

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

PA AMR Conf planning committee (monthly)
ORWC Steering committee (monthly)
AML Campaign Meeting (2)
Watershed Symposium Planning Meeting (2)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

A 2012 review letter was sent to all member Conservation Districts and 2013 dues were collected. New Conservation District data including 2013 Delegates and Alternates were recorded in the database.

Work on the Strategic Plan continued with reviews of drafts and a meeting for the prioritization of strategies to reach our goals.

2011 AMR CONFERENCE

The 14th Annual Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference was once again the highlight of the summer for those of us working to treat abandoned mine drainage and restore abandoned mine lands. With the theme, "New Frontiers in Reclamation", and held August 2-4 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College PA, this year's conference explored innovative ways to achieve abandoned mine reclamation in Pennsylvania. Exciting opportunities abound with new and emerging treatment technologies in addition to partnership opportunities with industry in utilizing abandoned mine drainage and mine pool water. The conference provided a day and a half forum for the dissemination of information and encouraged discussions between industry, watershed groups, and decision makers that can help to further innovations in public policy, abandoned mine reclamation, remediation, and restoration.

The 15th Annual PA AMR Conf planning is already underway. The Conference will be held Aug 8-10 at the Ramada Inn, State College. In order to celebrate our 15th anniversary, the conference planning committee is working on some special ideas. EPCAMR will be the primary host for the 2013 conference, however, WPCAMR and EPCAMR have collectively decided that duties to coordinate the conference will remain the same as they were in 2012 because EPCAMR has taken on the bulk of the financial coordinating and maintains the conference website. WPCAMR will continue to organize the planning committee meetings, secure presentations, and publish conference materials and other duties as appropriate. The 15th Annual Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference planning is well underway. During this quarter, a planning committee conference call was held, decisions were made in

regards to pre-conference workshops, theme, special activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the conference. The committee will be collecting submissions of local watershed heroes and making trading cards to honor them. An online submission form was developed and tested. We urge everyone to make submissions. The top five entries will receive a cash prize for the non-profit they are representing. We have begun collecting abstracts and are well on our way to filling the schedule.

2012 OHIO RIVER WATERSHED CELEBRATION

The planning committee has reconvened and has begun preparations for the 12th annual event. The event will take place on Sept 19, 2013. This year I am participating by holding a benefit dinner at a Pittsburgh Restaurant. I am also coordinating outreach activities with Denny tubbs of PFBC. This year's theme is: "Working together for Clean Water" and all event activities will focus on connecting watershed groups with local industry.

ARIPPA 20th ANNIVERSARY AWARD RFP

ARIPPA has once again set \$10,000 aside to continue this joint project. The 2012 Award applications were collected during and a small committee was formed to review and evaluate them. Awardees were chosen and a brief powerpoint presentation was produced to introduce the chosen projects to the ARIPPA community at the annual ARIPPA Awards Luncheon.

319 GRANT DELIVERABLES

Over the next three years, our deliverables include three education projects that WPCAMR and EPCAMR will jointly engage. WPCAMR will be directing short films as an outreach tool to watershed organizations grappling with treatment solutions to acid mine drainage. Our first film discusses the origins and formation of abandoned mine drainage. EPCAMR developed a companion document as their portion of this deliverable.

In 2011, WPCAMR produced a video on AMD passive treatment options and EPCAMR will produce the accompanying poster insert based on Bob Hedin's passive treatment flow chart. The video depicts a conversation among some experts in the field of passive AMD treatment. They discuss how to choose the right technology, some key design considerations, emerging technologies and trends, and the future as they see it with regards to funding, OM&R, and the role of the Conservation District.

I have begun to research the final year of this project. WPCAMR will produce a third video on the permitting challenges the watershed community faces when constructing an AMD treatment system. I began conducting interviews and planning a script. I visited a project in Indiana County where the Conservation District has had extensive experience with permitting issues when constructing an

AMD passive treatment system. I visited a project in McKean County where the Conservation District is learning about the permitting challenges when constructing and AMD treatment system.

NPDES ISSUE

No new activity to report