

NATIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE CONSENSUS TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
July 8, 2009

Participants

AR – Lois Uranowski
HDQ – Fred Block, Josh Rockwell, Al Whitehouse
MCR – Kim Vories (Team Leader)
WR – Duane Matt
TIPS – Lou Hamm
IMCC -- Greg Conrad
WEIB –
NAAML P – Rick Chancellor
NTTP – Sarah Donnelly

WR Report

- The feedback from the western region concerning the latest **ASMR/BLRS meeting** was fantastic. Everyone enjoyed our NTTT booth. We had numerous comments on how good our material was, our posters and especially the personnel manning the booth. We also received glowing reviews of our WRTT meeting (which was held in conjunction with the ASMR/BLRS meeting). The meeting was very informative and productive for all that attended. The Western Region has notified and congratulated its applied science cooperative agreement awardees of their impending funding disbursements so that they may begin their project work.

MCR Report

- **Geomorphic Reclamation Workshops.** *MCR is trying to develop one to several State specific geomorphic workshops. We have had requests from Alabama, Mississippi, and Kansas.*
- **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.
- **Indiana Bat Coordination Work Group – *Final guidelines have been developed. Could be a public announcement July 21.***
- **White Nose Syndrome** – Now occurs in 65 caves in 9 states. Killed up to 1 million bats since outbreak in 2007. Caves on Federal lands in 33 states have been closed. Many States are closing caves on State lands. Plans are being prepared to raise some endangered species (Virginia Big Eared Bat) in captivity in an attempt to save them.
- **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.
- **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 **2011**.
- **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.

- **MCR AMD Workshop in Indiana** – Plans are progressing on a regional workshop focusing on passive treatment in *April 13 & 14, 2010*.
- **NAAMLPA Annual Meeting Rogers AR** – *September 27-30, 2009 MCR will be presenting several talks and coordinating an exhibit for this meeting.*

AR Report:

- The **ARTT Team (bi annual) meeting** has been scheduled for September 15-17, 2009 in Kingsport, TN. The meeting will present findings from Applied Science Projects and technical studies as well as updates on technology transfer activities, both nationally and regionally.
- **Stray Gas Workshop** will be held on November 4-6, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA. This workshop will focus on the scientific basis for assessment of and various types of fingerprinting for stray or fugitive gases. Gas accumulation can lead to problems where the fugitive nature of gases is a major safety concern. Tools and strategies for investigating stray gases, along with case histories, will be presented by scientists and specialists whose work has focused on the origins, mitigation, and accumulation of gases. The workshop will have emphasis on carbon dioxide and methane; the implications for safety, mitigation, and management of subsurface resources also will be addressed. Sponsors for the workshop are USGA, Pittsburgh Geological Society, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and OSM. Further information can be found at http://pa.water.usgs.gov/stray_gas/
- **Appalachia Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI)** will hold the 3rd Annual reforestation conference in Jenny Wiley State Park, near in Prestonsburg, KY August 4-6, 2009. Web site for this event is http://arri.osmre.gov/Events/AN_CONF/MLRC2009.htm

NTTP Report No Report this period

TIPS Report

- TIPS has added a **table of software** to the TIPS website including version, date of the latest update, and software manager information (http://www.tips.osmre.gov/pdf/software/Resources_CurrentCoreSoftware.pdf).
- The revised **Memorandum of Agreement** for TIPS software usage is on temporary hold while the State of West Virginia develops changes for their network requirements.
- We have **12 TIPS classes** left through the end of September. All are on schedule.
- The **Training survey** that Sarah spoke of produced some very interesting results including that 62% of TIPS instructors have taught for less than three years. In addition, 59% of respondents will NOT retire for seven years or more.
- TIPS personnel and specialists have been diverted lately to a **geospatial plan effort for the Bureau**. The “GeoMine” is in prototype stage and includes the location of all current mines nationwide, as well as AML sites, and historic underground sites.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- The CLT agreed to fund the top 9 recommended **Underground Mine Mapping** projects for this fiscal year. The projects total \$259,483. The CLT has not decided on partial funding for project number 10. Each Region is currently working on their respective

Cooperative Agreements. The AR should be complete within 2-weeks, the MCR by July 22nd, and the WR has not returned my call as of this report.

IMCC Report

- Work continues on the **benchmarking workshop** scheduled for late October on **e-permitting and mobile computing**. A conference call of the presenters at the workshop is set for July 23. At that time, a final decision will be made on moving forward with the workshop. We may decide to send out a pre-registration memo first to gauge participation in light of state travel restrictions.
- OSM has decided to reconstitute the **OSM/State Oversight Steering Committee** in an effort to respond to some of the short term actions required of OSM under the EPA/Interior/Corps MOU and Interagency Action Plan released on June 11. Both Greg Conrad and David Berry will be heavily involved with the work of the Committee, which may limit their participation on the NTTT in the short term.

WEIB Report

- The **2009 Western Region States/OSM management meeting** is on hold until further notice. We hope to schedule the next meeting once a new OSM Director is appointed.

NAAML P Report

- The **2009 Annual NAAML P Conference** will be held in Rogers, Arkansas September 27 – 30. The conference is hosted by the State Programs of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The registration, schedule and information on the tours can be found at the NAAML P web site.

Exhibit Schedule

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

- NAAML P Conference, Rogers, AR September 24-30, 2009 by MCR (National Coordination)
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, October 1-2, 2009 by MCR
- TMRA, Boerne, TX, October 17-20 by MCR
- GSA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR October 18-21, 2009 by HDQ (National coordination)
- ISMR Jasper, IN December 7-8 by MCR

Next conference call will take place **August 18, 2009 at 1:00 PM CST**.