

AML ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Semi-Annual Meeting

September 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the AML Advisory Committee was called to order at the Powell River Project Pavillion at 3:00 pm., pursuant to the notice sent to all committee members.

Present: Jerry Baird, Chairman, Retired from Equitable Resources; Phil Shelton, citizen; Ronnie Vicars, Office of Surface Mining; Gerald Ramsey, Consolidation Coal; Glenn Graham, Lonesome Pine Soil and Water; Jackie Davis, Roger Williams, Randy Casey, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

Absent:; Wade Biddix, NRCS; Carol Doss, Upper Tennessee Roundtable; Martha Podren, TVA; Eddie Hannah, Lonesome Pine Soil and Water.

Minutes were transcribed by Dawn F. Bays.

Jerry Baird presided. Jackie Davis welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. The minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

DMLR Program Update – Roger Williams

- Roger noted that Wade couldn't make the meeting and asked that he give an update on the joint NRCS/DMME partnering project. We were successful in getting stimulus money for North Fork of the Powell River Watershed Project. We received \$110,000 construction money and about \$50,000 in technical assistance money. The NRCS project picked up 39 sites that the Corps of Engineers basically said were too small for them. We have targeted five of these sites for construction with the stimulus money.
- The Corp of Engineers work continues on feasibilities studies. They did not get stimulus money and no money is currently available for new construction.. We still have the work in Lee Co. on another watershed called the Crab Orchard Watershed. We are looking at doing detailed feasibility work on the site called the Wilson Seam Bench. This is on Penn VA property. Possibly one of the SAP cell treatment systems will be done there.
- Money was received by the Corp for a study in the Clinch River Basin for aquatic ecosystem restoration. DMME will be partnering to do a study and have targeted the Guest River, with a budget of approximately \$200,000 for a limited study.
- Water Projects – we have funded the Horsepen project in Tazewell Co. (partnered with WV AML program), and the Haysi to Big 'A' Mountain project (partnering with Dickenson/Buchanan Counties – Council area) approximately 153 households being served.
- We are anticipating receiving two projects for this year's water applications: The Dunbar System in Wise County (approx. \$2 million) which involves sodium contamination. The next phase of Hurley Water Project (approx. \$3.5 million) is the other project. This entire system is estimated to have a total cost of \$50 million. This will be one of the biggest focuses for AML over the next 5-7 years.

- Richmond Coal Basin – The focus here is on the Grove Mine Shaft site which is the only site left with historic structures and features of early mining. We have been working with Chesterfield Co. Dept. of Parks and Recreation on trying to put together an AML project as well as park site development. Plans include a mine interest theme park, sealing the shafts and doing some historic preservation of the remaining mine features for a mine park to commemorate the mine history in Chesterfield County.
- Non-AML Funded Reclamation – Cumberland River Resources reclaimed an old gob pile at no cost to AML for some TMDL credits required by the Clean Water Act. This is in the Stonega area and they are almost finished with the work.
- AML is working on a highwall project in the town of Wise, the Varner Street Project. This is an old highwall that became more important after all the rains. A slide caused some trees to fall on a house and we had to do a quick emergency project to take care of this. This project will protect 3-4 houses from future slides. This should be finished within a couple of weeks.
- The Lick Branch site in Lee Co. – This spring water started seeping out on the hillside where we had installed a the mine seal to drain the worst water in the State. The mine seal had failed. The Corp project manager was contacted and they are working on the problem.

Randy Casey

- We have been busy with the additional money we received. We have been catching up on 06 and 07 projects and planning for 2010. We have hired a new engineer and a GIS person and they are doing a lot of in-house designs. We have been dealing with several emergency projects.
- We have a signed contract for the Park Ave. Project in Norton. This will be a very visible project in downtown Norton.

Soil and Water is getting a new VISTA worker for the Guest River Project. Roger will contact Carolyn Baker, Chairman with Lonesome Pine Soil and Water regarding using this person for water testing and other duties and working with the Corp. TVA is also interested and is trying to get someone to help the VISTA now. Martha Poudren or Shannon O'Quinn should be contacted about this.

Jackie Davis

Jackie gave a brief update on the DMME budget issues. Our agency will be ok through 2010. The budget for 2011 and 2012 is a concern. This will be announced in mid-December.

Committee Business

Jackie Davis informed the group that Roger has been working with IMCC and that a lot has been placed on his plate. Some of the concerns of the future Federal money will be at the next meeting Roger will be attending. There are a number of items that some certified states will be loosing funding and taking away money from the AML program.

Roger indicated that OMB has come out pretty strong that they want to eliminate a lot of funding from the AML program. The West has most of their AML money coming out of the general

fund. We do not know how it will all work out at this time. It could be a huge impact on us. Also, unresolved is the Federal Emergency Program may be shifted back to the states which will have to be absorbed. After October we may know more.

The next meeting of the AML Advisory Committee will be in April or May of 2010. It was suggested that a possible field trip would be interesting for the group. Roger will set up a tour for Chesterfield Co. if there is enough interest.

Roger L. Williams
DMME Abandoned Mine Land Services Manager

RLW/dfb