

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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November 13, 2014

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

AMR Conference Call (7)
ORWC Committee meeting (3)
Kettle Creek 15th Anniversary Celebration
Allegheny CD Strategic Plan meeting
Pittsburgh Botanical Garden Dedication
Jim Resh Retirement
Westmoreland CD Partner Breakfast
Blackleggs Tour with DEP
PA AMR Conference (3 days)
Mather Pile Event

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

I attended the Allegheny Conservation District Strategic Planning meeting. I will be participating in the non-profit focus group for the development of a strategic plan. I attended a reception at the Indiana County Conservation District to celebrate the retirement of Jim Resh. I attended the Westmoreland Conservation Partner Breakfast. I attended a meeting and tour with Blackleggs members and Indiana CD representatives to discuss options for the Big Run AMD Treatment Complex. I aided Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association in completing a Growing Greener application for the Kolb discharge and lime for the silo and I am advising the group on their Act 13 grant application. As part of the Act 13 grant request, Blackleggs is seeking funds for an OM&R Trust, which will be administered by the Indiana County Conservation District.

One AMP was distributed in May to announce the retirement of Jim Resh, WPCAMR Secretary and Indiana CD District Manager. One AMP was distributed in June to announce important upcoming dates including the PA AMR Conference and the ARIPPA application deadline.

2014 AMR CONFERENCE

The committee is working with Jeff McNelly to organize a joint effort between ARIPPA and the PA AMR Conference in 2014. The Conference will be held June 26 and 27, 2014 at the Ramada Inn, State College. 2014 will be ARIPPA's 25th Anniversary. In May I focused on compiling all of the information discussed at meetings, preparing the program by organizing all of the presentations and getting updated logos from all of the sponsors. In May I also continued working on the program and registration materials, a menu was chosen, WPCAMR collected donations for a basket to be raffled, I worked with McNelly to organize some details on the golf outing, and coordinated what different committee members and helpers would be required to do during the conference. In June there were plenty of loose ends to tie

up in the weeks leading to the conference. I prepared registration packets complete with evaluations, name tags, programs, and extras. I aided in organizing the silent auction and planning meals. I coordinated information with presenters and volunteers. The conference took place on June 26-27 was a successful event. We had over 120 registrants. Evaluations were very positive. Presentations were all very good. In July, the planning committee held 2 conference calls; a wrap-up call to discuss the outcome of the conference and a planning meeting for the 2015 conference. Between sponsorships and registrations, the total conference cost was covered.

As part of the 2014 Conference, fundraisers for WPCAMR and EPCAMR were held. We organized a trip to Penn Cave which raised approximately \$125, a golf outing which raised \$150, and a silent auction which raised \$300 for WPCAMR and EPCAMR each. WPCAMR's total fundraising income is approximately \$582.

Looking into the future, the conference committee has already decided to hold another conference in 2015, again in partnership with ARIPPA. OSM will also play a major role.

2013 OHIO RIVER WATERSHED CELEBRATION

This year's event will be quite different than past events. The event will be held on September 19th, 2014 in North Park. A Save-the-date has been released and you may check the website, www.orwc.org, for more details. I am serving as the contact for the displays that will be set up at the event and I will coordinate display activities the day of the event. I am also coordinating all social media for the event, including the facebook page. I took on the responsibility to do all of the fundraising for the event. I contacted all of the past sponsors and completed the convening grant application from Pennsylvania Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. So far, my efforts brought in \$3500 for the event and an additional \$1500 from the benefit dinner held earlier in the year.

ARIPPA AWARD

We were notified by ARIPPA that they would once again be offering \$2500 for WPCAMP and EPCAMR each to distribute as the ARIPPA Award. This year's award applications were due July 14, 2014. In June I promoted the award, solicited applications, and answered questions about the process and eligibility. In July This month, I compiled the applications and conducted the technical reviews for both the WPCAMR and EPCAMR applications. I organized the review committee meeting.

Applications are as follows:

1. AWARE: Requesting \$2,300 for improvements to outlet of forebay, discharge, and flow dam and increase diversity of wetland vegetation. Did not include separate digital Photos but technically complete otherwise. Photos were pasted in narrative. *Applied in 2011 and received \$2,500 in 2011.*
2. Blackleggs: Requesting \$2,500 for ASSHTO R-3 Limestone for the Big Run #7 AMD Treatment system. Did not include digital photos but technically complete otherwise. *Applied in years 2010 and 2011 and received \$2,500 in 2011*

3. Chestnut Ridge TU: Requesting \$2,500 for lime sand dosing to mitigate acid deposition, Did not include digital photos but technically complete otherwise. *Applied in 2012 and received \$2,500 in 2012*

4. Evergreen Conservancy: Requesting \$1,440 for rechargeable batteries at Tanoma's Renewable Energy AMD Treatment System, technically complete in all ways. *Applied in years 2010, 2011, and 2013 and received \$2,000 in 2010 and \$1,000 in 2013.*

The review committee makes the following recommendations:

Evergreen Conservancy: \$1250

AWARE: \$1250