WRTT Conference Call Minutes
December 18, 2006
Monday 1:30 PM (MDT)

National : MCRTT : ARTT

a. Announcement to Submit Proposals for Applied Science Cooperative Agreements for Fiscal Year 2007
   - December 15 – March 2 Proposals. The proposal application must be received by March 2, 2007.
   - March 30 First Review Complete (**WRTT Review/Ranking**)
   - April 30 Second Review Complete
   - May 15 OSM CLT Decision
   - July 1, 2007 Award Distribution

Notify Duane Matt at dmatt@osmre.gov or (303) 844-1400 x1421 by January 16th (next WRTT meeting) if you would like to be included in the proposal review and ranking process that will occur from March 2nd – March 30th. Last year there were 63 total proposals that required review and ranking.

b. National Technology Transfer Website (Under development)
   Events Calendar
   Program Initiatives
   - *Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative*
   - *Bat Conservation*
   - *Coal Combustion By-Products*
   - *Reforestation*
   - *Clean Streams*
   - *Geomorphic Reclamation*
   - *Mine Map Repository*
   - *Geospatial*
   - *Electronic Permitting*
   - *Mobile Computing*

   Applied Science Projects
   - *Request for Proposals*
   - *FY07*
   - *FY06*
   - *FY05…..*

   Technical Library
   - *Recent Acquisitions*
   - *Federal Register Notices*
   - *Journal Contents*
   - *Library Catalog*
   - *Publications*
   - *Proceedings*
   - *Guidelines, Handbooks, Manuals*

   Training
   - *TIPS*
   - *NTTP*

Educational Outreach
Downloadable Materials
Minority Institutions of Higher Education
Universities and Research
Mining and Reclamation Associations

No substantial concerns raised by the team at this time for the NTTT concept outline above. Please advance comments and/or suggestions to Paul Clark at pclark@osmre.gov or (303) 844-1400 x1531.

WRTT

a. Charter: Discuss and Finalize

The Team voted to accept the Draft Charter as Final. The Final WRTT Charter will be posted at http://www.ott.wrcc.osmre.gov/wrtt.htm#wrttcharter.

b. Western Region WRTT Web Redevelopment

Charter
Meeting Calendar
Meeting Minutes
Annual Meeting
Technical Disciplines
Engineering
Hydrology
Vegetation
Bonding
Geology
Mobile Computing
Geomorphic Reclamation
Electronic Permitting
WR Team
WR Technology Management Division
WR Program Support Division
Denver Field Division
Albuquerque Field Office
Casper Field Office
Olympia Area Office
Alaska
Colorado
Montana
New Mexico
North Dakota
Utah
Wyoming
Contacts
Tonya Blackburn
Paul Clark
Duane Matt

No substantial concerns identified by the team at this time for the WRTT concept outline above; however, Electronic Permitting was added as a category under Technical Disciplines. It is also noted to have a SharePoint type of capability so that the WRTT team can better exchange information and large files. Please advance comments and/or suggestions to Paul Clark at pclark@osmre.gov or (303) 844-1400 x1531.

> c. Annual WRTT Meeting – Salt Lake City, Utah: April 23-27, 2007
> > *Potential* Agenda Items:
> > - Field trip, AML or Coal Mine. (Amber Report)
> > - State experiences with final bond release.
> > - Bond forfeiture.
> > - Use of Tablets in the field.

The Annual Meeting will be held in downtown Salt Lake City. Tonya and Amber will work together to secure a location.

We will begin the morning of Tuesday April 24th, and spend two full days in a conference room setting. The Annual Meeting will conclude on with a field visit of nearby Kennecott Copper Mine the morning of Thursday April 26th.

The theme of the annual meeting will be how each state approaches bond release. As such, please have the title and concept of your presentation (~30 minutes each) ready for the agenda by the next WRTT conference call. Some states have voiced that they would like to tie mobile computing applications into how they process bond release applications. This is great, as it advances an e-permitting component that the WRTT group has been working towards. However, some states may not be fully integrated in applying mobile computing technology. Fear not. This is a format to exchange information so we can ALL grow and develop better solutions. Therefore, aim to develop presentations highlighting examples of how efficiency and effectiveness were increase through your bond release process, lessons learned during implementation of your process, or even what your current process is but the direction your program may be advancing.

This information exchange is meant to advance regulatory programs, not to identify flaws with particular programs.

Conferences/Workshops/Forums

Nov 28-Dec 1: Autodesk 2006 University (AU) Conference, Las Vegas, NV -- (Tonya)

Feb 25-28: Joint SME/CMA Meeting - 109th National Western Mining   Conference & Exhibition, Colorado Mining Association, & 136th   Annual Meeting & Exhibit , Society for Mining Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc, Denver, CO

May 15-17: Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop, Juneau, AK

June 2-7: American Society for Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) Conference, Gillette
WY-- 30 Years of SMCRA and Beyond

June 18-22: ESRI 2007 User Conference, San Diego, CA

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Russ Kirkham. Permit application for Chuitna Mine is consuming staff's time.
Colorado: Sandy Brown. Most things quite with holiday season.
Montana: Angela McDannel. Two permit applications being developed, but will may be a year before submitted. Working on an electronic filing and archiving project. Managing personnel shortfalls.
New Mexico: David Clark. No significant coal issues, but Uranium mines becoming a hot topic in the region.
North Dakota: Jim Deutsch. Falkirk Mine submitted application to add 5,000 additional acres. Looking to pursue the addition of a GIS specialist to the program.
Utah: Amber Fortner. EIS for a new mine in Alton being done. Utah American Energy encountered hazardous levels of methane during operations, triggering the layoff of over a hundred personnel. Utah program continues to manage budget shortfalls.
Wyoming: Marcelo Calle. WDEQ Information Technology (IT) Initiative continues. Budget request for implementation phase of the WDEQ IT Project was presented to Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) and was well accepted. Monies will likely be allocated to implementation and completion of the IT project incrementally through Three Phases (Proof of Concept, Pilot Implementation and Full Implementation). Completion will support enhanced "electronic business", better coordination and data access across divisions as well as more business "transparency" for the public and regulated community through web based applications. The completed project will include a WDEQ enterprise GIS environment though the use of ArcGIS Server and ArcSDE. Land Quality Division continues to develop guidance to support Bond Release processing as well as continued devolvement of GIS for Bond Release Tracking and GPS enabled Tablet PC mobile computing applications to support regulatory.
ABQ Field Office: Willis Gainer. No Report.
Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms. No new activities of interest to group.
Denver Field Division: Howard Strand. Continuing to pursue the addition of an intern.
Denver Program Support Division: Karen Jass. Navajo Mine (NM), Black Mesa/Kayenta Mine Complex (AZ), and McKinley Mine (NM) have all initiated efforts to implement Natural Regrade reclamation techniques with encouragement from OSM. Absaloka Mine (MT/Crow) will submit a permit application in January. Centralia Mine (WA) made a corporate decision to discontinue mining operations due to a lack of profitability at the location.

Technical Assistance & Training

    (1) Black Mesa EIS Public Meetings

    (2) Alaska Chuitna Mine. Permit review. Public outreach materials.

Hardware & Software

    (1) OSM Western Region is pursuing the acquisition of a down-hole camera for hydrologic investigations.

    (2) TIPS software distributions. GMS v6.0, and Arc9.2 Workstation and Desktop.