

WPCAMR 2025 Annual Report



The Western Pennsylvania Coalition
For
Abandoned Mine Reclamation



PO Box 295
Luxor, PA 15662

WPCAMR Mission and Vision

MISSION STATEMENT

Advance, promote, and advocate for all Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) aspects to further environmental improvements of the Commonwealth's land and water resources to foster economic revitalization in our communities.

VISION STATEMENT

WPCAMR envisions the Commonwealth with healthy, clean streams and productive land resulting in a prosperous economy free of the lingering effects of abandoned mines

2025 Board of Directors and Officers

2025 Officers

President: Dennis Beck, Cambria Conservation District

Vice President: Maria Sorce, Armstrong Conservation District

Secretary: Amy Miller, Allegheny Conservation District

Treasurer: Kelly Williams, Clearfield Conservation District

The 2025 WPCAMR Board of Directors consists of one Delegate and one Alternate from each of the following County Conservation Districts:

Allegheny County, Armstrong County, Beaver County, Bedford County, Blair County, Butler County, Cambria County, Cameron County, Centre County, Clarion County, Clearfield County, Clinton County, Elk County, Fayette County, Greene County,, Huntingdon County, Indiana County, Jefferson County,, Lawrence County, Mercer County, Somerset County, Washington County, Westmoreland County, Venango County

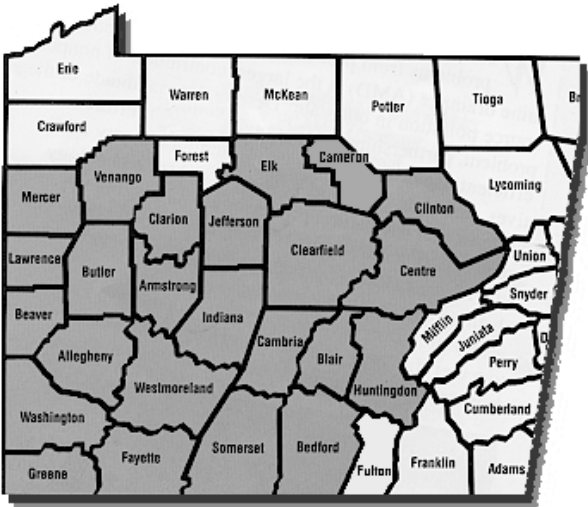


Figure: WPCAMR service area

2025 Project Partners

- PA Department of Environmental Protection Non-point source section
- PA Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- PA Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Mining Reclamation
- US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA)
- PA AML Campaign members
- Foundation for PA Watersheds

Quick Response Project Partners

- Elk County Conservation District
- Broad Top Township, Bedford County
- Western PA Conservancy
- Clarion County Conservation District
- Venango County Conservation District
- Cambria County Conservation District

Letter from the Regional Coordinator

Dear Friends,

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) was formed in 1981-82. The general purpose was to encourage the reclamation and development of abandoned mine lands in the bituminous coal area of Western Pennsylvania, with emphasis placed on improving water quality. The goals also included reducing erosion and health and safety hazards. The founders also wanted to return abandoned mine land to productive use and to improve the local and regional economy.

With help from our membership and a myriad of partners including industry, government agencies, conservation districts, and watershed groups, we have been able to continuously improve our services and expand our advocacy activities and projects related to Operations, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation (OM&R) of existing AMD treatment systems.

For example, since its inception in 2006 to the end of 2025, our enormously popular Growing Greener-funded Quick Response program has provided nearly \$1.6M emergency funding for Growing Greener-eligible water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). Upkeep of these BMPs is vital to maintaining the water quality improvements we've seen over the years.

The past year has been full of uncertainty with regard to some Federal grant programs, specifically how their requirements affect the grantees. Also some federal programs, such as the WCAP program seem to have been in limbo. But, in spite of that challenge, our community continues to move forward with projects.

In 2025, WPCAMR continued to assist our community by serving as a fiscal sponsor for the US Office of Surface Mining's (OSMRE) Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP) grants that had already been awarded and stayed in contact with OSMRE to advocate for the reinstatement of the program. WCAP grants are important to the continuing operation of many treatment systems.

Our involvement as the chair of the PA Abandoned Mine Land Campaign is tremendously important to the reclamation community as we seek to understand and clarify policy related to AML/AMD.

The encouragement we get from our community is greatly appreciated as we are striving to help in any way we can. As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and we look forward to continuing our valued partnership with you, the reader, and expanding our influence to provide more services to facilitate the remediation of Abandoned Mine Land and Water.

Thank you for all your hard work.

All the best,



Regional Coordinator

Internal Organizational Support

One of the important jobs tackled by the WPCAMR Board is that of Internal Organizational Support. In other words, how to keep the organization running well and how to improve our operations. Strategic Planning is one of the ways to provide guidance for the future. Visioning sessions are another way to guide the work.

Update on Visioning Session Projects

Visioning sessions are a collaborative activity where participants collectively explore and define a shared vision for the future, typically involving a group of people who are stakeholders in a project, organization, or community. It's a way to create a shared understanding of what success looks like and how to achieve it.

