

**WPCAMR**  
*Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation*  
*Annual Meeting Minutes*  
*February 14, 2019*  
*Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg PA*

*In attendance:*

Dennis Beck, President, Cambria Delegate  
Chelsea Walker, Treasurer,  
Westmoreland Delegate  
Jim Resh, Secretary  
Andy McAllister (Staff)  
Anne Daymut (Staff)  
Cliff Denholm, SRI  
Janis Long, Blacklick CWA  
Dennis Remy, Blacklick CWA  
John Dryzal, Cambria Manager  
Josh Brown, Indiana Watershed  
Specialist  
Jared Zinn, Greene Delegate  
Diane Thomas, Blair CD  
Tim Hummel, Venango Delegate  
Rich Beam, PA DEP BAMR

Tom Gray, Tetra Tech  
Adam Cotchen, WPC  
Rob Cronauer, Westmoreland Delegate  
Lenny Lichvar, Somerset Delegate  
Heather Trexler, Tetra Tech  
Jeff Painter, PA Game Commission  
Jennifer Dann, Washington Alternate  
Todd Thornburg, Washington Delegate  
Rachel Kester, TU  
Eric Cavazza, PA DEP BAMR  
Dave Lieford, PA DEP  
Jim Eckenrode, St. Francis University  
Branden Diehl, FPW  
Rucha Ragalwar, Cosmos Technologies  
Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP

**WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:08 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report (Anne Daymut):**

Review of past meeting minutes with the correction of spelling errors.

**Motion (Walker/Lichvar) to accept the November 2018 minutes. Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):**

See report for details.

**Motion (Brown/Zinn) 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.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Special Presentation: Eric Cavazza, PA DEP**

2016 AML Pilot grant set to expire soon and they are considering asking for extension. 2017 Pilot projects mostly under construction. 2018 AML Pilot, federal shutdown has postponed the vetting of proposals. He is hopeful this happens soon. Congress may sign Bill today to continue Pilot funding in 2019. AML Grants have not been announced yet either. Media event at Cresson on April 30<sup>th</sup>. EPA is looking for information on Federal Good Sam and PA provided what we have.

### **Special Presentation: Tom Gray, Tetra Tech, Possible Pilot Project**

95% of REE currently comes from China. There is a potential for REE to be collected in coal mine discharge sludges. WPCAMR is considering partnering with Tetra Tech to develop an AML Pilot Program proposal to assess REE in mine sludges, develop bench testing, and investigate business profitability.

### **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.

- John Dryzal said that Cambria has a couple Growing Greener projects, one of which is an AMD project that needs maintenance.
- Josh Brown recently received Quick Response funding. He is also assisting Blacklick with their QHUP. He is working with WPC for the Luscern 3A rework and is working with Tom Clark of SRBC to get the Bear Run systems monitored for SRI's Snap Shot.
- Jeff Painter shared that many Game Lands systems in Butler County will be rehabilitated. There is a landfill that will be need stream bank mitigation and they will construct a treatment system. In Armstrong County, the Aluminade Site is now constructed.
- Jennifer Dann announced that Gary Stockum retired. They have 2 passive treatment sites in the county and they are being maintained by a non-profit. They are focused on agriculture. They received Growing Greener grants for Ag.
- Rachel Kester and Amy Wolf are partnering with WPCAMR in PA AML Campaign and will be participating in the in-district congressional briefings. They have once again received funding for the TAG program. They are trying to spend some Pilot funding that expires in May. They got 319 funding to update the watershed implementation plan for Anderson Creek. TU is seeking summer interns. Kelly Williams passed along that she was finally awarded funding for the primary discharge in Morgan Run. Rachel shared the process she used to come up with the economic benefits of TU's Pilot funding.
- Janis Long shared that Blacklick was awarded two Growing Greener grants this round, one of which is for the QHUP of Blacklick. They will have a drone survey the stream.
- Cliff Denhom is still working on Snap Shot and needs help from community to get sites sampled. SRI still has a Technical Assistance program.
- Jim Eckenrode is working with partners on some sampling and rehab of some treatment systems. There is also a monitoring project in Somerset County.
- Diane Thomas is the new Blair CD Watershed Specialist. She is working with landowners to stabilize streambanks.
- John Dryzel said that Cambria has received Growing Greener money this round and they are concerned about the governor's budget.
- Jared Zinn focuses on Ag and Stormwater Management. They don't have watershed groups interested in AMD. However, they are trying to get people interested.
- Tim Hummel talked about Scrubgrass Creek in Venango County, who has 2 Growing Greener grants to address pollution in the watershed. Tim is also working on a Watershed Remediation Plan and is also working to plug abandoned oil wells.
- Rich Beam shared that so far in 2019 the emergency has responded 16 times, which is similar to 2018.
- Dave Lieford shared that Cesson Plant is finally running. He suggested that we request double the amount if another round of Growing Greener is announced.
- Pucha Rugalwar announced a technology that Cosmos is interested in testing.
- Adam Cotchen has joined WPC and is doing a lot of AMD monitoring and work including some mine pool mapping, OM&R

- Len Lichvar described the incredible work that has been completed in Stonycreek. Somerset received a national EPA award last year. They are maintaining the Oven Run systems but they need rehabilitation. They need money to keep them going. They will apply to the next grant round. Lenny joined a PEC steering committee to put a dollar value to resource conservation. There is a public meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Disaster's Edge. Lenny has already written an Op-Ed on "The State of the Environment Address".
- Malcolm Crittenden announced his retirement and gave us all some advice for maintaining and monitoring a treatment system.

### **Potential Pilot Project for Rare Earth Elements**

We will need to look into cash flow for such a large project. We would also like to look into an attorney in regards to starting a business.

### **Staff Merit Raise for Andy McAllister**

Motion to approve staff merit raise for Andy McAllister (Zinn/Lichvar). Passed.

### **Officer Elections**

Nomination of officers for 3 year terms as follows: Denny Beck for President, Jared Zinn for Vice President, Amy Miller for Secretary, Chelsea Walker for Treasurer. Motion to close nominations and accept the nominated slate of officers (Brown/Dann). Passed.

### **Approval of Conservation District Delegates and Alternates**

Motion to accept Conservation District Delegates and Alternates as presented (Walker/Zinn). Passed.

### **Sale of Raffle Tickets as a Fundraiser**

Discussion on logistics. No motion

Remaining Meetings for 2019: May (TBD, maybe May 3 or 10), August 8, and November 14, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Beck, Walker, and McAllister on February 15, 2019