

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
December 4, 2008

Participants

AR – Lois Uranowski

HDQ – John Craynon, Josh Rockwell, Al Whitehouse, Fred Block

MCR – Kim Vories (Team Leader), Bill Joseph, Len Meier

CLT –

WR – Duane Matt

NTTP –

TIPS – Lou Hamm

IMCC – Greg Conrad

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLTP – Rick Chancellor

WR Report

- A **service manager meeting** will take place in Pittsburgh December 10-11, 2008.
- Planning for the **ASMR/Billings Meeting** is ongoing.
- Continue to speak with several potential applicants for this year's Applied Science solicitation.

MCR Report

- **Indiana Bat and Coal Mining.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held in the Charleston WV area with a one day field trip and a two day forum in 2010.
- **CCB Placement at Mines.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held in Morgantown, WV with a one day field trip and a two day forum in 2010.
- **Geomorphic Reclamation.** Working on over 30 Federal Employee authorization. 39 registered to date. The steering committee is continuing planning for an event April 28-30, 2009 in Bristol, VA with a one day field trip and a two day forum. On line registration is available at:
<https://www.dce.siu.edu/index.php/Conferences/Geomorphic-Reclamation-and-Natural-Stream-Design-at-Coal-Mines>.
- **Ohio State University CCB Research** – MCR has been working with the OSM CCB regional team at the request of OSU to begin cooperating on an Ohio CCB research initiative to conduct case studies on the use of FGD in mine reclamation. MCR is preparing a draft MOU for this effort.
- **Indiana Bat Coordination Work Group** – The team plans to have a work product by February. IN Bat Recovery Plan Final by Summer 2009.
- **BCI MOU** - MCR has been working with Bat Conservation International to renew the earlier 5-year agreement. MCR is preparing a draft MOU for this effort.

AR Report:

- **The 2010 ASMR Conference** will be co-hosted by ARTT. The dates have just been set for June 5-12, 2010; the hotel in Pittsburgh, PA has been selected with contract

negotiations are in progress. Other hosts include ARRI, Stream Restoration Inc. and Western Pennsylvania Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

- **Planning is underway for a 2009 AML technical workshop** highlighting innovative techniques to solve AML remediation projects.
- **Blasting Workshop** held November 8-10, 2008 had an attendance of 52 with 37 coming from Appalachian state programs and 15 from OSM. Presentations included topics like digital detonations, highwall profiling, evolution of crack gauges and measuring surface coal blast wave propagations using seismic arrays.
- The **ARTT Team (bi annual) meeting** has been scheduled for February 24-25, 2009 in Charleston, WV. The main goal of this meeting is to review and rank the 2009 Applied Science proposals. The AR rankings will be forwarded to the National Technology Transfer team for inclusion in the national ranking process.
- Roll out of new **OSMRE.gov web site** slated for December 12th. Several AR staff have been working over the past several months to provide graphics, site development and population. Responsible group is OSM communications in headquarters.

NTTP Report

- No report provided.

TIPS Report

- TIPS will be moving the Steering Committee meeting date for 2009 to either May 19-21 or June 16-18.
- TIPS is holding a meeting of the TIPS Service Managers next week in Pittsburgh, PA.
- The Appalachian Region will fill the vacancy of TIPS Appalachian Region contact that was left by Bill Winters in his promotion to Knoxville Management, by advertising an “Opportunity” to existing Pittsburgh staff.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- The **proposed rule for mine placement of CCBs** is at OMB for review and clearance. We are still hopeful that OMB will allow the rule to be published before the end of this Administration.
- John Craynon will be attending the **ISMR meeting** in Jasper, IN on December 8 and 9 and will make a presentation on the proposed CCB rule.
- HQ Division of Regulatory Support (DRS) will be sponsoring OSM’s participation at the **Geological Society of America meeting in Portland, OR** in October 2009. Staff will work with MCR to ensure that the reserved booth is utilized.
- John Craynon traveled to Atlanta to meet with **Spellman College** in relation to their work on their Applied Science project related to acid mine drainage.
- Steve Felch, who has been OSM’s Directive Coordinator in the Division of Administration, has been selected to be a **Program Analyst in the DRS**, in the position formerly occupied by Kathryn O’Toole, who retired in August. Steve will begin in the DRS effective December 7.
- The **Underground Mine Mapping (UGMM)** Steering Committee met and finalized the FY’09 Solicitation in November. Hardcopy mailings have been distributed to each Title IV & V point of contact. Electronic copies are being sent to each of the State Geologists. An electronic copy of the FY’09 Solicitation is available on the UGMM Initiative

webpage on the Tech Transfer website. The process is on schedule to supply the CLT with final recommendations in April.

IMCC Report

- **Benchmarking Workshop on E-Permitting:** IMCC will definitely be moving forward with this workshop, but will not hold it until July or August of 2009. State travel restrictions loom large in our ability to schedule this, and other, workshops and conferences. We are hopeful that things will have loosened up a bit by next summer. IMCC staff is working with a steering committee to develop the program.
- **Benchmarking Conference Call on Water Quality Implementation Issues:** IMCC plans to hold a conference call to engage in some benchmarking activity on the subject of water quality implementation issues under SMCRA and the Clean Water Act. This will be a first attempt at trying to do this via conference call. It is tentatively scheduled for the January/February timeframe. We will develop an agenda of key issues, which will be initiated with a brief discussion by an affected state and then discussion will follow for a limited time period. This may result in a series of calls on the subject matter.
- **Transition Team Report:** IMCC will submit two reports to the Interior Department Transition Team: one concerning OSM and the other focused on the other Interior bureaus that we interact with (USGS, BLM).

WEIB Report

- WIEB is working with IMCC on transition documents for the new federal administration. No specific events to report.

NAAML P Report

- Concern was expressed that many States are facing budget shortfalls. Approval for travel and funding for travel for state employees to attend technical transfer events may be difficult. OSM does provide assistance for hardship cases as funds allow. However, no funds are specifically earmarked for this purpose and OSM generally feels the States must be willing to contribute to technical transfer if the event is important to the State. While there is no disagreement with the concept, the severe nature of the current financial condition of most States may require changes to the current policy. Another option is to develop other means of doing tech transfer.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2008/2009.

- ISMR Jasper, IN December 8-10 by MCR
- WOCA Conference, Lexington, KY May 4-7, 2009 by AR (National Coordination)
- Geomorphic Reclamation and Natural Stream Design at Coal Mines Forum April 28-30, 2009 by AR (National Coordination)
- ASMR Conference, Billings, MT May 30-June 5, 2009 by WR (National Coordination)
- NAAML P Conference, Rogers, AR September 24-30, 2009 by MCR (National Coordination)
- GSA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR October 18-21, 2009 by HDQ (National coordination)

Next conference call will be January 8, 2009 at 1:00 PM CST.