

WPCAMR

Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2023 @ 10:00 AM ET

Armstrong Conservation District, 120 Grant Ave, Kittanning PA 16201

In attendance:

Kelly Williams, Clearfield County, Treasurer
Andy McAllister, Staff
Anne Daymut, Staff
Maria Sorce, Armstrong CD Delegate
Jeff Painter, PGC
Robbie Fulton, OSMRE
Chelsea Walker, Westmoreland CD Delegate
Jon Smoyer, PA DEP
Pat Webb, PA DEP
Janis Long, Blacklick Watershed Assoc.
Ben Wenger, Indiana CD Delegate

Arica Ditullio, GAI
Michaela Lefevre, Elk CD Delegate
Kate Wehler, Elk CD Alternate
Holly Laird, Armstrong CD
Tiffany Stewart, Greene CD Delegate
Jenna Biggie, Jefferson CD Alternate
Matt Kerr, Clarion CD
Shane Hofius, Clarion CD Delegate
Natalie Lamagna, SRI
Bailey Kozalla, Venango CD Alternate
Branden Diehl, FPW

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:16 am.

Secretary's Report (Amy Miller):

Review of past meeting minutes from August 2023 with a correction of Maria Sorce spelling.

Motion (Walker/Wenger) to accept the August 2023 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Kelly Williams):

See report for details.

Motion (Sorce/Walker) to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Reports

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 BAMR Update (Pat Webb)

Pat presented updates on the funding coming to PA for AMR as well as the subrecipient program. There were a lot of questions for Pat. There was discussion about Good Samaritan protections and it was noted that WV must get NPDES permits and meet effluent limits for passive treatment systems. The conversation led to if BABA and Davis Bacon applies or will apply to Stream Act. Maria noted that the Watershed Specialist position is now considered federal match. There was also discussion about 2CFR200 and conflicts of interest.

Partner Updates (All present)

- Kelly Williams has a lot going on in Clearfield County. She has wrapped up Growing Greener projects and she is going to get rolling on BIL funding for the next phase. She has multiple other passive systems under design and construction. One of her projects was to replace flushing units to install automatic flushing units.

- Shane Hofius discussed his Paint Creek project which could lead to 3-4 passive systems. There is another maintenance on the park system that they would like to get taken care of.
- Bailey Kozalla is working on getting Scrubgrass and South Sandy to get everyone ready for the project.
- Branden announced that Deb Nardone is the new Executive Director for FPW. She will be reaching out to partners soon. He doesn't expect there to be large programmatic changes. FPW does have a pilot proposal for carbon offset investigations.
- Maria shared that Armstrong CD will look into some land reclamation projects for a possible BIL subrecipient proposal.
- Natalie is new with SRI and is learning to work with Datashed and is also helping with Snapshot.
- Chelsea Walked has a WCAP grant and a Growing Greener. They also has a Growing Greener for Lober that is wrapping up. They also got a Quick Response for streambank stabilization. Andy noted that the in-kind contribution was very appreciated. Westmoreland also has a treatment system
- Arica from GAI is helping a watershed group and is helping with a subrecipient project.
- Michaela in Elk County is a WCAP recipient, WPCAMR is the passthrough for the project. The deadline for this project has been extended. They also just finished a rehab on a system that hadn't had much maintenance.
- Jenna introduced herself as the new Watershed Specialist for Jefferson CD.
- Ben Wenger is working with Blacklick on some water sampling and an assessment of Two Lick. Indiana has applied to BIL and AMLER for a trail project.
- Robbie noted that a NOFO for WCAP was supposed to be out last Friday but it isn't out yet and there is another impending government shutdown. The new program for passive treatment maintenance is ready but they need a budget approved for the that to start. Robbie offered to get out and check out projects. There are two BABA waivers: 1. anything under \$250,000 of federal money; 2. Anything you can't find in America, up to 5% of the cost. You must ask permission for the waivers.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval sought for ARIPPA Award nominee(s) (Anne Daymut)

Motion (Hofius/Wenger) to amend the ARIPPA Award as follows:

- \$1,650 to Jabob's Creek for a flow meter only and
- \$3,150 to Clearfield Creek for sampling.

Motion Passed.

Appointment of new Vice President of WPCAMR (Kelly Williams)

Kelly Williams appointed Maria Sorce as Vice President of WPCAMR to fill the remaining time. Passed.

Application to WPC mini grant for general administrative assistance and outreach up to \$2,500 (Kelly Williams)

Motion (Walker/Lefevre) to submit application to apply to WPC mini grant for up to \$2,500. Passed.

Approval sought for 2024 WPCAMR Budget (Kelly Williams)

Motion (Wenger/Walker) to approve the 2024 WPCAMR Budget. Passed.

2024 Meeting Schedule: (Locations TBD)

February 14, 2024, Location TBD

Meeting adjourned @ 12:23 pm with a motion from Maria Sorce.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 11/9/2023