

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM  
MEETING SUMMARY

March 1, 2011

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – **Arielle Avishai, David Lane**  
HDQ – **Steve Sheffield, Josh Rockwell**  
MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)  
WR – Duane Matt  
TIPS – **Lou Hamm**  
NTTP – Sarah Donnelly, **Tom Hines**  
IMCC – **Greg Conrad**  
WEIB – Dave Berry  
NAAMLPLP – John Koerth  
Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The Western Region Technology Transfer is preparing for the upcoming **ASMR conference in Bismarck, North Dakota**; June 12-16, 2011. One of the highlights will be a Bond Release workshop. The Western Region Technology Transfer will hold its annual meeting at the conference.
- We are beginning **TIPS Service Manager** visits starting with Utah this month.
- Duane Matt is teaching the **NTTP Writing Class** in Charleston, WV this week.

MCR Report

- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines. August 31-Sept 3, 2010 Charleston, WV.** 86 forum and 72 field trip participants. Currently working on the proceedings.
- **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 in progress.
- **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 has defined minefilling as pertaining only to coal mining. EPA comment period ended 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. There are 90 to 117 participants registered to date. More information can be found at:  
<http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/NTTMainSite/Events/importantevents.shtm>
- **Restoration of Stream Quality and Function at SMCRA Coal Mines** – A suggested topic for a national forum in 2012 or 2013. Determine the state of the science on

prediction of overburden quality to mine related stream pollution, determine the science of the impact of SMCRA mining to aquatic biology & T & E species by region, determine the science of stream water quality monitoring related to potential aquatic biology impact.

- Nick Grant and David Lane will attend AR Stream Quality Workshop April 11-15, Lexington, KY.
- After Workshop develop a Steering Committee: Christy Johnson-Hughes FWS has volunteered to serve.
- Initiate planning for a national technical forum in mid 2012 or 2013 after OSM Stream Protection Rule is published.

#### AR Report:

- The **ARTT Team conducted the monthly teleconference** on February 7, 2011. All State representatives were present.

#### NTTP Report

- The **National Technical Training Steering Committee** met in Birmingham, AL on February 23-24. The committee reviewed the FY 2010 training accomplishments and the upcoming training needs survey. They also visited Bevil State College to observe their underground mine simulator for its potential use in underground mining training. Bill Ehler provided an update to the committee on the development of the Mine Gas Workshop. The committee considered a variety of cost saving measures including such things as electronic training and cooperative efforts with institutions like the Bevil State College.
- A follow-up meeting on the development of a **Mine Gas Workshop** will be taking place in Pittsburgh, PA March 2-3.
- **Enforcement Procedures Course** will be presented March 1-3 in Knoxville, TN
- **Effective Writing Course** will be presented March 2-3 in Charleston, WV

#### HEADQUARTERS Report

- **Underground Mine Mapping**-The program has been defunded for FY'11. I am consulting with OSM management to determine how/when to send notification to possible PI's that received FY'11 Solicitations. I do not want to cause extra work for individuals knowing that funding is not available.
- **Blasting**-OSM coordinated a Regulatory Authority (RA) Blasting forum during the MSHA Blasting Seminar in Beaver, WV. OSM's Blasting Control Manager lead the meeting which was an interactive discussion of issues and solutions based on other RA's experiences.

#### TIPS Report

- With regard to the **budget issues**, TIPS has already planned to cut six classes from the 2011 training schedule.
- A reminder that TIPS has **new technology items** for loan to SMCRA programs including:
  - RTK, survey-accurate GPS systems
  - Down-hole cameras

GPS cameras

New thermal cameras – one is currently assigned to Wilkes Barre, PA  
Hand-held X-Ray Fluorescence device to measure chemical content of soil and rock

Mobile Computing GPS devices.

- TIPS is instituting a new in-house process for **delivery of software** and software updates after several issues last year. The process is now ready to proceed and will be discussed in the TIPS monthly teleconference next Tuesday.
- **Steering Committee** meets this May 24 – 26 in Denver.  
TIPS has new Steering Committee members:
  - Tom Callaghan in Pennsylvania replacing Scott Roberts
  - Chris Yde in Montana replacing Neil Harrington
  - Carol Bilbrough in Wyoming replacing Don McKenzie
  - Greg Melton has left the Committee no replacement is currently planned.
- TIPS is **refreshing computers in the Appalachian Region** training room this year, and we are working with the Appalachian Region staff to make some changes to the training room to better accommodate students and the training process.

#### IMCC Report

- Coordination on matters of national oversight policy and funding

#### WEIB Report

- WIEB continues coordination with IMCC on matters of national oversight policy and funding.

#### NAAML P Report

- **2011 NAAML P Annual Conference.** October 9-12, 2011. Olympic Valley, California (Squaw Valley/Tahoe area). “The Gold and Silver States – the Legacy of Mining that Built the West.” Conference will be jointly hosted by California and Nevada AML programs. Conference tours will include AML sites in both California and Nevada. For information on California and Nevada AML programs check these web links:  
[www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_lands/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_lands/index.htm) ; [minerals.state.nv.us](http://minerals.state.nv.us)

#### Exhibit Schedule

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

- ASMR Bismarck, ND June 11-16, 2011 WR (National Coordination)
- NAAML P Annual Meeting Olympic Valley, CA October 9-12, 2011 by WR
- NASLR Annual Meeting, The Resort at Glade Springs in Daniels, WV, September 25-28, 2011 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2011 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2011, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2011 by MCR

Next conference call will take place **at 1 PM Central Time, May 3, 2011.**