

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2012
Hoss's, DuBois PA

In attendance:

Jim Eckenrode, Blair CD Delegate,
Secretary
Greg Phillips, Westmoreland CD
Alternate, Treasurer
Andy McAllister (Staff)
Anne Daymut (Staff)
Adam Cotchen, Indiana CD Delegate
Amy Miller, Allegheny CD Delegate
Dave Beale, Armstrong CD Delegate
Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA
Shaun Wessell, Jefferson CD Delegate
Mario Carello, PADEP

Eric Rosengrant, PADEP
Alysha Trexler, WPC
Kim Bonfardine, Elk CD Delegate
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate
Rachel Kester, TU
Donna Carnahan, PADEP
Carl Undercoffler, Clearfield Creek
Watershed Association
Hank Webster, Clearfield Creek
Watershed Association
Tom Grote, WPCAMR volunteer

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting chaired by Jim Eckenrode and called to order at 10:40am with around the table introductions.

Secretary's Report (Jim Eckenrode):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Phillips/Beale) to accept the minutes with corrections. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Greg Phillips):

See report for details.

Motion (Kim/Miller) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Motion (Phillips/Williams) to accept staff evaluations.

Correspondence (Andy McAllister): none to report

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.

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.

- Kelly Williams, brief presentation from host Conservation District on Clearfield County

- Rachel Kester invited everyone to look into the TU Technical Assistance Grant. Right before the 2013 AMR Conference, TU is holding a “Trout Camp” and asked for volunteers and presenters.
- Carl Undercoffler added some comments to Williams’ presentation.
- Donna Carnahan reminded us that Steve Lathrop retired and the position has yet to be filled. She is working on 319 grant reading.
- Kim Bonfardine is the current president of the Bennet Branch Watershed Association do to their struggles.
- Alysha Trexler announced that WPC has funds for riparian buffer tree plantings.
- Jim Eckenrode talked about a failing ALD and vertical flow pond. He asked the audience for opinions on stone washing in vertical flow ponds. He is working with USGS to establish baseline data on 10 streams throughout his county.
- Tom Grote,
- Dave Beale is working on an ARRI grant and Gen-On grant on for the Roaring Run Watershed Association, where over 9K trees were planted by 100 volunteers in 5 hours. Cowanshannock Creek Watershed just did major OM&R of the White Lake AMD Treatment system. Crooked Creek Watershed Association has been constructing stream bank stabilization along Plum Creek.
- 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. They are working on a partnership with a coal company to get some alternative funding for land reclamation. His OSM/VISTA has moved on.
- Mario Carello told the group of serious staff shortages. However, they have had two remarkable projects. He discussed the Trompe’s use in AMD remediation. His other project is the microhydroelectric turbine on an AMD treatment system. The funds raised by generating electricity and selling it back to the grid will be put into a trust fund for the OM&R of the treatment system.
- Shaun Wessell discussed the Sugar Camp Mill Discharge. Phase IV of the project goes online Dec.1, 2012.
- Greg Phillips reported that two land reclamation projects were just completed in Westmoreland County and both involved biosolids applications. They are also doing a lot of stormwater management, dirt and gravel road maintenance, and reforestation.
- Amy Miller has helped with some OM&R activities in the Montour Run Watershed Association’s AMD Treatment system. She is working on a Datalogger project. She is also working on a Watershed Implementation Plan for Pine Creek for stormwater runoff.
- Dale Fox of Headwaters RC&D discussed the Headwaters Conservation Partnership. They have nearly \$700,000 worth of AMD projects now underway through partnerships. They are working on some very unique funding opportunities. They also manage the Headwaters endowment and run an grant application for that.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 ARIPPA Award (Anne Daymut):

The ARIPPA Award review committee recommends that \$2500 be awarded to Sewickley Creek Watershed Association and \$2500 to Chestnut Ridge Chapter Trout Unlimited. Motion (Phillips/Cotchen) to award the money as recommended by the ARIPPA Award review committee. Passed.

Strategic Plan (Tom Grote)

Tom Grote described the strategic planning process and the work completed thus far. A draft plan was presented. The WPCAMR Mission, Vision and Goals have been reviewed and updated. Strategies to reach the goals were developed at a subsequent meeting. Tom invited the group to go over the plan and offer comments. We may set up a conference call for final thoughts.

Henninger Letter of Engagement (Greg Phillips)

Motion (Phillips/Beale) to enter into agreement with Henninger to do our audit for 2012. Passed.

2013 Budget (Andy McAllister)

The board would like to see the computer equipment expenses cut. The administration of Quick Response VII was cut. Jim Eckenrode reminded us that the Strategic Plan suggests that a financial committee is essential as is finding alternative funds. **Motion (Williams/Miller) to accept the 2013 budget with suggested changes. Passed.**

Next meeting will be February 7, 2012 at Westmoreland Conservation District.

Motion (Beale) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut