

EPCAMR 2011 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – November 17th

EPCAMR Office / Earth Conservancy Building, Ashley, PA

6:00PM	Call to Order Bernie McGurl, Al Mabus, Mary Wagner, Cheryl Brobst, Bruno Najaka, M. Irvil Kear, Paul Lohin, Tim Ference, Bruce Trumbower, Christine Haldeman, Tom Clark, Robert Hughes & Michael Hewitt	Bernie
	Minutes from Last Mgt. (Nov. 17th): <u>Moved to</u> accept & approve (Irvil, Cheryl & All)	Cheryl
	Treasurer's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> file Checking & PA Invest Account Balances for audit (Mary, Tim & All)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2010 990s completed by Kovalchik & Kollar, CPA	Cheryl Robert
	AMR Program Reports (See highlights at the end of this Document)	Staff
	Committee Reports (Personnel, Budget, Strategic Planning & Dinner/Fundraiser)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personnel: Committee will meet on Nov. 28th to discuss staff evaluation & raises.• Strategic: Draft Marketing Plan from Dawe Consulting, LLC. Staff to merge documents sent to committee into 2011 Update over winter.	Respective Comm. Chairs
	Old Business	
	New Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Discussion on</u> PA DEP Reorganization and OSMRE merger with BLM. DEP Reorganization Chart circulated. New Deputy of the merged DEP offices is John Stefanko. Not sure how the OSM/BLM merger will work. BLM is a different animal that manages federal land out west. Mining laws and regulations are different between east and west as well. OSM Wilkes-Barre Office shutdown was bittersweet with office equipment being divvied up, but maps were shipped to Pittsburgh.• <u>Motion to</u> solicit 2-4 firms to collaborate on RFPs to BAMR's DES-11 (Irvil, Cheryl & All). Possibility of bringing in another staff person or just pay attention to how much work (# grants) can be done within a certain timeframe (timeline).• <u>Discussion on</u> Renew Growing Greener Campaign. Reviewed resolutions, Scarnatti Amendment to divvy up funding (Marcellus Impact Fee) and handouts. Only 8/15 counties in our region are signed on. EPCAMR is always looking for funding sources for the region. EPCAMR will consider submitting a TAG proposal on Mapping for the next Growing Greener Round. EPCAMR to solicit Pocono Northeast RC&D Council to see if we can be a part of the C-SAW VI & VII programs (looking to hire a new director and interim is Jack Hannish).	Bernie Robert
	Correspondence and Information	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter to US Senator Pat Toomey regarding OSM / BLM Merger• Renew Growing Greener Supporter List• Senate Bill 1100 (Scarnati ammendment). House Bill 1950 (passed).• EPCAMR Draft Marketing Plan	Robert

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **ARIPPA's AMD/AML/ASH Reclamation Talk:** Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at Toftrees State College, PA. Robert
- **ARIPPA 2012 AMD/AML \$10K Reclamation Award** (\$5K approved again for each 'CAMR Region)
- **PA DEP BAMR RFP in PA Bulletin OSM PA (DES-11)** (Due 12/28/11 - retain 8 firms for design, engineering and planning work)
- **Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN) Capacity Building Grant** (Due 12/02/11 – to increase TMDL development and WIP implementation Projects)
- **SRBC Quarterly Meeting:** December 15 at East Mtn. Inn, Wilkes-Barre

Watershed Reports

- Sullivan County – Bruno has been involved in the conservation district for 42 years and he is not seeking reappointment this year. 98% of Mine Scarred Lands completed. The district and county is going into a new direction: “Shale Gas”. 5 well pads within sight of Bruno’s house, should be 95 total in Sullivan Co. but not much bad to say since the companies are investing in the area (ex. roads rebuilt and utilities upgrades). Took the long way down to the meeting tonight to see local streams that were hit hard by flooding this summer. 14 mile detour on dirt roads for Lopez residents. County is hiring people at \$12/hour and certifying them to handle chainsaws in streams to clear fallen logs and debris dams that are impeding flow in local streams. Susquehanna University study shows 122 streams in Sullivan County. 95% that contain trout. 150 brook trout in 1 stream. Bruno
- Schuylkill County – Pine Know Tunnel projects: Wheeler Run completed. Wagner Run survey was started. Need a Joint Permit due to changing the water quantity in the stream. ~2000 ft of the West Branch of the Schuylkill River was being lined near Greenberry – Hechschersville Valley to keep water out of the mines. Mary D under permit review. Bell Colliery is in process. New Projects on the main stem of the Schuylkill River to process culm banks along the stream and reclaim floodplain. Environmental Film Festival was a success. “Bag It” film about plastic bags was pretty eye opening. Environmental Law Institute Award seeking candidates for wetlands restoration projects by December 15th (www.eli.org). Algae problems at Audenreid Treatment System. Oneida #1 and #3 are working fine. Reports of fish in the Catawissa Creek. Lots of the clean tribs do have native populations. Paul
Irvil
Christine
Cheryl
- Luzerne County – Continuing an inventory and documentation of Iron Bridges in the Nescopeck Watershed. Wildlife habitat projects being managed with native grasses and wildflowers. Fuels for Schools program to grow switchgrass and use pelletizer for fuel. “No till drill” – can be borrowed from PA Game Commission and Pheasants Forever. A test site was setup near Bruce’s House. Mentioned using Earth Conservancy land? Mentioned studies being done on Palmerton Zinc Reclamation site. Tim
Bruce
- Columbia County – Fishing Creek overflowed and hammered Kocher Park. Mary
- SRBC – Quarterly Meeting on December 15th in Wilkes-Barre where the Anthracite Strategy will be presented (summary and technical report finalized). Scott Tunnel Project is being considered by SRBC as potential for low flow augmentation in the Shamokin Creek Watershed. Dietz and Gourley are the engineers. Jermyn Slope is another that is being considered in the Lackawanna Watershed. Working with EPCAMR and LRCA to implement Tom
- Lackawanna County – Attended a meeting about power plant mercury emissions by Penn Environment related to EPA Emissions Control rulings. Submitted comment that CoGen Plants are different than the traditional coal fired plants that burn bituminous coal. Some traditional coal fired plants are emitting 300+ pounds per year range. ARIPPA plants are in the 1-2 pounds per year range. Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Plan (WRAS and QHUP). Pressure transducers were eaten by the borehole, looking for other flow methods. Bernie

