

EPCAMR 2008 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – November 12th

Perkins Restaurant, Hazleton, PA

6:00	Call to Order – Attendance: Paul Lohin, Mike Potthoff, Cathy Haffner, Mary Wagner, Al Mabus, Bernie McGurl, Josh Longmore, Jeff McNelly, Tim Ference, Alana Roberts, Cheryl Brobst, John Orr, Ed Wytovich, M. Irvil Kear, Tom Clark, Peter Haentjens, Ian Palmer, Robert Hughes, Michael Hewitt & Carly Trumann	Ed
	3rd Quarter meeting back from Recess	Bernie
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Elected</u> Officers: Bernie McGurl-President, Al Mabus-Vice Pres., Cheryl Brobst-Treasurer, Cathy Haffner-Secretary, Ed Wytovich-Past Pres. (<i>Josh, ..., All</i>)	
	Adjourn 3rd Quarter Meeting (<i>Irvil, ..., All</i>)	
	Minutes from Last Mgt. (July 24th): <u>Moved to</u> accept & approve (<i>Jeff, Irvil, All</i>)	Cathy
	Treasurer’s Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> file Checking & PA Invest Account Balances for audit.• <u>Moved to</u> require only Executive Director to sign checks for “small” amounts, <i>clarified as \$500 (other than checks for staff). (Irvil, Jeff, All)</i>	Cheryl Irvil
	AMR Program Reports (See highlights at the end of this Document)	AMR PG Staff
	Committee Reports (Personnel, Budget & Strategic Planning)	Respective Comm. Reps.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personnel & Budget Committee Reports: <u>Tabled</u> Draft Travel and Per-diem Policy. <i>Board recommended seeking more sources for comparison.</i>• Strategic Planning Committee Report: (Handke & ICL Proposal). <i>Board recommended that the committee should meet with Robert.</i>	
	Old Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> pass a Conflict of Interest Policy as a part of a Policy Manual (<i>Jeff, Irvil, All</i>)• <u>Moved to</u> amend by laws to include language about Immediate Past President (<i>Jeff, Cheryl, All</i>)	Bernie
	New Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Discussed</u> establishing a Budget, Finance, <i>Institutional Advancement & Marketing</i> Committee to assist in finding funding sources and creating a budget• <u>Discussed</u> AML and Land Use Designation (EMARR). <i>Board suggested that it may be considered “taking” and to research related judicial actions regarding coal companies and landowner rights. Tim, Paul, Ed and Bernie will follow up.</i>• <u>Moved to</u> sign on to the SHA OM&R Fund as second successor. (<i>Cheryl, Cathy, All but Irvil and Paul</i>)• <u>Decided not to</u> financially support the greenlife PA (WVIA) proposal.• <u>Discussed</u> Bear Creek Phase 2 (Dauphin CCD)• <u>Discussed</u> John Dawes’ “Scenario for Implementation of the 30% Set-Aside” Letter. Support?• <u>Decided</u> to support the CAC Letter to Legislators (\$21M federal AML Emergency Fund Cut to PA).• <u>Formed</u> a transition committee to move to the EPCAMR office to to the Earch Conservancy building in Ashley, PA. <i>Plans to retire MOA with LCD in 6-12 months. Ad Hoc Committee formed: Josh, Al, Cheryl, Bernie</i>	Bernie Peter Robert John / Mike P. Robert Bernie
	Correspondence and Information (Manila Envelope)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kathleen McGinty’s Letter to MRAB (Future of Title 4)• Hydrologic Units Map from PA DEP BAMR• PA House Bill No. 55 (bioenergy crops on minelands)• EPCAMR RAMLIS Article in ArcNews	Robert Mike

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **Wildlands Conservancy “Green Gala”:** Brookside Country Club, Emmaus - Nov. 21 Robert
- **2009 Schuylkill Watershed Congress:** Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown - March 7th, 2009
- **2009 PA AMR Conference:** University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown - Tentatively July 13-16th, 2009
- **Nescopeck-Jeddo Wonders of our Watershed Conference:** PSU Hazleton - May 9th, 2009 10-5PM

Watershed Reports *Forgone due to time constraints*

All

**8:30
PM**

Next Meeting Date **January 15, 2009** and Adjournment

Note: Electronic poll of trustees shows on the issue of day or night meetings that out of the 12 that responded, 4 voted for day, 3 voted for night and 4 were undecided.

