

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 11 2017
Dawndi's Restaurant, Lucky Hills Golf Course, Franklin PA

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President, Delegate
Chelsea Walker, Treas., Delegate
Jim Eckenrode, VP, Blair Delegate
Andy McAllister (Staff)
Anne Daymut (Staff)
Lance Bowes, Venango Delegate
Logan Harris, Scrubgrass Watershed
Association
Tom Thomas, Scrubgrass Watershed
Association

Bob Onyshko, Harsco Minerals
Cliff Denholm, SRI
Marty Warchol, Beaver Delagate
Eric Cavazza, PA DEP
Tim Hummel, Venango CD
JoAnn McCreedy, Lawrence Delegate
Jared Zinn, Greene Delegate
Joe Ferrara, PA DEP
Jeff Painter, PGC

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report (Anne Daymut):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Eckenrode/Walker) to accept the February 2017 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

Motion (Bowes/Eckenrode) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Correspondence (Andy McAllister):

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.

PA DEP Update (Eric Cavazza)

Eric updated the group on the Pilot program. They are putting together detailed fact sheets for each project site. Eric encouraged people to submit project ideas. They have 3 years to spend the money...which means money actually paid out, not just committed. DEP staff has been cut due to state budget but BAMR's staff is federal money. Andy will follow up with John Stefanko to see what WPCAMR can do to help the situation. There were 14 initial projects in various stages of development and construction. The first 30 Million needs to be spent by May 2019.

RECLAIM was reintroduced this spring and there will be a bill markup sometime in June. Eric Dixon's group opposed the new Bill which reduced its chance of passing. PA is losing with this new Bill. IMCC said they would support RECLAIM with a reauthorization provision. This was rejected by Congress but they admit it is needed as a stand-alone. NAAMLPA is ok with 1731.

Eric noted the phase in period for both certified and uncertified states during the last reauthorization. In 2018 and 2019, PA will be getting pay backs of \$21 Million. Total grant after sequestration, total grant will be in the low 60's each of those years. NAAMLPA and IMCC are both supportive of reauthorization and has formulated a resolution.

Under section 405 of SMCRA, there is a Good Sam exemption, which has never been challenged and it is unclear where the very general wording originated. It is possible that the best way to tackle Good Sam protection is to amend this section. Eric has a draft which he hopes to share in the very near future.

PA will host NAAMLPA in Pittsburgh in 2019. Andy suggested combining with PA AMR Conference. It would be Sept 5-12 or the week after.

Eric offered that groups are welcome to submit new QHUPs. Maybe Growing Greener would fund plans? There is technical guidance at DEP's website for developing a plan.

Special Presentation: Tim Hummel, Venango County CD Watershed Specialist, and Logan Harris of Scrubgrass Watershed; AMD impacted streams in Venango County

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Merit Raise (Denny Beck)

Motion (Bowes/Zinn) to approve merit raise for Anne Daymut. Passed.

D&O Insurance Quote (Andy McAllister)

Motion (Bowes/Zinn) to purchase D&O Insurance at quoted rate. Passed. It was recommended that Andy discuss employee policy with accountant.

Finance Committee recommendations (Finance Committee)

Motion (Zinn/Walker) to approve updated organizational membership fee structure. Passed.

Eckenrode suggested that the entire list of delegates and alternates have the opportunity to provide feedback on the WPCAMR draft funding plan.

RECLAIM Act Support (Andy McAllister)

Tabled until August meeting.

Letter to PA DEP Grant Center (Andy McAllister)

Tabled until August meeting for further investigation. Question was if there have been projects denied registration. Discussion of making application but not acceptance necessary.

Westmoreland CD stormwater BMP grant (Chelsea Walker)

Westmoreland CD would like to pay for video services and equipment for Anne and Andy to produce a stormwater BMP retrofit video. WPCAMR would have to spend the money for the equipment now, even though it isn't budgeted, but would be reimbursed in spring 2018. **Motion (Bowes/Zinn, abstained by Walker) to make the video and make the expenditures. Passed.**

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.

- Jim Eckenrode shared that there was a highwall reclamation project and a bridge replacement. He has a major watershed monitoring program and is waiting for the Cresson plan. Eric said the contract will be awarded any day now.
- Cliff Denholm shared that SRI continues to offer Datashed, the Technical Assistance program for OM&R. Slippery Rock Coalition is updating a plan for Black's Creek. Maiden Mine Quick Response is underway. The system is not designed for current flow.
- Joe Ferrara is working with bond forfeiture sites, some of which he is working out landowner issues.
- JoAnn McCreedy discussed a small watershed that floods often and the residents blame past mining for the flooding.
- Marty doesn't have anything AMR related right now but she is looking at streambank stabilization projects.
- Lance Bowes noted that there is also a South Sandy Creek Watershed Association that was unable to attend.
- Denny Beck shared that there are a couple projects underway in Cambria County with both the Conservation District and PA DEP projects.

Remaining meetings for the year include August 10 and November 9, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Jim Resh on 7/28/2017