8:05PM **Next Meeting:** *Tentatively February 16th @ 5:30pm* and Adjournment

AMR Program Staff 2nd Quarter Highlights (September 2011 – November 2011)

Executive Director and General Staff Highlights

- EPCAMR Staff worked on, completed, & submitted a \$66,070 Growing Greener construction grant that be used to remove check dams and a Trout Unlimited AMD Technical Assistance application for Solomon Creek, Luzerne County Robert Hughes
- EPCAMR staff conducted 5 Tree Trout Field Trips for Wilkes-Barre Area, met with 3 Wilkes U professors, HBPS rep., OSM staff, EC staff and exhibited at Chalk Fest related to outreach/education.
- EPCAMR Staff continued to work on the Solomon Creek Cold Water Heritage Plan.
- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Education and Outreach Program for over 60 youth at the Newport Township Community Organization's FUN DAY at the Wanamie Recreational Park
- Informed by OSM that the W-B Office will be closing soon; EPCAMR has requested that some office equipment and supplies be donated or acquired by EPCAMR to utilize in our region
- cds Creative and John Dawe, LLC through the NEPA Create-A-Thon, selected EPCAMR as a recipient of a professional donated services Marketing Application submission provide us with free professional services and technical assistance to help us market our work. Sonnia Hove, a freelance graphics designer and marketing entrepreneur from Florida has also offered to provide EPCAMR with free marketing technical services.
- Investigated a water quality stormwater issue with runoff from an abandoned mine site that was a part of the Westmoreland Colliery in West Wyoming along W. Brady Street through a private property that occurs when a pit fills up in the owner's backyard and runs across the property.
- Created an EPCAMR Press Release on the ARIPPA EPCAMR Awards to the three grant recipients: Schuylkill Headwaters (\$3000), EMARR (\$1000), and the HBPS (\$1000) that leveraged over \$160,000 in matching funds
- Provided Stephanie DeBalko and her photographer from THE WEEKENDER Magazine with an AMD Tour of the Wyoming Valley and provided Erin Miles, a independent filmmaker from Hazleton, PA with a tour of the perimeter property of the Huber Breaker for a short-film she is producing similar to the movie "Contagion" and "I Am Legend"
- Committed EPCAMR to being a member of the Environmental Education Working Group for PAEE who is working with the NAEE to certify PA Non-Formal Educators
- EPCAMR is now working with 2 part time interns and 3 volunteers to complete projects and administrative work related to our mission. Updated volunteer job descriptions for 3 positions and posted them on VolunteerMatch website
- Set up our EPCAMR Display and Exhibit at Boscov's Department Store as a part of their "Friends Helping Friends" Community Support Program
- Submitted EPCAMR's ideas for a grant proposal to PPL in partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to build a few scalable mobile solar kiln units

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

Program Manager's Highlights

- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 23 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley monthly. EPCAMR staff met with OFBH Project Partners on site to download transducer data and monitor flow at the Duryea Outfall monthly. Michael Hewitt
- Presented at the Watershed Specialist Annual meeting, corresponded with Luzerne County Commissioner to help with an AMD problem and attended a Catawissa Creek QHUP meeting,
- Continued digitizing maps and cross section for the Jeddo basin. Completed ½ of a 3D mine pool model.
- Created 4 maps, 4 databases, 40 RAMLIS CDs, 1 contact database for EPCAMR Partners.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account (recently upgraded with more premium services). Helped 2 member orgs with webhosting issues.