

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
July 15, 2010
1:00 – 2:00 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – **Lois Uranowski, Arielle Avishai**
HDQ – John Craynon, Josh Rockwell, Carmen Fells
MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader), **Len Meier**
WR – **Duane Matt**
TIPS – **Lou Hamm**
NTTP – Sarah Donnelly, **Tom Hines**, Ann Walker
IMCC – **Greg Conrad**
WEIB – **Dave Berry**
NAAMLPL – John Koerth
Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- No report this period.

MCR Report

- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines. August 31-Sept 3, 2010 Charleston, WV.** *62 participants registered to date.*
- **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. OSM management is considering a signing ceremony at the Bat Forum.
- **Ohio State University CCB Research** – OSU is working on securing the permit for the high-volume FGD gypsum demo project near Conesville power plant of AEP. Placement of FGD gypsum is expected begin in late summer or early fall. Background monitoring is already in progress.
- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. They have a 90 day comment period. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA has defined minefilling as pertaining only to coal mining. ACAA plans to request an additional 120 days.
- **MCR Natural Stream Design (NSD) Workshop:** A steering committee consisting of members from OSM, Illinois and Indiana program staff, Corps of Engineers, industry, and academia are developing a workshop exploring the unique nature and challenges of reclaiming streams in the Midwest. This three day event will take place May 17-19, 2011 in Mt Vernon, IL and will include field visits to stream restoration sites in Southern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana.

AR Report:

- **ARTT Semi-Annual meeting** to be held August 31- September 2, 2010 at Pipe Stem State Park, WV. Final plans and technical agenda are being made. The program will include technical presentations of findings from 2 or 3 Applied Science projects and a

demonstration of West Virginia DEP's precipitation model for determining rainfall events.

NTTP Report

- The **SMCRA Principles and Field Procedures Course** is preparing for its pilot class and we anticipate a student group of 32 students to attend. It will be held from September 13-25, in Columbus, Ohio.
- The **2011 Training Needs Survey** results will be analyzed in the coming weeks and reported to the NTTP Steering Committee July 28 & 29.
- The **OSM NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION COURSE** has been scheduled for the last week of October.
- The **NTTP Steering Committee** will consider the potential for course revisions and/or new courses relative to the upcoming modifications of the stream protection standards.
- NTTP through the Steering Committee will also consider the potential need for a new course covering **Mine Gases**.
- The Steering Committee will also be considering the implications to the training program relative to **upcoming budget considerations**.

HEADQUARTERS Report

No report this period.

TIPS Report

- TIPS Training has obtained **certification from Adams State College** in Alamosa, Colorado for full college credits on many of the TIPS training classes. This is in addition to Professional Development hours for engineers, and the continuing education credits available for both NTTP and TIPS classes.
- **TIPS training classes** continue as the year winds down, including a slope stability class that was held in Denver this week.
- The Appalachian Region is generously purchasing **digital cameras with geotagging capability** for OSM inspectors, so that each digital photograph will have geospatial tagging information that can readily place the photograph on a digital map. Although not yet ordered, these cameras should be in the hands of OSM inspectors in the coming months. Plans for training in their use have not yet been developed.

IMCC Report

- IMCC is working with TIPS to develop a prototype program relating to the gathering of state data and information to support **the Geomine project**. Meetings and briefings have been held over the past several months and a meeting between the potential federal partners (OSM, EPA, and Fish and Wildlife) and the states will take place in early August to continue discussions about the nature and scope of the project.

WEIB Report

- WIEB/OSM Leadership meeting occurred in Salt Lake City, Utah June 15 and June 16, 2010.

NAAML P Report

- The 32nd **Annual National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P) Conference** will be in Scranton, Pennsylvania, **September 19-22, 2010**. It will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and will be held at the **Hilton Scranton & Conference Center**. Additional information may be found on the Association's web page at: <http://naamp.net/>

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2010.

- Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines Forum Charleston, WV, August 31- September 3, 2010 by MCR
- NAAML P Annual Meeting Scranton, PA Sept 19-22, 2010 by AR
- NASLR Annual Meeting Carbondale, IL Sept 14-15, 2010 by MCR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October , 2010 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2010, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2010 by MCR

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Applied Science FY 2010. OSM management has notified the top five scoring proposals of their desire to fund them either with year-end funding or with FY 2011 applied science funds. FY 2010 applied science funds are being used to support the EIS for the Stream Protection Rulemaking.**
2. **Future Applied Science Solicitation: The team discussed the following topics related to the next solicitation cycle:**
 - Timing of solicitation in terms of being able to award funding in relation to proposer planning, hiring and field season scheduling.
 - One part versus and two part solicitation.
 - Timing of the next available funding.
 - Selection of high priority topics.
 - Discussion on clarification of MHEI program
 - Need for a State Endorsement Letter
 - Response to Montclair State University Proposers

After an extensive discussion on the above topics, the team was in favor of:

- A new schedule of the solicitation to time award funding early in the calendar year to coincide with investigator hiring, field season scheduling and planning.
- Reduce the number of proposals to only those that meet a narrowly defined set of high priority topics.
- Eliminate the ranking process so that a quantitative assessment of each proposal is possible.
- Provide a list of qualifying MHEP institutions for the solicitation year on the website.

- No extra points will be assigned to MHEP institutions. The solicitation will spell out that OSM will evaluate the awarding of MHEP proposals separately from the other proposals and may choose to fund the highest scoring MHEP proposal.
- Eliminate the need for a State Endorsement letter as this has become a burden to State programs that seems to add little to no value to the process.

Kim will develop a draft solicitation package that incorporates the directions established by the team for review at our next conference call.

Next conference call will take place **at 1 PM Central, August 19, 2010.**