Thanks to the Foundation for PA Watersheds for funding this unique endeavor between EPCAMR and WPCAMR.

Our final Visioning Session document was presented to the Board in February 2025.

The recommended projects will reflect ways in which the two organizations can work together and assist the Watershed organizations in the coal regions of PA.

In 2025, WPCAMR and EPCAMR embarked on a new joint project identified in the Visioning Session. This project is entitled, "Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles", a monthly podcast that showcases those involved in Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

Administrative Funding

Administrative funding is extremely important as we address expenses that are not directly attributable to our grants.

WPCAMR brought in a total of \$17,200 in admin funding from project grants and received a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for PA Watersheds for general operations.

Public Policy and Advocacy

AML Campaign

WPCAMR has been an integral member of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Land Campaign for over 20 years. In its early years, WPCAMR through its work with the Campaign, concentrated on the reauthorization of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), legislation that provides Pennsylvania with a large portion of its funding to address environmental issues stemming from abandoned coal mines. With the passage of the reauthorization of SMCRA in late 2021, WPCAMR, through its work with the PA AML Campaign, began to be more involved in advocacy related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill and the STREAM Act bill. By late 2022, the PA AML Campaign was successful in getting those bills passed. 2024 became a year of unknowns but after the elections, we saw an increased need to defend AMD/AML funding. In 2025, the defense of IJJA and WCAP grants started to take center stage. By late 2025, our efforts to preserve IJJA funds continued and it seemed that the WCAP grants may be returning.

WPCAMR continues to chair the PA AML Campaign and fight to preserve federal funding sources through advocacy and education.

Fiscal sponsorship

Occasionally, WPCAMR is asked to be the fiscal sponsor (Pass through). In 2025, we were listed as the fiscal sponsor on the annual ARIPPA grant and two Watershed Cooperative Agreement grants from OSMRE.

WPCAMR is also listed as the sponsor on an OSMRE grant for Clearfield County Conservation District that was submitted in FFY2024 but has not yet been approved/awarded as of December 2025.

WPCAMR was the fiscal sponsor for the following grants during 2025:

- 2025 ARIPPA Award, \$2,500 (completed)
- Elk County Conservation District, WCAP grant \$94,557, FPW grant \$2,000 (completed)
- Victor #10 AMD Pipeline Construction (Cambria County Conservation District), \$150,000.00 (completed)
- Clearfield County Conservation District, WCAP grant \$100,000 (applied for, not yet awarded)

Outreach and education

- Staff published 7 Abandoned Mine Post E-newsletters.
- Staff published 5 episodes of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles podcast.
- Staff presented at the Annual ARIPPA Awards banquet.
- Staff gave a presentation to the Choose Clean Water Conference on the report and findings of the "Community-Based Watershed Organizations (CWO) Roles in AML/AMD Projects in Pennsylvania".

In addition to more structured outreach activities, WPCAMR staff field dozens of phone calls and emails throughout the year from the general public.

Questions often center around how to find out who can help them with an AML issue, water quality issue, or general environmental question that is particular to the homeowner's area. WPCAMR staff then forward the inquiries to appropriate PA DEP staff or the County Conservation District Watershed Specialists.

Annual PA AMR Conference

The Annual Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference is the longest running annual conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation in the State and 2025 marked the 27th year of the conference.

WPCAMR, along with EPCAMR and the planning committee invested many hours in the planning and execution of the 2025 annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference. The conference was held in State College in 2025.

Highlights include:

170 attendees

27 exhibitors

15 sponsors (2 platinum, 5 gold, and 8 silver)

The conference was worth 19 hours of professional development in 2025. 22 individuals were provided PDH certificates

This conference and all PA AMR conferences are archived and searchable at

www.treatminewater.com

Quick Response Program and Operations, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation of Treatment Systems

The Growing Greener-funded Quick Response Program, administered by WPCAMR, provides funding for emergency or urgent repairs on Growing Greener-eligible water quality projects. PA DEP provides oversight in terms of approval of applications and reimbursements and WPCAMR works in an administrative and fiscal capacity.

The Quick Response Program has been in place since 2006 and has granted nearly \$1.6M in repair funding.

Five projects were authorized by WPCAMR to participate in Quick Response in 2025. Four projects were completed in 2025. The total Quick Response funded provided for the four projects was \$48,110. The total in-kin/cash match provided by the Quick Response project sponsors (recipients) for those projects was \$18,194, a 37.5% match.

Photo: Rock Turn



omerset County.

Fiscal Summary

In 2025, WPCAMR's program-related expenses accounted for almost 95% of its expenses. Non-programmatic, administrative costs accounted for just over 5% of its expenses.

2025 income was largely dominated by OSMRE's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program grants (as pass throughs) and WPCAMR's Section 319 grant which provides funding for a portion of operational expenses (most but not all of the salaries/benefits).

State Grants, specifically Growing Greener grant for Quick Response, provided the next largest source of program-related funding. Other sources of funding include foundation grants, AMR Conference sponsorships, ARIPPA Award, memberships/donations, and other smaller sources of income.

