

## WPCAMR

*Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2026 @ 10:00 AM ET  
Armstrong Conservation District, Kittanning PA*

### *In attendance:*

Maria Sorce, Armstrong CD Delegate, Vice President  
Amy Miller, Allegheny CD Delegate, Secretary  
Kelly Williams, Clearfield CD Delegate, Treasurer  
Andy McAllister, Staff  
Anne Daymut, Staff  
John Dryzal, Cambria CD Delegate  
Pat Webb, PA DEP BAMR  
Jon Smoyer, PA DEP BAMR  
Shane Hoffius, SRI  
Holly Laird, Armstrong CD Alternate  
Victoria Daily, PAGC

Jeff Painter, PAGC  
Chelsea Patterson, Westmoreland CD Delegate  
Ben Smith, Jefferson CD Delegate  
Sean Bergsten, Clearfield CD Alternate  
Rock Martin, PA DEP BAMR  
Joe Sassaman, PA DEP BAMR (via Teams)  
Cindy Wolfe, PA DEP BAMR (via Teams)  
Roger Rummel, PA DEP BAMR (via Teams)  
Heather Augusta, PA DEP BAMR (via Teams)  
Christina Depak Jones, PA DEP BAMR (via Teams)  
Kate Wehler, Elk CD Delegate (via Teams)

### **WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am.

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

Postponed until next meeting

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

See report for details.

**Motion (Patterson/Miller) to amend the 2026 draft budget as follows: The project funding income section on line 4 from 2025 and 2026 were corrected to read, \$372,800 for 2026 and \$654,784.78 for 2025. Therefore, the Total Income lines for 2026 and 2025 were changed to \$401,690 and \$678,434 respectively. Passed.**  
**Motion (Patterson/Dryzal) 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.*

#### **Joint Visioning Session Final Report (Andy McAllister)**

#### **PA DEP Update (Pat Webb)**

Pat gave an update of the AML/AMD Grant program including how many applications were submitted and we are still waiting to hear of acceptance. Pat introduced all those who have joined the meeting and what they are in charge of. Kelly asked for some clarification on the organizational risk assessment and the partial funding scenario outlined in the grant application package. Cindy noted that during the process of the IPC, groups will be aided in reducing their risk to make their application potentially more successful. Jon and Cindy explained that some projects can logically be broken into phases over years and BAMR also hopes that reducing the amount of funding reduces the risk DEP takes. The risk assessment criteria are not published separately, but there is a risk questionnaire in the application process that will guide potential applicants on what they are looking for.

Pat gave an overview of MRAB meetings historically. Joe Sassaman prepared an AML Funding Summary for MRAB and Congressman Thompson. Pat presented this information after obtaining approval. He gave an overview of the repurposing of AML funding as per recent Congressional action and how it may impact PA. It was noted that we are delayed in receiving the money and they try to spend to oldest money first. The consensus is that we need more outreach to legislators to avoid more money being taken in the future.

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

- Chelsea has two AML/AMD grants. One is Bovard coal refuse removal with Hedin Environmental. Bidle property project has selected a contractor but there will be several years of monitoring water quality. They are also applying for routine maintenance on another system. Westmoreland is hiring a new position for watershed management.
- Jeff thanked CD's and BAMR for partnerships. PAGC has around 3 dozen projects with BAMR in all different stages of development. Jeff hopes that with Victoria now on board, they will have all potential projects on Game lands identified within the next year. Game Commission is not considering solar projects. Jeff estimates that ¼ of game lands are impacted by AML.
- Kelly updated the group on MR7 and the many challenges they faced. They are now waiting for the weather to break. She is working on planning and development of Anderson Creek. The Korb 4 project is under construction through 319. She submitted another grant for phase 2 of a project. She looking at State Game Lands 100 to look at the water quality there as well as Game Lands 98 in Morgan Run Watershed.
- Cambria County has one IJJA project under construction. John asked about water monitoring sponsors as the 319 Watershed Specialist program is looking for. Andy will reach out to 319 as appropriate.
- Jefferson County hopes to start assessments in the southern portion of the county.
- Shane just joined SRI and noted the projects that he will be working on. He would like to jump back into the Mill Creek watershed in Jefferson County.
- Armstrong CD has been showing John Russic around to look for a project to apply for on Game Lands but were shut down due to Hemlock. One goal of the District is to collect real data in the watersheds.
- Elk County announced that Michaela has left the district. They are working to replace her.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval for McAllister Annual Raise**

**Motion (Williams/Patterson) to approve an annual raise of 1% retroactive to December for Andy McAllister, contingent on President Denny Beck's approval. Passed.**

#### **2026 Meeting Schedule: (Locations TBD)**

Next Meeting: May 13, 2026

August 12, 2026

November 11, 2026

Meeting adjourned @ 12:28 pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 3/26/2026

#### **Post meeting Amendment on 3/26/2026:**

I Dennis C. Beck, as chairman of the western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, have reviewed and graded the Performance evaluation form for Andy McAllister and am in agreement with the motion to grant Andy a 1% raise retroactive to December 1st.