

EPCAMR 2008 2nd Quarter Board Meeting

Watershed & Cooperating Organization Reports – April 17th, 2008

Presidents Report

Ed Wytovich

- The Bear Creek Festival is coming up in a month.

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association

- Cheryl and Ed were appointed to the Catawissa Water Authority Watershed Protection Council.
- Columbia CCD looking at CSAW and other sources for a Hydro Study (similar to Pine Knot) with USGS (ended up applying to Growing Greener. EPCAMR supported.)

Audenried

- Difficulties with FEMA work at the Audenried. Tunnel continues to collapse (about 70 feet) moving on to “Plan B” no more pipes into tunnel, construction 2 low head dams to stop sediment and debris and to protect the intake system. Showed pictures.

Guest Speaker

John Stefanko, PA DEP BAMR

- Been attending WPCAMR meetings and wanted to attend an EPCAMR meeting to meet the board. Took over Joe Schueck’s position at BAMR.
- Question on 30% Set aside. Agreed that there was a consensus of the general public (watershed groups) to take the maximum 30% set aside each year. The money will be set aside in upcoming years. The SMCRA Townhall Meetings response document will be posted to BAMR’s Website.
- Question on O&M Funding. Answer: Sec. McGinty’s Goal is to start this initiative and already has \$2M in funding in a Department Subaccount. Working on a withdrawal process. John would like to see it work like the WPCAMR Quick Response Grant (a Growing Greener grant award) and is interested in seeing EPCAMR take the initiative to host it for Eastern PA projects.
- Question about time table for O&M Fund. Specifically about current projects that would benefit (ex. Bear Creek Phase 1 where Game Commission will be final owners, however there is a caveat that a fund must be setup before they will take ownership. Phase 2 design is in the works.)
- Question about availability to fund projects that will bring streams back to the surface. It has been a “hard sell” to BAMR in the past. Paul Lohin mentioned the trouble he had with their Greenberry Project. EPCAMR is finding these “infiltration points” and keeping track of them to make available to BAMR. Answer: Some are categorized in AMLIS as “clogged stream”. Look at the current priority or identify a new feature and ask BAMR to reassess based on population change or changes in legislation.

Northumberland County

Al Mabus, Director

Jaci Harner, New Watershed Specialist

- Al stepped down as a director, but still an associate director.
- Can EPCAMR sponsor grants for Watershed Groups? Yes, but if Growing Greener, groups do not have to have 501c3 status, only incorporation and be recognized by DEP as a watershed group.
- Asked EPCAMR to produce a map of Scarlift sites and local names and present it to the Northumberland CCD Board
- Offered the use of the Northumberland CCD facilities for the Annual Meeting and a tour of the sites in Shamokin Watershed.

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance

Site 23 (Big Mountain)-

- Ordered additional limestone for this site
- Last weir has not yet been installed

Site 15 (Corbin Mine Drift)-

- Snow fence has been put up temporarily to satisfy the townships fencing request
- Hearing for Jim Koharski on April 14 on the “attractive nuisance” citation (fencing issue), the judge delayed a ruling until he did some additional research
- EPCAMR board suggested some sources for funding: Homeland Security MOA, Growing Greener, Carney (or other legislator) WAM.

Site 21 (Ranshaw)-

- Will finish current grant study
- Decided not to pursue the next steps of treatment due to community concerns

Site 48 (Vo-Tech)-

- Nothing to report

Site 49-

- Nothing to report

Industrial Park-

- Received Quaker Run Feasibility Study growing greener grant for \$79,000

Stakeholder’s meeting-

- Ed Zygmunt, Congressman Carney’s Office, organized a stakeholder’s meeting for the area on April 4, had a tour of several sites in the morning with several presenters and a brainstorm session in the afternoon. Goals and objectives for AMD cleanup were determined. A follow up meeting with local coal companies has been arranged. EPCAMR involved with mapping and OSM Priority and land ownership of individual sites.

VISTA/AmeriCorps Volunteer-

- Attended Supervisor’s training in Charleston, WV on March 11 and received Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team welcome/informational packet
- Have started to advertise at local colleges/universities
- Received help from the Degenstein Foundation and Wise Family as sponsors

Schuylkill County

Wayne Lehman, Watershed Specialist

Paul Lohin, Director

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

Pine Forest

- Completed, but has a problem with foam containing bacteria.

Neumeister Project

- The project design was 80% complete and the landowner changed his mind. The project has been put on hold.

Mary D. Project

- Fields were constructed and moving to construction of the treatment system.

Pine Knot

- In the midst of a 2 year hydro study with the USGS, got a letter of support from the landowner (Brian Rich).

Dauphin County

John Orr, District Manager

Wiconisco Creek Watershed Association

Bear Creek Project

- Has anyone had experience with the Game Commission and AMD Projects on their land? Especially regarding O&M.
- Had a blowout of the treatment system due to spring thaw and added stormwater. Applied to WPCAMR for \$40K quick response grant.
- Still holes in Basin C....nothing done about them yet.

Sullivan County

Bruno Najanka, Director

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

- Mike Korb, PA DEP BAMR came to watershed to see Tunnels A & B. Plan to meet other DEP BAMR staff on site to talk about increasing the efficiency of the treatment systems (currently at 50%). Seems tough since the Loyalsock Creek Group has to deal with both the Moshannon and Wilkes-Barre BAMR Offices.
- Working with Moshannon Office on the backfilling being done at Bernice Landfill. Topping with 60 – 80 tons per acre of biosolids from New York City Certified Plants on a 500 acre AML Site. The biosolids are treated with lime to pH of 7 then again in onsite processing which raises pH to 11. Cherry Twp. gets a \$1 per ton fee and has turned into a political football. Using smell suppression techniques including sawdust and almond scented perfume atomizers. The project has expedited the backfilling process since it was going to be costly to import topsoil (this is free) and the company is reseeding the site for free. Small contractors are now able to apply for the backfilling portion. Doug Saylor also plans to be involved by planting blight resistant chestnut seedlings.
- Gas companies are buying up land access agreements and land to prospect for gas pockets in shale. Land is going to \$2K per acre.

SRBC

Tom Clark

- Conducting a TMDL on the Newport Creek and sampling not only in-stream points, but also discharges (4 big ones). Contacted EPCAMR to see if there were plans on the Susquehanna #7 which contributes ~700 tons/year of iron to the stream and dumps 40-50 ppm of iron into the Susquehanna River. Started brainstorming partners and treatment scenarios. The site is in a greenway master plan, Hedin is interested in O&M to recover Iron Oxide and recently received a grant to supplement trucking to his plant in Clarion County.