

Western Region Technology Transfer

Conference Call Minutes

March 19, 2007
Monday 1:30 PM (MDT)

National : MCRTT : ARTT

- Applied Science Proposals (29)
 - Western Region Reviewers
 - Dave Clark (NM)
 - Paul Clark (OSM)
 - Duane Matt (OSM)
 - Tonya Blackburn (OSM)
 - Billie Clark (OSM)

- Underground Mine Map Proposals due March 30, 2007
 - Anticipated Western Region Proposals
 - Colorado (continued funding)
 - New Mexico (continued funding)
 - North Dakota (continued funding)
 - Montana (new funding)
 - Denver Field Division for Washington State (new funding)

WRTT

Annual WRTT Meeting – Salt Lake City, Utah: April 23-26, 2007

- Agenda Review. Modifications?
 - All agreed to presentation schedule and topic concepts
 - Minor schedule modification needed at the end of the meeting to allow for regular WRTT business.
 - All attendees are have made lodging arrangements.

Conferences/Workshops/Forums

Feb 25-28: SME Annual Meeting and Exhibition & CMA's 109th National Western Mining Conference, Inc, Denver, CO

Total attendance was 4,601, exceeding expectations. 390 exhibiting companies used 505 booth spaces to make the exhibit a must see. The technical program covered all aspect of the minerals industry and included standing room only in many sessions. The preprint CD included more than 120 manuscripts from the sessions.

More than 336 companies have already received exhibit space for the 2008 meeting and program development is underway. Make plans now to attend the 2008 SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit, February 24-27, Salt Lake City, Utah-New Horizons, New Challenges.

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. No Report.

Colorado: Sandy Brown. Seneca Mine summarized research on transplant of Aspen trees. Some challenges encounter with drip irrigation system due to the use of saline water. Found that weeding helps by providing less vegetative competition.
ColoWyo open pit mine planning to add 5,000 acres.

Montana: Angela McDannel. Continue to use RTK equipment and will retain until the end of April.
Five staff positions remain vacant. Reduced staff allow for the temporary availability of funds. Funds will possibly be applied toward the acquisition of groundwater databases management software with quick graphing and imaging capacity.

New Mexico: David Clark. Al Klein (OSM Western Region Director) and Willis Gainer (OSM Albuquerque Field Office Director) conducted a site visit to the New Mexico program.
Traditional cultural properties restoration effort, which includes traditional gardens, was successful at McKinley Mine after 2-years of re-vegetation. Success was in large part due to key input from area residents and continued coordination between the residents, mine operator, and regulatory authority.

North Dakota: Guy Welch. Three of the four active surface mines are expanding and adding acreage to the permit areas. Staff preparing for substantial bond release review applications the field season. Processing a well complaint issue related to blasting.

Utah: Amber Fortner. No Report.

Wyoming: Marcelo Calle. Dave Johnson Mine proposing unique post-mining land use to include a wind farm with approximately 180 towers.
Working on 2007 program goal of expanding GIS and integrating into e-permitting and inspection processes.

ABQ Field Office: Willis Gainer. Pursuing the hire of a GIS student intern.
Acquired new scanner to facilitate data transfer.
Working with McKinley Mine to develop and implement a geomorphic reclamation strategy.

Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms. No Report.

Denver Field Division: Howard Strand. Still pursuing the hire of a student intern.
Division is busy reviewing program amendments.

Western Region Program Support Division: Karen Jass.
Navajo Mine developing a soil sampling evaluation strategy.
County of Centralia Mine denies additional onsite waste disposal.
Importation of concrete for waste disposal denied at John Henry Mine.

Technical Assistance & Training

- (1) DOI Learn System. TIPS and NTTP registration process. (Karyn Evans)
Changes to the course registration process using the DOI Learn System were explained by Karyn. Online course registration will be closed 45 days prior to course offering. If seats remain open within the 45-day window, registration will need to be done manually by OSM.
Training survey will be distributed in late spring.

Contact Karyn Evans for more information at kevans@osmre.gov, (303) 844-1400 x1492. Karyn is assisted by Dawn Trudeau, dtrudeau@osmre.gov, (303) 844-1400 x1487, and Jessica Villanueva, jvillanueva@osmre.gov, (303) 844-1400 x1542.
- (2) Wyoming GIS and AutoCAD focused class, targeted for March 2008.
- (3) Need for Advanced AutoCAD Mining Module? No substantial need identified at this time. Team members will assess need with staff.
- (4) Additional Needs?? No new needs identified.

Hardware & Software

TIPS software. ERDAS and AutoCad Map distributions anticipated soon.