

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

AMR Conference Call (7)

Kiski Elementary Trout In the Classroom release day (1)

RECLAIM Act Conference Call (2)

Marshall Run Pollution Event DEP meeting (1)

PA AMR Conference (3 days)

WPCAMR Financial Committee Meeting (1)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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 May, E&S controls were ordered and put in place. We are awaiting approval from Indiana County Conservation District to begin construction. In June, construction began and the group received start-up funds. The engineer did a site visit and several aspects of the construction were changed to save money or because they were deemed unnecessary.

I attended a meeting at the PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office in regards to a pollution event that killed Marshall Run and the contents of the Blackleggs Trout Nursery. I aided the group in deciphering data that was presented and advised them to press for toxicology testing of fish remaining in the raceway. They will be continuing to monitor water quality and will put up cameras on the property to contribute to the investigation.

I participated in the Trout In the Classroom release day for Kiski Elementary. I presented on mining history and how it relates to water quality. The students got to see mining artifacts, fossils, and pictures and played the Mine History game.

I attended the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Pirate Night where the Pittsburgh Pirates invited watershed organizations to set up a display at a Pirates game and also participate in the PRE-game ceremony. About a dozen organizations participated. We got some interest from the public.

In June, I attended the South Western PA Conservation District Watershed Specialist meeting. Each of the watersheds specialist from the counties of the Southwest region were present to discuss projects they are working on in their counties. They each expressed concern over the future requirements and uncertainty in funding for their positions. I offered that this topic will be added to the agenda for the next WPCAMR meeting so that we can explore ways in which we can assist them.

Two AMPs were distributed in May for the PA AMR Conference.

One AMP was distributed in July as a reminder for the ARIPPA Award RFP deadline.

In July, I began work on two short films. The first is a film about turning the liabilities associated with abandoned mine lands into assets. This film will feature all of the good things that can be done with AML/AMD and some of the technologies developed to profit from it. The second film is a promotion for the reauthorization of the collection fees

associated with SMCRA, which is set to expire in 2021. This film will be presented at the NAAMLPL conference in September 2016 and will feature coal AML from across the US. For this film I reached out to all of the members of NAAMLPL and collected footage and photographs from several states. In addition to this second film, I am also working on supporting materials such as a poster and brochure to serve as a customizable kit for NAAMLPL members to share with legislators and the public to educate them on SMCRA.

It was brought to WPCAMR's attention that a new push is needed to highlight the need for the Conservation District Watershed Specialist and to show that each district has its own needs. In July, we discussed these needs with several districts and began brainstorming ways to help the situation.

A financial committee meeting for WPCAMR was held in July. At this meeting it was discussed that our recent update of the WPCAMR strategic plan indicated that WPCAMR needed to continue to strengthen its bonds with member conservation districts. Several ideas were discussed as to new ways to reach out to districts.

2016 PA AMR CONFERENCE

In June 2016 PA AMR Conference was held and was a great success. This year's conference was held on June 22-23 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. There were roughly 50 registrants for the full day tour and 105-110 attendees for the main conference. 14 presentations that revolved around the theme of "Economics and Environment" were timely and relevant to many things that our partners are considered about today. Comments revealed that many people felt that this year's conference was one of the best they had attended in recent years.

- In May, I began collecting items for the silent auction, finalized the presentation schedule and communicated it with all of the presenters, finished the conference program, coordinated updates of the contract with the venue, coordinated payment for the bus with OSM, began organizing exhibit spaces.
- Most of the conference coordination came together in June; 3 conference planning committee meetings were held, the program and supporting materials were developed, printed, and organized into packets, the silent auction items were acquired, details were finalized with IUP, and presenters were organized.
- In July, an in-depth wrap-up call was held to discuss the outcomes of the 2016 PA AMR Conference. A Mayfly Award policy meeting was also held after the conference.

2017 PA AMR CONFERENCE

In July, I began collecting bid for venues for the 2017 PA AMR Conference.

PA AML Campaign

Several conference calls were held during the last quarter regarding the RECLAIM Act. In February, I continued reaching out to owners and operators of AMD projects to encourage them to register if they have not done so already. I am helping several groups complete the project proposal paperwork. I also participated in multiple conference calls related to potential Good Samaritan legislation and helped review documents that the campaign produced. In March, I attended an AML Campaign meeting at Juniata College followed by a Conference Call to discuss the RECLAIM proposed legislation. In April, I registered for and watched a webinar for the RECLAIM Act.

In May, I attended 1 conference call for the RECLAIM Act and in June, I attended 1 conference call for the RECLAIM Act.

ARIPPA AWARD

In July, applications for the 2016 Award were received and I compiled the applications and did administrative reviews for both the WPCAMR and EPCAMR applications. A meeting for the ARIPPA review committee was scheduled to make recommendations to the WPCAMR board.

One application was received by WPCAMR. The ARIPPA Award review committee met in August and makes the following recommendations to the WPCAMR Board: \$2,500.00 to be awarded to Sewickley Creek Watershed Association to assist with expenses related to the Lowber AMD Treatment System repairs.