

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

August 19, 2010

1:00 – 2:00 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Lois Uranowski, Arielle Avishai, **David Lane**

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

- The Western Region Technology Transfer will be providing SMCRA related materials at a Mining Educational Booth at the “Taste of Colorado” event over Labor Day weekend.

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MCR Report

- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines. August 31-Sept 3, 2010 Charleston, WV.** 75 forum and 61 field trip 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.
- **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 to 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 has requested an additional 120 day comment period. EPA announced a 60 day extension of the comment period to November 19, 2010.
- **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** will be held from September 13-24, in Columbus, Ohio.
- The **2011 Training Needs Survey** results have been submitted and are being analyzed for course planning for FY2011.
- The **NTTP Steering Committee** met on July 28 & 29. In addition to reviewing FY 2011 Needs Survey results, the Committee approved next steps in developing a Biological Assessment course, a course on Mine Gases, a course on Impoundments, and sponsoring of instructor travel for Reforestation Workshops. Meetings will be held in early Fall 2010 for the Biological Assessment and Mine Gas courses. NTTP needs to follow up with Greg Conrad and John Craynon to see what information may already be available on these courses in terms of current state procedures, processes, and needs.
- The **OSM NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION COURE** is scheduled for November 2-5, 2010.
- The new **Acid Forming Materials: Soils & Overburden** course will be presented October 18-22, 2010 in Carbondale, Illinois.
- **ITC** will not be held in Fall 2010 as there are not a sufficient number of instructors available for a session. A class might be held later in the year if there are sufficient students.

Status of Proposals for NTTP New Courses

Impoundments: Proposed by Rick Buckley from OSM Charleston Office. The Committee is generally in favor of offering this training but two things need to happen. First, we need to find out: 1.) what the legal structure and responsibility is in each state; 2.) what the need might be for inspectors and engineers; and 3.) what states already have procedures for staff to follow. Second, once needs are better determined the OSM Mine Impoundments team will draft a proposed agenda for the class.

Mine Gas Workshop: Proposed by Bill Ehler. The Committee is in favor of forming a team to develop an agenda that would include Day 1 on Basic Science; Day 2 on Problem-Solving; and possibly a half day on certification. Both the regulatory programs and NAAML P were in favor of developing this class. Proposed team members include: Bill Ehler, John Mack and Dave Philbin from OSM's AML Emergency Program; Ken Eltschalager and Jay Hawkins from OSM AR; Leslie Bright from VA; Fred Boliseri from PA; Randall Mills from OSM AR; Brent Robinson from the USGS in IN. A Western participant is needed. This is a large team so presumably there will be a core team and reviewers. A revised agenda will be presented at the next NTTP SC meeting in February.

Biological Assessment: The Committee requested that experts in this area assist the Committee in determining if the timing was right for a class and, if so, what topics should be included. Experts included Craig Walker and Jeff Coker from OSM KNFO office; Heather McDonald-Taylor from VA; Brian Loges and Nick Grant from OSM's Alton office. After discussions, the Committee agreed that since the course would concentrate on techniques and tools there was no reason to wait for the final stream protection rule. The Committee requested that the team draft an agenda for consideration at the February NTTP SC meeting that includes discussion of techniques, tools, including calculating metrics, taxonomy, etc. As with the proposed Impoundments class, first we need to do outreach to the States to know: 1.) what are they doing now?; 2.) how much expertise do they have?; 3.) what are their perceived needs?; 4.) how much detail?; 5.) who will their students be (those involved in pre-mining, active, post-mining, engineering tasks?). In addition, there is a need for managers to be conversant in this area. Sarah will discuss with Greg Conrad how to best get this information from the States for this and the proposed Impoundments course.

Stream Classification/Restoration: The Committee asked the Biological Assessment course development team to consider whether this should be part of the Assessment course. All agreed that this was a huge topic and needed to be a separate course. Heather McDonald-Taylor will be the lead on this course. Since Heather will be heavily involved in the Assessment class, work on this class will not begin until the other class is completed.

Communications—Outreach: Once reports from the OSM Outreach team are finalized, the Committee will look to the team to make recommendations about whether the Coalfield Communications course should be adapted to special audiences (as we do in special sessions) or if there is a need for a new workshop or course.

Status of NTTP Proposed Revisions

The Committee agreed that with the exception of the above classes, no changes should be made to other classes including the Permitting Hydrology class (which addresses CHIA). The Committee also did not think the timing was right for a benchmarking or workshop.

Additional NTTP Course Updates

Basic Inspection Workbook: In addition to being available in hard copy, NTTP will make this workbook, including the self-test available on-line. No timeframe has yet been determined.

Reforestation Workshop: The OSM AR region requested that NTTP sponsor local area tree planting workshops for State and OSM staff as well as landowners and operators. In July 2009, the Committee approved funding of instructor travel for a limited number of these workshops. There are currently requests for workshops in WV, AL, PA, and OH. NTTP will sponsor one workshop this year and will work with AR staff (Patrick Angel) on the specifics of other workshops.

HEADQUARTERS Report

No report this period.

TIPS Report

- TIPS is working hard on directing efforts toward funding the Geomine geospatial efforts on behalf of OSM and the states.
- TIPS is upgrading the Training Center in the Appalachian Regional office to increase the student capacity from 12 to 16 students.
- TIPS has arranged to purchase a hand-held X-ray fluorescence analyzer for use on soils, rock material, and water to analyze element components. The device will be available nationwide to all SMCRA offices on a loan basis.
- TIPS Service Managers are completing visits to state and tribal offices over the next six weeks. Look for Service Manager visits to SMCRA sites over this time.

IMCC Report

- No Report this period

WEIB Report

- No Report this period.

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://naamlp.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
- NASLR Annual Meeting Carbondale, IL Sept 14-15, 2010 by MCR
- NAAML P Annual Meeting Scranton, PA Sept 19-22, 2010 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, Bryan, TX October 7-8, 2010 by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2010 by MCR

Next conference call will take place **at 1 PM Central, September 29, 2010**.