

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM  
MEETING SUMMARY

May 23, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, Lois Uranowski, David Lane

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – Duane Matt

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP – Tom Hines, **Jim Kennedy**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLPL – John Koerth

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The Western Region is working with IMCC and WIEB to plan the **Western States meeting** for later in the summer. No date is yet set

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA is being sued by the environmental community for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Solicitor review has been initiated on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for July of 2012. A public meeting in WV took place May 11. Testimony have been provided to congress. A conference call with EPA is being scheduled for June 7.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It will sponsor technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest. 84 papers and posters have been submitted for this meeting. Attendance should be apx 160. The final program should be printed the week of June 4.
- **NAAMLPL Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLPL with this event.

AR Report:

- Plans continue to be made for the **ARTT Blasting that is to be held at the MSHA Academy in Beckley WV September 5-6, 2012**. The event is limited to 60 blasting specialists from states and OSM.
- At the **OSM-State meeting** to be held June 5-6, 2012 in Stonewall Jackson State Park, a discussion on how best to deliver technology transfer and technical training in these limited budgetary times will be conducted.

- **Tiara Neal**, our SCEP student, has recently completed her studies in Graphical Design. Her position with OSM as a Visual Information Specialist is now permanent. She will work along with Karrie Bernhard on numerous regional and national web and graphic efforts.

#### NTTP Report

- Ann Walker has been selected as the **new Chief of NTTP**. With the challenges facing all of our programs, we are looking forward to Ann's capable leadership for NTTP.
- NTTP is pleased to report the addition of **two new course coordinators** to the staff: John Leehang joined the staff this spring, and Chris Bryson recently became the newest addition to the coordinator staff this month. They are both quickly getting up to speed with the program details and are a welcome addition to the training staff.
- Numerous **NTTP Course offerings** were delivered in April and May including the Pilot offering of the new Mine Gas Workshop in Pittsburgh, PA on April 24-25. The workshop was well received and many constructive and complimentary reviews were received. The second offering of the new SMCRA Principles and Field Procedures course will be in Columbus, Ohio from June 3 – 15 with some 30 students scheduled to attend.
- A **special session** of the Effective Writing course was presented March 13-14 in Albuquerque, NM ; a special session of the Acid-Forming Materials: Fundamentals and Applications is scheduled for June 5-8 at the request of the State of Montana; an offering of the revised Quantitative Hydrogeology course will be offered June 26-29 at the request of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- A questionnaire was circulated to state, tribal and OSM agency directors in April, to ascertain the interest and audience for the **development of an impoundment inspection course**. The results have been received and are being analyzed before making a recommendation on further development a course.
- NTTP is reviewing the current courses to determine if there are areas where components of TIPS software examples and potential applications can be incorporated in the course modules.

#### HEADQUARTERS Report

- **UGMM** The program will not be funded for FY'12
- **Rule(s) Status**

Cost Recovery-On 5-10, a revised draft was sent to Ruth Stokes for review and in preparation for her to brief the Director.

Coal Combustion Residue-OSM received comments on the EA from SOL. The draft rule is complete. Sterling met with representatives from the environmental community the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> in WV to discuss the draft rule, and briefed members from Capitol Hill last week.

Temporary Cessation-The draft rule an EA have been sent to SOL for a final concurrence and Mr. Klein will be briefing the Director.

Stream Protection Rule-Senior management and the Department are considering additional alternatives to the draft rule. It does not look like the draft rule will be published before the end of December.

Limited Liability-A preliminary draft rule is complete and has been delivered to Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. Postle is conducting Tribal Consultation. Feedback from the tribal council meeting could result in slight modifications to the preliminary draft rule.

- **OSM Booth-MINExpo** September. Last week Jeff Trump (co-coordinator) and myself met with Tiara and Karrie regarding the table top displays. The themes and pictures were selected and Tiara and Karrie, during their free time, will work on completing a preliminary display. I am coordinating efforts to secure rental chairs and a table. Jeff is working on the logistics of shipping the displays.

#### TIPS Report

- The **TIPS Steering Committee meeting** two weeks ago, May 8-10 resulted in 36 action items. Among the issues discussed was the need for access to remote sensing data and how that is to be accomplished with the limited resources of TIPS. TIPS discussed the addition of the Apollo server to the ERDAS software suite. Apollo will allow TIPS to have an easy system to log in to a server and access satellite imagery, identify precise areas of coverage, and easily download the data. The Apollo system is available inside the OSM network, and a meeting was held yesterday to arrange for the system to be accessible by state and tribal SMCRA folks by June 4<sup>th</sup>, providing that there are no final access security issues encountered.
- One other big item discussed was the need for a **Geospatial Conference** similar to those sponsored by TIPS in 2004 and 2008. The Steering Committee members emphasized how this has historically been a great forum for states to see what other SMCRA offices are doing in the geospatial arena and sharing those ideas and technologies with one another for the benefit of SMCRA. They also mentioned that it would be a great forum to include a discussion on interstate efforts toward electronic permitting and where that capability is in today's technology. The state representatives offered to explore getting the support of IMCC and WIEB to sponsor a conference.
- We also discussed TIPS cooperation with NTTP to **develop eLearning courses**. TIPS has revised its Virtual Classroom website to include NTTP information and to make it available to NTTP for putting up new eLearning courses as they are developed by the NTTP folks.

#### IMCC Report

- The **IMCC Annual Meeting** in Asheville, NC was well attended and productive. It included an OSM/States session on May 1 that was attended by OSM's executive leadership. Growing out of that meeting was a suggestion to re-evaluate the current status of the Geomine pilot project to make sure we are not expanding too far beyond its original intent and purpose. IMCC will coordinate a conference call of OSM and State representatives in the near future to pursue the matter.
- As a result of discussions at the recent **TIPS Annual Meeting** in Denver the first week of May, IMCC was asked to facilitate a conversation among state and OSM representatives to discuss the potential for another Geospatial conference within the next year or so.

IMCC will hold a conference call with a newly constituted steering committee in the next few weeks to begin the vetting process and will coordinate with NAAMLPLP and WIEB.

- The Appalachian Region will hold its annual **OSM/State regional meeting** on June 5 and 6 in Roanoke, WV at the Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park. Several issues of common interest are on the agenda.

#### WEIB Report

- WIEB is awaiting word from OSM regarding a possible **western states/OSM meeting** later this year. Coordination with IMCC continues on national policy issues.

#### NAAMLPLP Report

No report provided.

#### Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- ASMR Tupelo, MS June 9-14, 2012 MCR (National Coordination)
- NAAMLPLP Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Daniels, WV September 30- October 3, 2012 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

**Next conference call will be July 3, 2012 at 1 PM Central.**