

WPCAMR
Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020
Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President
Chelsea Walker, Treasurer
Jared Zinn, Vice Pres., Greene Delegate
Amy Miller, Secretary, Allegheny Delegate
Andy McAllister, Staff
Anne Daymut, Staff
Kelly Williams, Clearfield Delegate
Jennifer Dann, Washington Delegate

Eric Cavazza, PA DEP BAMR
John Dryzal, Cambria Delegate
Toby Boyer, Clinton Delegate
Maria Source, Armstrong Delegate
Lexie Arkwright, Jefferson Delegate
Robert Sabo, Indiana Delegate
Todd Thornburg, Washington Delegate
Ken Anderson, DCED

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am.

Secretary's Report (Amy Miller):

Review of past meeting minutes from November 2019.

Motion (Zinn/Williams) to accept the August 2020 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Chelsea Walker):

See report for details.

Motion (Dryzal/Miller) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Staff Reports

See report on meeting page for details.

Special Presentation: Eric Cavazza of PA DEP BAMR gave an update of what is happening at the Commonwealth Level. The annual grant has not been released or even calculated, which is later than normal. We are expecting a lower than previously projected grant due mostly to decreased coal production. It could be the smallest grant since 2007. Eric added some details to the Legislative Bills presented in Andy's staff report. We are hopeful that Reauthorization will finally be considered by the Senate. Eric updated the group on committed and planned projects of the AMD Set Aside Program which includes a chunk of the money committed for OM&R of the systems built with set aside funds. Recently, several watersheds were approved as QHUPs. Maps on DEP's website have been updated to include these new QHUPs, which are now eligible for potential grants. There were operational issues at Cresson, which are being worked on and they are optimistic it will be operating for average flows in early 2021. Design for Weirum is complete and is under review for permits and approvals. It should be under contracting within a few months. Eric shared plans for multiple other projects. Eric notes we are getting a lot of support from the legislature who is appropriating a lot of money to big projects, mostly active treatment. So far this calendar year, there were 60 emergencies, most being mine subsidence, costing \$2.7 million. While this is less than in the last few years, but the funds are still coming directly out of the PA budget. Finally, Eric provided an update of Pilot. Pilot funds cannot be granted as it had been in previous years. This is not yet resolved.

Special Presentation: Ken Anderson of DCED shared a PowerPoint on funding through PennVest for AMD projects. Very little of this funding has been spent on AMD projects to date, but it is available.

Conservation District/Agency/Watershed Association reports (All present):

- Chelsea gave an update on Westmoreland related to streambank stabilization projects and Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads projects.
- John Dryzal and Denny Beck shared that Cambria has been finishing a Growing Greener project and are hopeful that the next round will be announced soon. They are pretty much complete for this year's Dirt and Gravel Road Program. The Sewage Authority did some maintenance along the Little Conemaugh. The first major discharge on Trout Run is complete.
- Jennifer Dann and Todd Thornburg shared that have been focused on some agricultural related projects, but they do have some OM&R issues at the JB2 site for which they will be looking for funding to complete. They were also approach about a site that is believed to be the first AMD treatment system is in Washington County which needs repair.
- Maria Source shared that Armstrong is currently working on making their education programs available online. They are also doing sampling. They are hopeful the next Growing Greener Grant will be announced soon.
- Kelly Williams shared that Clearfield is focused on their AMD systems. It was hard for construction this year due to covid. They are planning to start construction on Morgan Run next year. Moshannon Creek has a new watershed association. Kelly has done some education videos.
- Amy Miller of Allegheny County is monitoring and fish sampling Montour Run with some students. She is also working to plant trees, both at Hartwood Acres and Wingfield Pines. She has also done some webinars on water related projects.
- Robert Sabo has worked on a virtual Jr Envirothon. They have some riparian buffer projects planned. They continue to do stream monitoring for Yellow Creek QHUP. They have two 319 projects waiting to be bid one on
- Lexie Arkwright of Jefferson is working on two AMD OM&R projects. They also have an active system called Sugarcamp that they are beginning routine water quality sampling. They have published some videos and newsletters.
- Jared Zinn in Greene County is focused on Streambank and Ag projects. They have applied for WIP funding on an AMD project but was not successful.

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

Approval of Staff Merit Raise

Motion (Dryzal/Williams) to approve a merit raise for Andy of 3%. Passed.

Approval of 2021 WPCAMR Budget

Motion (Miller/Thornburg) to approve the proposed 2021 WPCAMR Budget. Passed.

Review Need to Update Strategic Plan

Andy suggested we spend time reviewing the current plan at February's meeting.

Engagement of Henninger Associates for next year's financial review.

Motion (Williams/Zinn) to approve engagement with Henninger for audit. Passed.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 11, 2021 @ 10am

Meeting adjourned

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 11/20/2020