

AML External Work Group  
Division of Mined Land Reclamation  
Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy  
February 3, 2009  
Meeting Summary

Participants: Tom Mackey, DMLR; Randy Casey, DMLR; Jack Davis, DMLR; Kelly Miller, Department of Conservation and Recreation; Annette Poore, Corps; Claire Trent, Corps; Angie Watland, The Nature Conservancy; Ben Baughan, Dominion; Walt Crickmer, GOBCO; John Jones, Alpha Natural Resources; Gerald Collins, ATS; Jess Jones, Fish and Wildlife Service; Carl Zipper, VA Tech; Allen Newman, DEQ; Brent Virts, OSM; Dawn Bays, DMLR; and Richard Davis, DMLR

The meeting was a facilitated discussion to advise the work group and solicit their advice on AML reclamation.

- On a slide showing the current DMLR organization, two members asked if the chart could be shared. Staff responded that it could. Dawn Bays emailed the chart to John Jones and Brent Virts. Richard Davis will place it on the AML blog site.
- In a discussion of AML enhancement projects, John Jones noted such reclamation should also involve TMDL offsets and mitigation credits, that companies need these for permitting, and that credits would add to the economic incentive for reclamation. The group specifically discussed opportunities in the Dumps Creek watershed. Richard Davis told John Jones that he would send him a note about specific opportunities for AML reclamation in Dumps Creek. There was general agreement with this idea.
- Richard Davis noted DMLR's emphasis on Clinch-Powell projects. Kelly Miller wanted an assurance that DMLR would not forget the Big Sandy watershed. Richard Davis noted DMLR has not forgotten that watershed and would continue to have many projects there. He described one AMD project on South Fork of Pound that DMLR-AML wanted to pursue
- There was a question about the ups and downs of projected AML funding. Richard Davis noted these are projections based on coal production and that the year 2015's sharp decline in projections is partly due to OSM having paid all state share balances by that time
- The group seemed impressed by the reclamation GOBCO accomplished at Cranes Nest near Coeburn. DMLR staff noted this would be one stop on an April OSM conference on fluvial and geomorphic reclamation. This is the site where GOBCO installed the natural stream channel. The reclamation looks good.
- There was discussion of efforts to update AML inventory. From an annotation on the particular PowerPoint slide, Carl Zipper asked if the inventory included reforestation opportunities. Richard Davis noted the slide was from an old Nature Conservancy report that referenced carbon sequestration sites. He also noted DMME strongly encourages reforestation on all AML sites.
- Jess Jones asked a question about using AML funds for wastewater treatment. Richard Davis noted that although it is a worthy idea, there would have to be a

legislative change to SMCRA before this could occur. He did note that DMLR might have other opportunities to promote such projects.

- Carl Zipper mentioned an applied science proposal that he submitted to OSM. Carl said that if OSM is unable to fund the proposal, he would like to submit it to DMME for AML funding consideration.