

EPCAMR 2007 3rd Quarter Board Meeting

Watershed & Cooperating Organization Reports – July 26, 2007

Presidents Report

Ed Wytovich

- Attended the AMD Conference and SMCRA Title 4 Townhall Meetings at the Luzerne Conservation District.
- The state moving toward a statewide Stormwater Ordinance. Model ordinance through DEP. Started the process in Luzerne and Columbia Counties. Pocono Northeast RC&D Produced a Stormwater Handbook.
- Beginning to experiment with stone at the Oneida #3 project to see how the water reacts. This will help in sizing of the treatment system.
- August 19th is Pioneer Day at the Pioneer Tunnel – music, food crafts. www.pioneertunnel.com .

Northumberland County

Al Mabus, Director

Jaci Harner, New Watershed Specialist

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance

Site 15 (Corbin Mine Drift) AMD Treatment Project

- Continue to deal with hydrogen sulfide odor problem, had a meeting with township to explain the system processes and why odor is being produced depending. It has been deemed a public nuisance and may be violating air quality laws. The SCRA and NCCD continue to monitor site and research techniques to deal with odor. System is working effectively – inlet pH 4.3 versus effluent pH 8.5, inlet Fe 28.6 mg/l versus effluent Fe 0.413 mg/l. This site is being used for various education purposes. The odor issue is being studied by Penn State with Olfact-o-meters and Desiger Tubes to rate the relative concentration of the odor. Smell seems to be dependant on the weather and different people sensitivities. Another source of the smell may be from the mine fire near Excelsior or local raw sewage inputs both just up the road. Looking to increase flow and possibly create odor barriers. Josh suggested contacting Carl Dymond of the State Conservation Commission since they are currently dealing with Odor Management Regulations.

Site 23 (Big Mountain)

- Trying to install new weirs and transducers, having problems with inconsistent water flows.

Site 21

- Pressure transducer is installed and working. Have a characterization grant for this area with Carl Kirby. They are waiting for equipment to be used for aeration, which can be utilized in 1/10 the area as compared to other aerators.

Site 48

- Increased storm runoff and creek flow sometimes increases sediment amounts, blocking pipes and only allowing ½ of flow to enter ponds. This site is being used this summer for education purposes. Wetland plants in ponds are growing and look good.

Schuylkill County

Tom Davidock, Watershed Specialist

Paul Lohin, Director

- Bear Creek Festival was May 20th, a great success as always. Much interest in the EPCAMR AMD Tie Dye Station.

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association

Audenried Treatment System

- Tech Steering Committee was May 30th 2007. Will be placing 1,295 tons of limestone in tank 3 (closest to the road) on August 7-8th. Columbia County is contributing \$20,000 with a grant from the Western Pa Watershed Program and EPCAMR is contribution \$8,500 with leftover money from the OSM ASCI Grant. The Tech. Steering Committee estimates the tank actually needs 1,500 tons to top it off.

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

- Currently working on operation and maintenance manuals for their working projects.

Pine Forest

- Under construction, approximately 50% complete

Mackeysburg project

- Project is finished and consists of 2 lined ditches that take water over a cropfall, preventing it from going into the mine pool below.

Swatara Creek Watershed

Orchard Limestone Drain

- Pocono Northeast RC&D completed the refit with a grant from Growing Greener. It can be seen directly from route 81 South of the Pine Grove Exit (about a mile before the Ravine Exit).

Dauphin County

John Orr, District Manager

Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association

Bear Creek Phase I

- The basic construction work on all three basins is complete. Currently the first two basins are full and the discharge from the second basin is now flowing into basin three. We anticipate that it will take several days to fill the third basin and then the system will be fully operational. We are planning to hold a brief tour and recognition ceremony on September 3rd.

Lackawanna County

Bernie McGurl, LRCA

- Handed out current edition of “Lackawanna River Currents”.

Lackawanna Watershed 2000 (Federal and County Initiative)

- Completed Ayelsworth Creek ALD Project. Need to develop and O&M Manual.
- Now looking at 3 Projects: Powderly Creek, St. Johns Creek (sewer projects and rebuilding creek bed) and Legett’s Creek
- Chrissy Parise is now working 3 days a week and hoping to go full time in October.
- Bernie explains the Lackawanna Valley as a “Stone Canoe”

Luzerne County

Josh Longmore, District Manager

Tim Ference, Director

- A large development near Pittston, Center Point Trade Park, is expanding past AML lands and into pristine forest lands. Residents will get tax credits and should not since it

Friends of the Nescopeck

Cranberry Creek Restoration

- Have not seen a map for the project from CanDo. Ed mentioned that it should be available with their application.

Columbia County

Cathy Haffner, Watershed Specialist

- Putting on a Smart Growth Workshop dealing with ordinances to deal with farmland preservation and stormwater.

Sullivan County

Bruno Najanka, Director

- Animal rights activists put the kibosh to the Bog Turtle Races in Sullivan County since we mark the start line with lime. Participants are now required to wash the turtle’s feet after the race or possibly think about using white paint which will not rub off to mark the lines and monitor the time that turtles are out of water. It was a fun event for kids.
- Huckleberry picking is poor this year. Ed also agrees.