

WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator's Report

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August 10, 2020

PROJECT SITE VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, PRESS EVENT ATTENDANCE:

PA AML Campaign Conference Calls (8)

PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Meetings and virtual conference platform calls (9)

Blackleggs watershed meeting (2)

SW PA Water Network Meetings (4)

Clearfield County site visit (1day)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Blackleggs completed a 2018 Growing Greener grant early in 2020. In July 2020, Blackleggs received an email that they needed to file a Notice of Termination (NOT) for their NPDES permit. The NOT process recently changed and now includes the requirement to have a certified engineer sign off on the NPDES permit requirements. Skelly & Loy was the engineer and they stated that they would charge \$2,000 for their signature. I began working up through the ranks to either get this requirement waived by DEP/Indiana Conservation District or for free from Skelly & Loy because this requirement was not in place when we applied for the NPDES permit and was not a fee accounted for in our grant, which was contracted in 2018. The process is still under review.

WPCAMR is considering being a pass-through for an OSMRE Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program Grant for Broad Top Township. In June, I began the process of registering WPCAMR to receive funds from federal grants. In July 2020, I continued with the registration process and started a workspace on grants.gov. In July 2020, I continued with the registration process and started a workspace on grants.gov.

I participated in the SW PA Water Network hosted by the Heinz Foundation back in May 2020. There were 4 meetings of an hour each with stakeholders across the region. It was good to make new connections and to get WPCAMR's mission pushed to the forefront for Heinz. I have volunteered to continue with this network going forward.

Abandoned Mine Posts included:

In June 2020, two AMPs were distributed included the announcement of the extension of the ARIPPA Award and the postponement of the 2020 PA AMR Conference.

PA AMR CONFERENCE

2020 PA AMR Conference

- The 2020 PA AMR Conference has been rescheduled for October 28-29, 2020. We secured the new dates with the Ramada and the bus company. In May 2020, we conducted two planning committee meetings to deal with the new Ramada contract and other items related to the need for postponement.
- In June 2020, one Abandoned Mine Post was distributed for the postponement of the Conference. I developed two surveys, one for past attendees and one for 2020 presenters to collect comments and comfort level of an in-person conference versus a virtual conference. One Committee conference call was held in June. I picked up the artwork for the Mayfly Award. I tallied the votes for the Mayfly Award. I did a lot of research on virtual

conference platforms. I reached out to other conferences that have decided to go virtual to ask opinions and I contacted virtual conference providers for additional information.

- In July 2020 we held 2 committee conference calls. I participated in several conference calls for virtual conference platforms and helped Mike and Robert collect information. I updated the tour bus contract for 2021. I conducted 2 surveys, one of presenters, and one of attendees, to gauge interested and comfort for an in-person vs a virtual conference.

PA AML CAMPAIGN

In February 2020, I attended three PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each. I continued to maintain the shared databases for the campaign and I updated the PA AML Campaign website. I continued to update a database to track leveraged funds by NGO's who serve as the pass-through for AML grant contracts. I have been accepted to present at two national conferences. I will be presenting at the National Environmental Justice Conference in April 2020 on the overlap of Environmental Justice areas with Abandoned Mine Lands in Pennsylvania. I will be presenting at the National Conference for Environmental Professionals on the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Land Campaign as a case study of cooperation between industry, NGOs, and government. In May 2020, I attended four PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each.

In June 2020, I attended four PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each. I contacted all of the legislative offices with which I have a relationship and asked for public comments of continued support from each in regards to reauthorization. I collected a couple new support letters and did some reorganization of the google drive documents.

In July 2020, I attended four PA AML Campaign meetings and took notes for each. I drafted a press release for Casey staff to consider. I worked with Louise to collect data on PA successes.

ARIPPA AWARD

We received word that ARIPPA will be once again sponsoring this award. In June 2020, we extended the award deadline. I amended the application and distributed the materials again. I answered questions about potential applications. In July 2020, I collected the applications, compiled them, did the administrative reviews. The deadline was July 31 and two applications for WPCAMR region and one for the EPCAMR region were received.

GOOD SAMARITAN

No new activity to report

CONTRACTED VIDEO WORK

In July 2020, I began working on scripts for the three videos needed for our current 319 contract. I began collecting video.

- video1: assessing stream conditions before and after reclamation
- video2 and associated materials: smcra title iv fee reauthorization
- video 3: about conservation districts in the region paying special attention to watershed specialist positions and how they've furthered reclamation in the state.