

# **WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report**

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## **PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:**

AMR Conference Call (6)  
Allegheny County Conservation District Focus Group meeting  
Southmoreland High School Environmental Education Day  
OM&R Workgroup meeting  
Blackleggs Meeting with OSM  
Blackleggs Meeting with Skelly & Loy  
2015 PA AMR Conference (3 days)  
PA AML Campaign meeting (1)  
ARIPPA Award Conference Call (1)

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

I attended a watershed focus group at the Allegheny County Conservation District that was part of their strategic planning process. The goal the focus group was trying to address was the establishment of a watershed alliance in Allegheny County.

I have been aiding Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association to complete and submit an application for an OSMRE Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program grant to be the match for their new Growing Greener Grant for the Kolb AMD Treatment System. In June, I met with David Hamilton to go over the application. I also met with the engineers to discuss the required permits. I aided in permit submission and completed additional paperwork for the OSM application. In July, I continued to work out details. It is now required of Blackleggs to have a phase 1 archeological study done on the site prior to the award of the grant. I conducted a bid for the work and collected bid submissions. I also began work to revise the grant amount to reflect the extra work to be done. OSM's WCAP will be able to cover the additional funding needed for the archeological study.

Two Abandoned Mine Posts were published in July including one on the ARIPPA Award RFP and one to distribute the DEP reorganization survey. There was also a meeting reminder distributed for the WPCAMR August Quarterly meeting.

## **2015/2016 PA AMR CONFERENCE**

The conference was held on June 25-26, 2015. There were 131 registrants for this year's event. In June, I organized and edited abstracts for publication on the website and in the program. I coordinated all correspondence with presenters and organized all of the conference calls. Three networking activities were offered to registrants. We collected several historical films for our film festival and multiple historical shorts relevant to abandoned mine reclamation. We once again hosted a golf outing. This year's tour focused on sustainability in Centre County. I worked with Ann Donovan to organize the tour. The tour visited Penn State's new Arboretum, the Forest Resources Green building, the University Area Joint Authority, Tate's Farm, and the Seven Mountain Winery. Lastly, we held a silent auction as a fundraiser for WPCAMR and EPCAMR. In all, approximately \$900 was raised for each. I also coordinated collection of bios of the Mayfly Award nominees. This year's Mayfly Award went to Art Grguric and I was honored to present it to him during Friday afternoon's lunch presentation.

In July, a wrap-up meeting was held to discuss the conference evaluations, other feedback, and pros and cons of this year's conference. We had two presenters who did not show up. Attendance increased from last year. We did well with the fundraisers and have enough in the conference budget to pay all of the bills and continue in 2016.

Planning is underway for the 2016 PA AMR Conference. The committee would like to move the conference to a new location for 2016 so that we can offer a traditional AMD/AML tour. In July, I began collecting quotes from small college towns including Washington and Jefferson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State DuBois, Pitt Johnstown, and Slippery Rock.

## **PA AML Campaign**

In June, I began preparing for some advocacy work I hope to do in Washington DC regarding Title IV Reauthorization. I participated in a conference call with the Central Appalachian advocacy group. I read their research paper and made comments.

In July, I participated in the PA AML Campaign meeting at the Dawes Farm. I developed a fact sheet and Q/A sheet for campaign members and volunteers to take to legislators. I began developing a Power Point Presentation for Andy McAllister and I to present at the NAAMLPC Conference in Santa Fe NM in September.

## **ARIPPA AWARD**

We once again are partnering with ARIPPA to award \$5000 to AMR projects across the state. The WPCAMR region will distribute \$2500 of those funds. Our RFP period ended in July. I conducted technical reviews for all of the applications for WPCAMR and EPCAMR. WPCAMR held a recommendations committee meeting this month. WPCAMR applications are as follows:

**Huntingdon County Conservation District:** requested \$750.00 for placement of previously purchased limestone into Shoup's Run Watershed to protect the water quality of streams that provide habitat for Native Brook Trout.

**Elk County Conservation District:** requested \$2,500.00 for travel and salaries for district staff and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for AML sampling in West Creek Watershed.

**Allegheny Land Trust:** requested \$644.25 for the replacement of 2 interpretive signs and the construction and placement of a third educational sign at Wingfield Pines.

**Paint Creek Watershed Association:** requested \$1,786.00 for soil sampling on the berm of a leaking AMD treatment system.

Recommendations for Approval:

Huntingdon County Conservation District: \$750.00

Elk County Conservation District: \$1,250.00

Allegheny Land Trust: \$500.00

Paint Creek Watershed Association: Fund through Quick Response