

WRTT Conference Call

November 19, 2007

Monday 1:30 PM (MST)

Call: (877) 931-2837: Passcode: 128 093

National: MCRTT: ARTT

- National Technology Transfer Website (Still under development but available to view: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>).
- Applied Science Cooperative Agreement Solicitations are posted!
- The official handout for national Geospatial conference has been distributed. The announcement is also available at www.tips.osmre.gov
- OSMRE participated in the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs (NAAML) in Bloomington, IN the week of 10/07/07.
- OSMRE will be participating in the upcoming annual Geological Society of America (GSA) conference in Denver, CO the week of 10/28/07.

WRTT

- WRTT Annual Meeting – Tentatively set for the week of April 21st, 2008 at the Hilton Santa Fe in Santa Fe, NM.
Strike the word tentatively. The meeting is set for the week of April 21st, 2008.
- WRTT Annual Meeting: Last year's topic was "Geospatial Technologies and Mobile Computing applications for Bond Release" This year's topic will stick with the Geospatial theme. How about concentrating on the Remote Sensing part of that theme? I still have not received any comments/suggestions on topics for the conference as of this meeting.....
OSMRE will go ahead and draft a preliminary schedule and will e-mail it to all of the WRTT members to review. This is still the plan!
- WRTT Website Area – Continue discussion on how the team would like to exchange information and utilize the Tech Transfer website. Any new ideas? *It was suggested we put a link on the NTTT page that links directly to the OSM page showing the equipment we have available to borrow. Paul Clark suggested that this link be put on the TIPS website, and, eventually, a link be put on our regional website that would directly link to the TIPS site.*
- The WRTT will solicit from states ideas on the **skill sets the states would like OSM to acquire** as the agency replaces retiring employees. Advice thus far: hydrology expertise; blasting expertise.
All ideas will be accepted via phone call, e-mail or personally drafted letter. Dave suggested that permitting folks get acquainted with the inspection process.

Conferences/Workshops/Forums

- October 28-31: Geological Society of America (GSA) conference: Denver, CO
- November 13-15: Benchmarking Workshop on surface and groundwater database development and use: New Orleans, LA
- November 26-30: Autodesk University Conference: Las Vegas, NV
- March 24-28: OSM 2008 Geospatial Conference: Atlanta, GA

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Russ Kirkham.

AK is still dealing with a lands unsuitable petition. They are also addressing 2 ballot initiatives. One has to do with clean water. The other has to do with banning mixing zones.

Arizona (Navajo Title IV): Madeline Roanhorse.

No report

Arizona (Navajo Title V): John Stucker.

Title V is still pursuing tribal primacy and is dealing with that issue at the current time. Title V will be sending a representative to the benchmarking workshop in New Orleans.

Arizona (Hopi Title IV and V): Norman Honie/Randy Poleahla.

No report.

Colorado: Sandy Brown/Jeff Graves.

No report.

Montana: Angela McDannel/Julian Calabrese.

Montana is advertising for a new hydrologist. MT is currently studying the in-situ leaching process in regards to uranium processing.

Montana (Crow Title IV and V): Marvin Falls Down/Marvin Stewart.

No report.

New Mexico: David Clark/James Smith.

Title V: NM is currently working on a bond release at the McKinley Mine. Dave mentioned they really enjoyed working with the pocket PC with ArcPad.

North Dakota: Guy Welch/Kraig Nelson.

Title V: They are in the process of doing bond release inspections, normal inspections, and some grade work. Title IV: They are in the process of filling sinkholes and doing some exploratory drilling for mine voids.

Utah: Steve Fluke/Jeanny Miles.

UT DOGM Director, John Baza, is participating in a mine safety commission set up by Governor Huntsman in response to the Crandall Canyon Mine disaster. The new Lila Canyon Mine permit is being challenged by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). Lots of field work has been done by the AML program using the new Ricoh GPS camera.

Wyoming: Marcelo Calle.

Marcelo noted he now works with the Title IV AML program. He stated that Carol Bilbrough will now be the Title V representative. He also noted that a professor from CSU will be applying for an applied science cooperative agreement.

Program Support Division/Field Operations: Rick Holbrook/Jerry White:

The Albuquerque Area Office will be participating in the McKinley Mine bond release. Jerry noted that a flying drone would be a very helpful tool in the inspection process.

Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms.

Alan noted that things were business as usual.

Denver Field Division: Howard Strand.

OSMRE and TransAlta Centralia Mining have negotiated a settlement agreement on the show cause order issued by OSMRE. The settlement agreement, which has been sent to the party's respective attorneys for finalization, involves intense ongoing maintenance activities as well as revised reclamation schedules and plans. Reclamation is expected to begin in earnest during 2008

Denver Program Support Division: Heather Erickson.

Heather noted that the Navajo mine is submitting their new permit applications electronically.

TIPS: Lou Hamm.

Lou recommended folks take advantage of not only the RTK GPS unit, but, other equipment OSMRE has available such as the down hole camera, thermal camera and GPS enable camera. He also suggested each state/tribe contact their service managers to sign up in advance for each of these tools.

Technical Assistance & Training

TIPS/NTTP Training Program Information

- See the TIPS Training website for additional information at www.tips.osmre.gov/training/index.asp
- See the NTTP Training website for additional information at www.tips.osmre.gov/training/tips_html/links_nttp.asp
- See the DOI Learn website at www.doilearn.gov
- Slot assignments have been distributed to the states, tribes and OSM training contacts for FY08 TIPS classes. Training contacts are notifying their employees of slots assigned, and registering their employees for classes in DOI Learn by December 3. In early January, 2008, if slots are not claimed, TIPS will release a listing of all available slots in TIPS classes. All personnel have the opportunity to request permission from their supervisor to enroll in a class with slots available and upon approval, request their training contact process a course enrollment form in DOI Learn.

- The TIPS Training website is currently being updated and will be complete by mid-November. In the meantime, those interested in current course descriptions of TIPS classes should go to the DOI Learn website (<https://doilearn.doi.gov/index.cfm?CFID=234163&CFTOKEN=72132901>), click on the “Public Catalog Login” and type “OSM-TIPS” in the search box. All TIPS courses will be listed and course descriptions can be found by clicking on the course name.
- TIPS will offer a mobile computing class on the campus of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), in Albuquerque, NM. The “*Trimble GeoXT, TerraSync and PF Office: Mobile Computing for Reclamation*” class will be held on May 20-22, 2008, and is open to SIPI students, OSM tribal customers, and OSM employees who support the tribes. In recent months, TIPS and SIPI have been involved in collaborative relationship building by sharing expertise and knowledge with each other. Plans are to expand TIPS class offerings at SIPI as the opportunity arises and budget is available.

Point of Contact: Karyn Evans, 303.844.1400, ext. 1492

- Wyoming GIS and AutoCAD focused class, targeted for March 2008.
- Navajo Nation GPS and ArcGIS on the job training (OJT) targeted for November 2007.
- RTK unit was recently used in the state of NM. It has just been delivered to the state of ND. Next in line for the RTK unit is the Navajo Nation.
- Needs? Wants?

Hardware & Software distributions

- A Galena update should be sent out the first week of December. The latest patch to the program is available to download on the TIPS website (www.tips.osmre.gov)
- Ricoh GPS enable digital camera is now available for use.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 17th