

# WPCAMR Regional Coordinator's Report

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May 10, 2023

## *LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP*

### *STATE*

- **SB111**

Amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act adding language requiring the following to be transferred by the Department of Environmental Protection into the Reclamation Fee O&M Trust Account: civil penalties collected for a violation of The Clean Streams Law which is in any manner connected with or related to coal mining activities; and moneys collected as a result of a violation of any rule, regulation or order of the department or condition of any permit issued under The Clean Streams Law which is in any manner connected with or related to a coal mining activity. Further provides all of these civil penalties and moneys shall be used to pay for construction costs and operation and maintenance costs associated with treating post-mining pollution discharges at ABS Legacy Sites.

SB111 was introduced on Jan 18, 2023 and referred to Environmental Resources and Energy in the Senate the same day. No movement on this bill.

### *FEDERAL*

#### **House Bills**

- **Community Reclamation Partnerships Act (CRPA) H.R.1146 (*Previous number: HR 315*)**

This was the third iteration of this bill and still no major movement. A type of Federal Environmental Good Samaritan bill introduced in the House and reported out of committee, most of the work on this language has been done through the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, TU and the States. This continues to be very promising. This bill proposes a way to protect watershed groups working on AMD by amending SMCRA. WPCAMR had supported CRPA but recognizes it needs more work to be relevant to our community. It was reported out of the House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent on April 25, 2022. We still do not know if it will be re-introduced in this Congress.

## **WPCAMR's Reauthorization Work**

With reauthorization having passed and the Infrastructure funding secured along with the STREAM Act passed, the AML Campaign continues to meet with regard to understanding and potentially mitigating issues surrounding implementation of the Infrastructure funding and the STREAM Act.

## ***OTHER ITEMS***

### **Quick Response**

We are still expending funds from QR9 and are taking applications for funding to conduct urgent repairs to water quality BMPs, not just for AMD-related projects but other water quality BMPs as well. We won't use up all the QR9 funding so I requested an extension to that grant until December of 2023.

We have received notice from DEP that our Growing Greener application for QR10 has been approved and the contract paperwork was signed.

We also requested permission to apply for several Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program grants from OSMRE to act as a fiscal sponsor. One of these is for WPCAMR itself, to provide funding for materials for Quick Response projects through a WCAP grant. Unfortunately, we still don't know if we (or anyone else) has gotten their WCAP grant yet.

### **AMD Passive Treatment Training**

I have been working with Jon Smoyer (DEP) and OSMRE staff to arrange for an AMD Passive Treatment 3 day training in September. We just about have the venue details worked out and will be putting out an Abandoned Mine Post newsletter explaining the class and looking for attendees. We intend to apply to FPW for funding for mileage reimbursement, lodging, and on-site meals during the training. We strongly encourage all Watershed Specialists (East and West) who work on AMD to attend this valuable class, whether you have the science background or not. Also, anyone else in the Conservation Districts who have to deal with AMD projects and need to understand the process of treatment, should attend. Secondly, we will open registration to Watershed Association members who wish to attend.

## **2023 Statewide AMR Conference**

We have begun working on the planning for the 2023 conference. Anne will have more information about our conference and the planning.

## **Administrative**

I continued to perform the usual administrative duties and work with our Treasurer Kelly Williams on account reconciliations, check signing, etc.

I created WPCAMR's first Annual Report which is going to be posted on our [wpcamr.org](http://wpcamr.org) website this week.

Our auditor, Martha Henninger, owner of Henninger Associates, has sold her business to several of her employees who are keeping the business name for now. Martha is retired but said she will stay on to assist them until next spring when tax season is over.

Our previous Vice-President, Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist from Greene Conservation District has left there to work for DEP Oil and Gas. We thank Jared for his dedication and hard work and wish him the best!

If you know of someone who wishes to be Vice-President of WPCAMR, please let Andy and Dennis know.

## ***Other Meetings***

- PA annual AMR conference planning committee
- Weekly AML Campaign phone calls ongoing.
- Various phone calls from watershed groups and/or others.