

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016
PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg, PA

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President, Delegate	Missy Recknar, KC Stream Team
Chelsea Walker, Treas., Delegate	Jackie Ritko, Cambria CD Alt
Jim Eckenrode, VP, Blair Delegate	Eric Cavazza, PA DEP
Andy McAllister (Staff)	Julie Zeyzus, Armstrong CD
Anne Daymut (Staff)	Bob Onyshko, Harsco Minerals
Brook Esarey, Indiana CD Delegate	Tom Keller, Sewickley Cr Watershed
Adam Cotchen, Indiana CD Alternate	Jared Zinn, Green CD Delegate
John Dudash, Indiana PASEC	Frank Gally, Skelly & Loy
Cindy Rogers, Indiana PASEC	John Dryzel, Cambria CD
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate	Deb Wilson, Jefferson CD
Len Lichvar, Somerset CD Delegate	Justin Wilkson, McCoy \$ Associates
Pete Dalby, Mill Creek Coalition	

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am.

Secretary's Report (Anne Daymut):

Review of past meeting minutes.

Motion (Eckenrode/Williams) to accept the August 2016 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

Motion (Williams/Esarey) 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)

He distributed a BAMR program summary for 2017. Eric discussed the annual AML allotment and set-aside fund. They are not actually set aside the full 30%. This is due to the emergency program.

Eric discussed the Pilot program and where the money is going. The purpose of the pilot program is to test the waters for the RECLAIM Act. Several of the pilot program projects are already underway.

They have the final design for Cresson. They will bid late 2017.

23 co-sponsors to RECLAIM Act. Its anyone's guess what will happen with recent changes due to election. A public document is not available yet. If RECLAIM goes through, DEP will ask for project submissions from the PA AMR community. He encouraged us to review DEP's and RECLAIM's guidelines to develop projects. The guidelines can be found on DEP and OSM's website. Proposals should be about 2 pages long and should be submitted by end of February 2017.

DEP will be getting an annual AML grant in 2017 but does not intend to take any set-aside at all in 2017 except what it needs to operate active treatment plants.

There is expected be an additional allotment of Pilot program money in 2017. Eric is less optimistic that the RECLAIM Act will go through. Only about 3 states are supporting RECLAIM.

In regards to Federal Good Sam protections, the Landborn Bill pertains more to hard rock mining than to coal, but it still being reviewed and considered. Eric hopes that Coal sites would be included and that PA's Good Sam program is considered equal to the Federal program so there is less work for all. This is all tied to RECLAIM.

The AMD Set-Aside guidelines are complete and published in the bulletin. They are accepting new QHUPs. They hope to make more money available through the grant center. Contact Dave Lieford if you are interested. DEP does not have the resources to develop plans on their own.

Eric reported on PA's official emergency program. So far in 2016, 60 projects have been completed at just over \$3Million which is more than what was budgeted.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of WPCAMR's ARIPPA Award (Denny Beck)

Approval of staff merit raise (Denny Beck)

Motion (Esarey/Williams) to recommend staff merit raise. Passed

Financial Committee Recommendations (Finance Committee)

Jared and Tom offered to help staff and officers pull a packet for funders together. It was suggested to expand the "ask" to corporations and banks. Discussion to reduce costs of audit, dispose of van, office situation.

Motion (Esarey) to increase dues to \$150 for 2018. After discussion the motion was tabled. Motion (Williams/Zinn) to sign the presented audit contract with additional full audits at least every 3 years, sell the van, and change the payroll company.

2017 Proposed Budget (Chelsea Walker)

Motion (Esarey/Williams) to approve the 2017 Budget. Passed

Support of Growing Greener III Initiative (Andy McAllister)

Motion (Williams/Zinn) to support a Growing Greener III Initiative. Passed

Continue Line of Credit (Andy McAllister)

Motion (Zinn/Esarey) to continue the Line of Credit. Passed

Apply for 319 Funding from 2017-2020 (Andy McAllister)

Motion (Williams/Zinn) to apply for 319 funding from 2017-2020. 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 news from a highwall project in Blair County. He also gave an update for Missy along the KC Stream Team. They are finishing a report on the state of the watershed. They are still also sampling a great deal.
- Chelsea Walker is doing some final reports on Growing Greener projects.
- Kelly Williams works primarily on AMD in Clearfield County. She just finished construction on 4 AMD treatment systems. Now, almost all of the priority areas are addressed. She has 2 additional projects that she would like to fix, but due to the reduced AMD funding in the Bay watershed, now she may turn towards developing QHUPs. TU will do a river recovery for the West Branch study next summer.
- Indiana County is still partnering with Tom Clark of SRBC on efforts in Bear Run. They have a reforestation project on Game lands. Adam reported that the concerns that were expressed earlier this year with new mandates for the Watershed Specialist program are no longer an issue with the new DEP Secretary.
- Cindy Rogers reported on work at Tanoma Wetlands, where a Trompe was installed. She is also a member of Indiana PASEC, who does sampling for a variety of water quality issues across the county.
- Tom Keller discussed the recent work at the Lober facility and how the ARIPPA Award will help.
- Julie shared that Armstrong CD is moving along with Huelings Run Project. The pilot program will contribute money to a water supply project in a community who's water supply is impacted by AMD.
- Jared Zinn talked about recovery in Dunkard Creek except in Bobtown due to AMD. Jared hopes to implement a project there in partnership with MEPCO and SRI.
- Cambria County has a couple very large AMR projects including Erhenfeld and Little Conemaugh that DEP is doing.
- Somerset is doing a project in Ovenrun. There are other pending and partials failures across the Stoney Creek that are threatening the watershed. Rehab is needed at Flight 93. They are doing a mass balance in another watershed so that they know where to prioritize new funding that is coming to them. They are also doing work on the Castleman on a mine shaft that is still under active permit but it is still causing issues. Hedin is contracted to address these issues. SCRIP is 25 years old.
- Frank Gally shared updates on the many projects they are involved in.
- Mill Creek Coalition, in Clarion and Jefferson Counties, has a new lime slurry plant. Pete Dalby talked about some sampling and electrofishing and fundraising that they are successful at.
www.clarion.edu/mcc

Next Meeting on February 9, 2017, location TBA

Meeting adjourned at 1/50pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Jim Resh on