

EPCAMR 2007 2nd Quarter Board Meeting

Watershed & Cooperating Organization Reports – April 26, 2007

Presidents Report

Ed Wytovich, President

- Attended a Confluence Summit on Stormwater
- Coordinating a site visit with Kelly Donaldson working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation who is producing another film documentary this summer on AMD and AML Reclamation. They plan to visit Schuylkill next Friday.

Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association

- Central PA Conservancy acquired of 50 acres along the Wiconisco Creek with DCNR Funding (50% match grant) and WCRA to develop into State Game Lands and rail trailhead access.
- Bear Creek Project Phase Dauphin County Commissioners committed \$610 K toward the project putting in for a GG for \$300 K for the rest.

PACD

M. Irvil Kear, Chair

Robert Hughes, Regional Coordinator

Michael Hewitt, Watershed Coordinator

- Took over Ron Rohall's position and continues his work with the AML Campaign. Sat in on a conference call talking about their stand on Title 4 Rulemaking. They feel there is a need for transparency and making sure the dollars are spent correctly. They are pushing for the full 30% setaside for mine drainage work and operation and maintenance work. It may take up to 2022 for all Priority 1 & 2 projects to be done, to be "certified."
- Pennsylvania has the most Priority 1 & 2 sites of all states. West Virginia is #2. West Virginia may be placing their money into water supply restoration.

Columbia County

Cathy Haffner, Watershed Specialist

Maryruth Wagner, District Manager

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association

- A Rivers Conservation Plan for the Catawissa Creek watershed is in its initial stages. Pennsylvania Environmental Council is leading this effort. The next public meeting is scheduled for May 9th, 6:30 pm, Catawissa Township building in Catawissa.

Audenried Treatment System:

- FEMA funds will enable bank stabilization and, if necessary, repair of the treatment system inlet pipes. Work to begin mid to late summer. System has been ~30% functional since the June flooding. Conceptual design is completed and presented to airport committee. The proposed cargo airport could have a major impact on this headwater area and the watershed.
- Money for additional stone was received from the Western PA Watershed Program and will fill the tank closest to the road. Robert mentioned that the OSM Grant needs to be closed \$9,800 left that could go for stone also, but needs to talk to Dave Hamilton for approval.
- Selected to receive the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Oneida #1 Tunnel:

- Modifications and repairs finished, however 3(or 4) of the valves were broken and will need to be replaced. System still working with 1 cell operational. Received money from FEMA and WPCAMR's Emergency Repair Grant.

Oneida #3 Tunnel:

- Schuylkill County Conservation District was recently awarded a Growing Greener II grant for \$950 K to design and construct a passive treatment system for this discharge. It is currently in design stage, land surveys were completed. Bloomsburg University faculty (Dr. Steve Rier and Dr. Cindy Venn) and their students will help monitor water chemistry pre and post construction.

Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association

- Awarded two grants: DEP Growing Greener Support Grant and Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant to compose a Conservation Plan for the Roaring Creek watershed
- Currently looking at a stormwater BMP demonstration at Southern High School (rain garden)

Fishing Creek Watershed Association

- East Branch Fishing Creek Watershed Acid Deposition and Restoration Plan completed
- Will be submitting a Growing Greener grant this round for design and construction of a vertical flow wetland

Briar Creek

- Stephanie Singer has helped to form this group in the last couple of months. If you know someone who lives in the Briar Creek watershed and may be interested in participating in the formation of this new organization, please have him/her call Stephanie at 570-784-1310 x 123.

Schuylkill County

Tom Davidock, Watershed Specialist

Bill Reichert, SHA President

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

- Invited to submit a Final Application for a Exelon Schuylkill River Restoration Grant
- Bear Creek Festival May 20th

Pine Forest

- Under construction. Reading Anthracite is done with their portion

Mary D AMD Treatment and Recreation Complex:

- Under construction

Neumeister Discharge:

- Located west of the 901 Pub. It is in design phase

Reevesdale #2:

- Blocked up similar to Oneida 1. Looking to fix it.

Mackeesburg project:

- Should be starting quickly. Deadline of June 30th to finish construction an extension was put in.

Glen Dower Project:

- One of the SHA's first projects (about 8 years ago) now being reclaimed by BAMR. Project will split the stream and restore water to the surface. Was a stop on the 1998 River Walk.

Tri Valley Watershed Association

- Applied for a Growing Greener to conduct a watershed assessment

Swatara Creek Watershed

Tracy Airhole:

- Design complete, waiting on permitting. Hopefully going to construction this summer.

Mahanoy Creek Watershed

Packer #5 Discharge:

- Submitted a grant with USGS and Hedin to design and passive treatment near Girardville. Want to use the system as an iron oxide recovery point. Currently in design, no construction money was applied for.

Northumberland County

Carey Entz, Former Watershed Specialist

- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and Northumberland CCD have put in a GG1 proposal to study the Industrial park discharges 19 and 20 for possible treatment and reuse for the industrial park industries. Public water supply is expensive, but the park is expanding.
- John Deitz is looking at putting in a Pilot project in late fall 2007.
- Question is Excelsior Mine Fire affecting site 12 water quality? Not sure yet.

Lycoming County

Carey Entz, Watershed Specialist

Lycoming Creek Watershed

- Lycoming Creek Watershed Association and Hedin environmental completed their snapshot study on the AMD impacted headwater tribs. Dutchmans Run (near Ralston) was one that was found to possibly have AMD impacts. They are looking to put in a GG1 proposal to do a more in depth study for the AMD reaches to help identify what is AMD and what is acid deposition, but this year there wasn't enough time... maybe next round.

Sullivan County

Bruno Najanka, Director

Loyalsock Creek Watershed

Birch Creek Acid Mine Drain project

- BAMR contracted with Adams Construction to replace liner last week. System will be up and running again soon.

Luzerne County

Tim Ference, Director

Nescopeck Watershed

- CanDo submitted a Growing Greener proposal to do compaction in industrial park and make it ready for pads (Humboldt North?). According to BAMR the site may increase in runoff from 3 cfs to 85 cfs (1300 gpm 38,000 gpm). Discussion about diverting this to Stony or Cranberry Creeks.

Lackawanna County

Alana Roberts, Watershed Specialist

Wilson Creek TMDL Project

- Re-do of scope of work for TMDL

COALS Program

- Now involving high school kids now. We have several cleanups lined up for the summer

SRBC

Tom Clark, Staff

- Took Jen Orr and Beth Dillons jobs and mashed them into 1 and hired Tom. Been working on the West Branch Restoration Strategy which deals with GIS modeling with restoration scenarios. Will be presenting some preliminary work at the West Branch Symposium.