AMR Program Staff 4th Quarter Highlights (August 2008 – November 2008)

Regional Coordinator's Highlights

- Prepared and submitted a comment letter to the SRBC that detailed our support for the updated Comprehensive Plan for the Basin. Recommended Lackawanna River for a study.
- Submitted comments to OSM on their Final Rulemaking changes for the Title IV Reauthorization
- EPCAMR Staff attended the 2008 International ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA, participated in the OSM GeoSpatial Task Force Working Group Meeting, and co-presented on our RAMLIS GIS Tool for Community Groups
- Prepared a letter to the PA DEP 319 Program requesting additional funds to our Construction Line Item in our EPCAMR Budget to assist the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and the Northumberland County CD obtain the necessary funds to construct a fence at Site 15; EPCAMR was able to assist in securing an additional **\$29,764**
- EPCAMR Executive Director applied for a **\$15,000** Center for Watershed Protection Mini-Grant to conduct municipal demonstration projects that would encourage stormwater BMPs being used in abandoned mine land impacted communities as opposed to encouraging infiltration into the mine pools
- Attended the Mid-Atlantic RC & DC Annual Conference as an appointed delegate by the Pocono NE RC & DC to exhibit and talk about our resource recovery efforts with mine drainage
- Prepared a draft Travel & Per Diem and Conflict of Interest Policy for review by the EPCAMR Board

Robert Hughes

Full Monthly Reports for all staff are available online for your review

Watershed Outreach Coordinator's Highlights

- Produced 6 GIS maps, and 3 sets of statistical data for EPCAMR partners.
- Modified 3 GIS layers for the Mine Pool mapping Program to give to the USGS. Finished 3D structural contours of the Buck Mountain and Mammoth Coal Veins from USGS C-Series Coal Investigations Maps to aide in 3D modeling of mine pools in the Western Middle Coal Field. Began creating similar data for the Southern Field.
- Worked with Carly to supply the Nanticoke Historical Society with a desktop computer for archival research work. NHS is now a member of EPCAMR.
- Presented at the Lackawanna Co. Conservation District Meeting and the SRBC Water Quality Advisory Meeting. Co-coordinated the AMR and Coal History Conference with EPCAMR and WPCAMR Staff. EPCAMR Staff conducted 1 AMD Tour, lead 3 AMR Conference Calls and participated in 1 cleanup.
- Continue to update www.orangewaternetwork.org

Michael Hewitt

VISTA Development Coordinator's Highlights

- Co-presented with Catherine Webster (Schuylkill CD) and Savanna Lyons (ACCWT), on the ACCWT OSM/VISTA program to attendees of the 2008 AMR Conference in State College; assisted with conference check-in and registration.
- Received **\$1691** grant funding through Partnership for the Arts Grant, provided by Scranton Area Foundation and PA Council on the Arts, to be used for costume design and fabrication for elementary school skits based on EPCAMR's "AMD Avengers vs. the Pollution Posse" educational activity book; wrote and distributed explanatory press release; attended formal award presentation ceremony in Wilkes-Barre.
- Performed water quality monitoring, including chemical testing and flows, at Honeypot in Nanticoke, Grand Tunnel in Plymouth Township, and the Plainsville Borehole in Plains.
- EPCAMR Staff assembled water monitoring instructions binder for Kathryn Krulack, new Jeddo/Nescopeck OSM/VISTA; trained in flow, chemical, and macroinvertebrate monitoring techniques.
- Led site tour of Honeypot AMD discharge, Newport Lake, the Huber Breaker, and Avondale for visiting ACCWT representatives, VISTA Leader Luke Elser and Team Recruit Coordinator Marie Watkins.
- Prepared and submitted **\$500** educational mini-grant proposal to Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority; requested funding for environmental science, art, and social studies

Carly Trumann

project in which elementary school students will create AMD-recovered iron oxide chalk to send to partner schools in Afghanistan, learn about coal mining history and the geology of fossil fuel regions, and create international pen-pal connections.

- Attended Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable "Hope and Hard Work" training at Canaan Valley Resort, WV with ACCWT northern coalfields representatives; participated in advanced water monitoring track: learned about NPS issues in Appalachia, watershed approach to monitoring, assessment to implementation, and evaluation of project effectiveness.
- Researched AMR impact in Tri-Valley region of Schuylkill County; created detailed "What Is AMD?" PowerPoint presentation; delivered basic lecture using presentation to Pamela Ulicny's environmental science class at Tri-Valley High School.