staff*)

Pam Milavec, *PA DEP*

Adam Cotchen, *Indiana CD Delegate*

Denny Ritko, *CTC*

Ron Horansky, *PA DEP*

Rob Cronauer, *Westmoreland CD*

Robb Piper, *Cambria CD*

Ted Kopas, *Westmoreland CD Delegate*

Heather Fowler, *Fayette CD Alternate*

Amy Miller, *Allegheny CD Delegate*

Dave Beale, *Armstrong CD Delegate*

Tom Grote, *WPCAMR volunteer*

Julie Maxwell, *Green CD Delegate*

Megan Baskerville, *Crooked Creek*

Watershed Association, Evergreen

Conservancy

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting chaired by Greg Phillips and called to order at 10:17am with around the table introductions.

Secretary's Report (Jim Eckenrode):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Cotchen/Miller) to accept the minutes with corrections. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Andy McAllister):

See report for details.

Motion (Beale/Cotchen) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Correspondence (Andy McAllister): none to report

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Coordinator's Report (Andy McAllister):

See report for details. Report on meeting webpage. Andy added in that he is working on a Marcellus Shale Forum with watershed groups and conservation districts, that will help break the ice between the two groups. It will be invite only.

Watershed Coordinator's report (Anne Daymut):

See report for details. Report on meeting webpage.

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.

- Jim Eckenrode talked about a failing ALD and vertical flow pond. He is working with USGS to establish baseline data on 10 streams throughout his county.
- Tom Grote, member of *Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP)*, reminded everyone that the Quemahoning got River of the year and they will be having a white water release party. There is a website for more information.
- Pam Milavec is working on a strategic plan for her office. She discussed three projects that are currently in various stages of development: Cresson active treatment plant, Wihrum (Smoyer handling), and Alvan in the Broad Top with the help of Army Corps. Kovalchic owns the Alvan property and there is a possibility it could be a remining project, which would save the state considerable funds on the stream reconstruction end, however this has temporarily put the project on hold. Hollywood plant is starting to treat water.
- Julie Maxwell is hosting a workshop for Oil and Gas. Her district is working with Army Corps on a TDS study of the entire Mon River watershed. Greene County is working very hard with pipeline permits and they are doing a lot of outreach and education.
- Dave Beale is working on an ARRI grant and Gen-On grant for the Roaring Run Watershed Association, where over 9K trees were planted by 100 volunteers in 5 hours. He had TV coverage of the event. They used some pure and some hybrid chestnut trees. He has another ARRI project planned for next year. Armstrong CD and Clarion CD are working together on a large tract of land to reclaim a high wall and build a passive treatment system. This is through a \$1.7 Million PennVest grant.
- Adam Cotchen continues to partner with SRBC in Bear Run. They have finished construction on Bear Run Phase IV and is getting a biosolids application. SRI is helping with some OM&R issues throughout the county.
- Megan Baskerville reported on the maintenance at Tanoma Wetlands. The system is now running fine.
- Ron Horansky reported on some of his remining permits and projects. He is primarily working on the Primacy Bond Forfeiture projects and some 319, TMDL, and Growing Greener work. There are a few land reclamation projects in the pipeline, called Act 181, in his work region. He also has a few Rec in Lieu (Community and Environmental projects) projects. This is where a business has a fine and instead of writing a check, the company does reclamation work. He notified the group that DEP is considering allowing operators to submit permits online (e permitting).
- Amy Miller is working on a data logger project. She is also working on a Watershed Implementation Plan for Pine Creek for stormwater runoff and
- Rob Cronauer preformed two autopsies of treatment systems. Both sites have maelstrom oxidizers. He is also working with applying biosolids to mineland reclamation projects. Turtle Creek Watershed Association has a large Growing Greener grant for one of the largest discharges in the state. They are trying to see if they can eventually treat the water. The status of the discharge's priority level could be raised to level 2 because it goes under a scrap yard and some buildings.
- Denny Ritko of CTC introduced himself and offered his aid.
- Ted Kopas, former DEP personnel, is now a Westmoreland County Commissioner. He is very interested in our organization and work and has offered his support.

- Denny Beck reported on some of the things he is involved in with planning Earth Day events.

NEW BUSINESS

Mine Water Use Project (Andy McAllister):

A shale gas company has approached WPCAMR to be the provider of mine water for fracing. An ad hoc committee of WPCAMR's board members was formed and has researched the possibility. In order to continue with negotiations, WPCAMR must sign a confidentiality agreement. A supporting document was sent to WPCAMR Delegates and Alternates that outlined what we know so far including concerns and potential approach. Andy recommended signing the Confidentiality Agreement and request some nonbinding funding upfront to hire legal and accounting assistance. Eckenrode asked what WPCAMR's liability is for these water wells. Richard Morrison stated that we are covered under PA Good Sam if the money coming from this project goes right back into pollution abatement project. We could still be sued, however. Kopas voiced concern over the unknowns and hypotheticals and asked to see a copy of the Confidentiality Agreement. Ron Horansky asked about the ownership of the wells. Those details are to be worked out at a later date. Motion (Eckenrode/Beale) to use up to \$3000 to hire counsel to review and approve, including changes and/or additions, the Confidentiality Agreement and give the Executive Committee authority to sign it. Motion (Beck/Cotchen) to request up to, but not to exceed, \$75,000 in upfront, nonbinding funds to begin the negotiation process and conceptual organization of the project. Passed.

Strategic Plan (Tom Grote)

Tom Grote described the strategic planning process and the work completed thus far. The WPCAMR Mission, Vision and Goals have been reviewed and updated. Strategies to reach the goals were developed at a subsequent meeting. He will soon begin a rough draft.

Quick Response VII

We would like to find some money for administration, because it takes up a good amount of time and there is also some concern for how much cash match we can come up with. Motion (Beale/Cotchen) to apply for the upcoming Growing Greener round at a total of \$130,000. Passed.

Motion (Cotchen) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:56pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut