

NATIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE CONSENSUS TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
June 8, 2009

Participants

AR – Lois Uranowski

HDQ –

MCR – Kim Vories (Team Leader)

WR –

TIPS – Lou Hamm

IMCC -- Greg Conrad

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLN –

NTTP –

WR Report

- The **ASMR and Billings Land Reclamation Symposium** was conducted last week and was a great success. A workshop on Remote Sensing and Mobile Computing Tools was held on Saturday, and the WRTT Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday. A discussion of the OSM Geospatial efforts including those of the National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee to bring all SMCRA partners up to the ability to develop a geospatial database of their coal mining operations, including AML. The group's ASTM standards efforts were also briefed to the WRTT members.
- A talk on successful mine reclamation efforts is underway by Henry Austin for the **Colorado Coal Club**, for their luncheon today.

MCR Report

- **Geomorphic Reclamation.** Participants rated the event a 4.0 or very satisfied. *192 registered.* Will place the power points on the NTTTT website in June with the able assistance of Lois and her staff. Working on the publication.
- **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 by end of June.***
- **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 2010.
- **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 underway for a regional workshop focusing on passive treatment in April of 2010.

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_gas2/
- **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

- The **TIPS Steering Committee** was conducted on May 19-21 in Nashville, TN. There were two decisions:
 1. The Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the use of TIPS tools by state and tribal offices was approved with the exception of West Virginia and possibly Montana because they the CITRIX Networking system. This means that the wording for their agreements will need to be altered to reflect their networking of TIPS software.
 2. AqQa software was approved as a substitute for AquaChem as core software.
- Three **overarching priorities and issues** for TIPS were discussed:
 1. TIPS is at its limit in the number of current initiatives. No more work can be taken on without dropping something, unless additional resources are acquired.

Suggestions included:

 - a. Recruit more state people to assist by:
 - i. Serving as a TIPS Instructor – including teaching courses to all in house co-workers after receiving training themselves.
 - ii. Serving on TIPS Success Teams.
 - iii. Serving as a TIPS office contact.
 - b. Develop a matrix to manage TIPS growth
 2. Develop a “Virtual Presence” – A web site with public access to SMCRA geospatial data. A national mining and reclamation map was discussed along with the NGA pilot project.

- **Keep the training coming!** The initiative to provide more onsite courses this past year has worked very well – keep it up! Encourage customer sites to help more by providing more instructors to both NTTP and TIPS, and get those customers that have attended a training class to train their co-workers back at their office.

HEADQUARTERS Report (No report this period)

IMCC Report

- The **IMCC Benchmarking Workshop on E-permitting and mobile computing** is still scheduled for the end of October in Chicago. Final plans will be made in July when the steering committee meets again.
- The **Mid-Continent states and OSM** had a successful **regional meeting** in St. Louis on June 2 and 3, at which several NTTTT updates were provided.
- The **Appalachian Regional states/OSM meeting** is June 9 and 10 in Pittsburgh.

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.

NAAMLPL Report

- The **2009 Annual NAAMLPL 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 NAAMLPL web site.

Exhibit Schedule

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

- NAAMLPL Conference, Rogers, AR September 24-30, 2009 by MCR (National Coordination)
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, October 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 **July 8, 2009 at 1:00 PM CST**.