

## WPCAMR

*Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2024 @ 10:00 AM ET  
PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg PA*

### *In attendance:*

Dennis Beck, Cambria CD, President	Rachel Fallon, Clearfield CD
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate, Treasurer	Steve Pesch, Penn
Maria Sorce, Armstrong CD Delegate, Vice President	John Klamut, GAI
Andy McAllister, Staff	John Wenzel, CVC
Anne Daymut, Staff	Tyne Blazier, Blaire CD Delegate
Jim Brahosky, Westmoreland CD Alternate	Adam Diethorn, Harsco
Jeff Painter, PGC	Natalie Lamagna, SRI
Robbie Fulton, OSMRE	Shaun Busler, BioMost
Chelsea Walker, Westmoreland CD Delegate	Jake Moore, PA DEP
Jon Smoyer, PA DEP	Mikayla Bucci, Armstrong CD
Pat Webb, PA DEP	Jeffrey Kim, Washington CD Delegate
Mike Haney, PA DEP BAMR	Jenna Waller, Washington CD Alternate
Ben Wenger, Indiana CD Delegate	Jackie Ritko, Cambria CD Alternate
Michaela Lefever, Elk CD Delegate	Brian Rabbish, Cambria CD Alternate
Tiffany Stewart, Greene CD Delegate	John Dryzal, Cambria CD Delegate
Jenna Biggie, Jefferson CD Alternate	John Stefanko, PA DEP
Chris Phillips, PA DEP	Greg Shustric, Somerset CD Alternate
	Branden Deihl, FPW

### **WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am.

#### **Secretary's Report (Andy McAllister):**

Review of past meeting minutes from November 2023.

**Motion (Waller/Wenger) to accept the November 2023 minutes. Passed.**

#### **Treasurer's Report (Kelly Williams):**

See report for details.

**Motion (Dryzal/Wenger) 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 (John Stefanko and Pat Webb)**

John reported that he and Pat attended meetings in DC last week with OSMRE, DOI, and the White House as reps of NAAML. DOI and the White House wanted to understand why projects are not completed yet and it was explained that it takes time for states to ramp up and get projects started. Pat explained some of the confusion there is around "project" vs "problem". There are many problems within a project. And there is a

lot of discrepancy on how to measure problems. For example, reclaiming 1000 linear foot highwall that is 1000 feet tall is not the same as reclaiming a 1000 linear foot highwall that is only 10 feet tall, but they are given the same credit in eAMLIS. NAAMLPL is suggesting new ways to measure community impact. Pat gave a counting beans vs qualifying the growing, picking, cooking and distributing of beans. John is encouraged that the relationship with OSMRE will improve with the new Director. Pat elaborated on the Justice 40 connection. EPA is updating the polygons for Justice 40 to include AML.

Pat gave a Power Point presentation on the updates with BIL/IIJA.

### **WPCAMR Annual Report (Andy McAllister)**

Andy gave an overview of the 2023 annual report with a Power Point presentation.

### **Partner Updates (All present)**

- John Dryzal had questions regarding new contract requirements for Growing Greener Grants. He also discussed updates with the Victor 10 Pipeline, for which WPCAMR is the passthrough for the WCAP funding portion of the project. They have a design and hope to go to construction later this year. Cambria also has a subrecipient award and are waiting for the contract.
- Greg Shustrick gave an update on the Oven Run treatment systems in Somerset County.
- Branden Deihl noted that John Dawes is transitioning into retirement and FPW has hired Deb Nardone. FPW expects that their funding may increase, including the convening grants, but they may get more competitive. Branden also suggested that Conserve PA has some funding to help with projects. LOI's are due March 1.
- Jenna Biggie introduced herself as the new Watershed Specialist for Jefferson CD.
- Tyne Blazer at Blaire CD is partnering with Altoona Watershed Authority on a project.
- Michaela LeFevre updated everyone on the West Creek Project that WPCAMR is serving as the passthrough for their WCAP. She is also doing some stream monitoring and assessment.
- Adam Diethorn and Bob Onyshko are doing some research through Harsco and looking for new people to try their products.
- Chris Phillips said the next round of Growing Greener will open on Earth Day.
- Ben Wagner is asking BAMR to put a weir on the 119 discharge. They are starting some new sampling in Bear Run Watershed to do system upgrades there through the subaward program. They are also doing a couple AMD assessments through Growing Greener.
- John Klamut talked about 3 projects that GAI is doing for BAMR.
- Rachel Fallen introduced herself from the Clearfield CD.
- Michaela Buhler is the new Americorps with Armstrong and introduced herself.
- Robbie Fulton noted that the NOFO for WCAP that was recently announced was pulled for some reason but he hopes it will be back up soon. He is also still working on the budget to pass to have the allocation for the passive treatment OMR program. They are also working on a federal version of Datashed. Robbie is also helping some groups with technical assistance to diagnose ineffective systems.
- Jeff Painter extended appreciation to all of the partners in PGC projects.
- Natalie gave an update on what SRI is doing with monitoring of systems and updating Datashed.
- Tiffany Stewart talked about Greene County's Grisby site.
- Chelsea Walker submitted a final report for her Growing Greener Grant. They are also sampling and updating a design for the Jameson site and they hope to apply for BIL subrecipient grant. Westmoreland CD hopes to attend the March 8 meeting at Bovard. There is also work happening at Brinkerton. Jim Brahasky asked if there is interest in the Yukon site and BAMR confirmed that they are. Jim also asked how the removal of spoil works and if landowners are compensated. BAMR responded

that each project is individual and the investigation will determine how it is handled but generally, BAMR is only works to dispose of the material.

- John Wenzel is with CVC is helping to reclaim features on the Inclined Plane hill
- Jenna Waller gave an update on Washington County projects. Jeffrey Kim is the new Watershed Specialist with Washington County and introduced himself.
- Shaun Bussler with BioMost talked about the 2 systems they are reclaiming at Powder Mill Nature Reserve.
- Maria Sorce said that Myrtle the Turtle moved to the new Armstrong CD office just fine. Maria is also working with Robbie Fulton to diagnose a treatment system. She is also looking for potential projects to submit to BIL subrecipient.
- Kelly Williams finished Morgan Run project and submitted the final report to the Growing Greener portion. They were able to build 2 of 4 treatment ponds and the other 2 will be built under BIL subrecipient. They are also doing a conceptual design on a post-SMCRA project. There is also a project in Anderson Creek that may go to bid. Kelly asked if anyone has heard from a woman from a WVU student taking a survey.
- Jon Smoyer begged for people to apply to the position that is open under him. He also updated the group on the status of the Blacklick active treatment plant.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval sought for staff raise (Denny Beck)**

**Motion (Williams/Walker) to approve a raise for Andy McAllister retroactive to November 2023. Passed.**

### **2024 Meeting Schedule: (Locations TBD)**

May 8, 2024, Location TBD

August 2024, Location TBD

November 2024, Location TBD

Meeting adjourned @ 12:31 pm with a motion from Kelly Williams.

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 4/12/2024