

WPCAMR

*Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022 @ 10:00 AM ET
Indiana County Conservation District, Indiana PA*

In attendance:

Denny Beck, President
Amy Miller, Secretary, Allegheny CD
Robert Sabo, Treasurer, Indiana CD
Andy McAllister, Staff
Anne Daymut, Staff
Janis Long, Blacklick Watershed
John Dryzal, Cambria CD
Kylie Schultz, Westmoreland CD
Jeff Painter, Game Commission
Trish Mazik, Clarion CD Delegate
Jenna Waller, Washington CD

Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc
Maria Sorce, Armstrong CD Delegate
Rob Fulton, OSMRE
Jon Smoyer, PA DEP BAMR
Pat Webb, PA DEP BAMR
Chris Phillips, PA DEP
Evan Delong, Jefferson CD Delegate
Madeline Hice, Allegheny CD
Tom Malesky, PA DEP BAMR
Len Lichvar, Somerset CD Delegate

WPCAMR BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

Secretary's Report (Amy Miller):

Review of past meeting minutes from May 2022.

Motion (Dryzal/Sabo) to accept the May 2022 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (Andy McAllister):

See report for details.

Motion (Miller/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.*

BAMR Discussion (Jon Smoyer)

The Subaward Program is set up and beta testing the online application. Anyone thinking of applying should start reaching out to BAMR immediately because there are questions in the application that must be answered by BAMR. This means that it is a joint project with BAMR. The more communication the better. Tom added that there are different guidelines for each pot of available money (i.e. AML, AMLER, BIL funding ect.) There will be more than one funding round each year. Guidance and instructions should be available soon. The application is based on the 2019 AMLER application but more mature. Subaward grants will be 3 years. They cannot be extended beyond 5 years.

Partner Updates (All present):

- Maria shared that Armstrong County is wrapping up a reclamation project. They have also done some streambank stabilization projects. Armstrong is looking for ways to get involved in the BIL funding.

- Kylie is the new watershed specialist. She is learning about Brinkerton and is helping with testing an added technology
- Chris Phillips is reviewing Growing Greener applications to make recommendations of awards but there are a couple large projects that may take up most of the funding.
- Cliff is expanding the Neil Run Site. There are a couple sites being designed in Slippery Rock. They are doing another round of Snapshot next spring. They are still operating the TAG Program, that can triage and fix minor issues at treatment systems and also do conceptual designs for new grants. Cliff encouraged people to get an account and upload data to Datashed.
- Len is doing a Quick Response at Rock Tunnel. On Sept 1, there will be a ceremony at Oven Run and everyone is invited.
- Jon discussed that the BIL is actually more geared toward land reclamation. Jon feels that this is a great fit for Conservation Districts. Stuff that was not eligible before, is now.
- Robbie shared that WCAP is open and has a hard deadline of Sept 20. Those interested should talk to him early to set up a field meeting. He requested \$2.5 million but only got \$1 million. He may have to make cuts.
- Pat and Tom added that the Notice of Funding Opportunity for BIL money came out and the state is working on it now. There are new points to be addressed. They recently met with Tom Shope of OSMRE. OSMRE guidance and interpretations look favorable for states and tribes. Pat discussed Justice 40. His opinion is that PA BAMR has already been doing Justice 40 guidance in our AML Program. His take is that we can already comply with Justice 40 but we don't know for sure yet.
- Evan is working on a Coldwater Conservation Plan for Clover Run. He is sampling 2 AMD treatment systems. He is also waiting on an easement from a landowner. The Mill Creek Coalition is working with Headwaters Conservancy in Jefferson County to construct a treatment system.
- John Dryzal is working with WPCAMR to put in a WCAP application. They have recently completed Robindale with streambank stabilization that removed refuse. They had to get some different permits and install fish habitat in order to get the last 50 feet next to the stream.
- Bob Sabo shared that he did some sampling to include in Datashed. He is also planning to do additional sampling soon. Indiana County CD is looking to redesign and reconstruct a system in Bear Run.
- Amy is working in Allegheny County to find people to apply for BIL funding. She is currently working on stormwater projects.
- Trish was out for some stream shocking. She is working on the Growing Greener Grant for the county park project. They have enough money pieced together for one of the ponds. They just closed bids for the next phase. The benefit of the project is for educational signage.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Merit Raise for Anne Daymut (Denny Beck)

Motion (Sabo/Sorce) approve a merit raise for Anne Daymut. Passed.

Approval to apply for grants (Andy McAllister)

Motion (Dryzal/Miller) to approve staff to send an LOI to FPW for \$7,500.00 in additional PA AML Campaign funding and a grant after the LOI is approved, and also to apply to Campbell Foundation for up to \$10,000.00 organizational capacity/PA AML Campaign Passed.

Request for volunteer for By -Laws committee

Denny volunteered. Others are encouraged to contact Andy, or he will be reaching out.

2022 Meeting Schedule: *(Locations TBD)*

November 10, 2022

Meeting adjourned @ 11:21 am

Minutes taken and prepared by Anne Daymut

Approved by Amy Miller on 8/12/2022