

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

January 18, 2012

2:00 – 2:45 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, Jeff Trump, **Lois Uranowski**

HDQ – Andy Devito, Steve Sheffield, **Josh Rockwell**, Li Tai Balboa

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – Lou Hamm

NTTP – **Tom Hines**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLPL – **John Koerth**

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The **northwest mining conference** booth preparation is ongoing and is being taken care of by Henry Austin. He recently requested all OSM regions supply handouts/materials for the booth.
- We recently learned that ARCC (Lukas Monette) had finished gathering and processing information regarding **the Raven drone**. We wondered if there was something he might have available for technology transfer to present at one of its booths?
- The **in-situ processing team** is still developing guidelines for future in-situ processing projects. The team hopes to have a set of guidelines (draft) by late spring.
- **Applied science proposals** are being reviewed by both OSM and state representatives.

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA has published a copy of its forthcoming Notice of Data Availability (NODA). The document can be accessed here: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/noda.pdf>. The NODA contains “information (that) is generally categorized as: (1) Chemical constituent data from coal combustion residuals (CCRs); (2) Facility and waste management unit data; (3) Information on additional alleged damage cases; (4) Adequacy of State programs; and (5) Beneficial Use. EPA is considering a new Risk Assessment methodology for “Beneficial Use.” EPA will not allow public comment on either the method or the peer review process.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Work is progressing on the proposed rule and the environmental assessment. Solicitor review has been initiated. A proposed rule is scheduled for June of 2012.
- **MCR AML Drilling and Grouting Class**: Based on a survey of the MCR states, there are 20-21 state staff that would participate in an NTTP AML Drilling and Grouting Class

taught in one of the MCR states. NTTP has scheduled the class for Indianapolis in February.

- **Technical Studies Project Management Conference Call** We are trying to organize a call for technical staff who administers Applied Science, mine map, and geosciences projects. It is scheduled for January 25.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It will sponsor technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest. 80 papers and 15 posters have been submitted for this meeting. The documentation necessary for an OSM cooperative agreement for ASMR sponsorship is being prepared.
- **NAAML P Annual Meeting 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAML P with this event.

AR Report:

- AR continues to work on updates of the **Applied Science web site** as quarterly and final reports arrive. Maintenance of the site is significantly aided by customer comments and reviews by in house personnel that help keep information current.
- A **Blasting Workshop** is being planned for September 5-6, 2012 at the MSHA Academy in Beckley, WV. The workshop will focus on open discussions on how to better apply the science of blasting, critique and approve blast plans, evaluate compliance with the performance standards, keep records, certify blasters and take and defend enforcement actions. All regions are encouraged to participate. Most of the states should be able to stay at the academy free of charge through the MSHA/states cooperative agreement.

NTTP Report

- **Sarah Donnelly** retired from government service at the end of the year.
- **Ann Walker** is serving as Acting Chief of NTTP
- NTTP is still awaiting the posting of **two course coordinator positions** to assist with training duties.
- NTTP is holding a session of the **Permit Findings Workshop** in Salt Lake City, UT this week. This session is at the request of the State of Utah and involves mostly Utah state staff.
- A session of the **Enforcement Procedures Class** is scheduled for the week of January 24-26 in Pittsburgh, PA
- A course revision meeting for the **Quantitative Hydrogeology** course will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on January 31-February 2, 2012.
- A special hybrid session of the **Evidence Preparation and Testimony / Expert Witness** courses will be presented February 7-9, 2012 in Denver, CO at the request of the OSM Western Region.
- A special session of the **Rosgen Applied Fluvial Geomorphology** class will be held February 20-24 in Charleston, WV. NTTP received 93 requests for spaces. The space allocation for this class was distributed with 45 students scheduled for attendance.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- **Andy DeVito** has been selected for the position of Chief, Division of Regulatory Support. Andy was provided a briefing and overview of the NTTT.
- A conference call is being scheduled with all **UGMM Project Tech Reps and Grants Financial Specialists** to review the SOP and have a Q/A session.
- **The FY'12 UGMM Solicitation** is in the process of being prepared even though, at this time, funding has not been provided for this activity.
- ADPS continues to work with, and provide assistance, to Greg Conrad on the coordination of the **UGMM Benchmarking Workshop**.
- A confirmation has been received from NMA, for MINExpo, that **OSM's booth request** has been granted. I submitted a request for additional needs to provide travel funds to man the booth.

TIPS Report

- TIPS has a new piece of equipment available to state, tribal, and OSM SMCRA partner offices, it is a **Topcon IS Imaging Total Station**. The Total Station is a tripod-mounted pulse-laser, photo scanning device that can pivot on its tripod to accurately generate a three-dimensional point-cloud of data for a mine or AML site. The data is easily converted into CAD, GIS, earthVision, or even Microsoft Excel format for map making and volume calculation. This has been an item of high-demand by state offices for site design and regrading. It is now available through TIPS. Just contact your TIPS Service Manager or either Duane Matt in the Western Region or Mike Richmond in the Charleston, West Virginia Field Office to arrange for training and use of the device.

IMCC Report

- Progress continues on the final logistical details for the **IMCC Benchmarking Workshop on Mine Mapping** to be held on February 15 and 16 in Pittsburgh, PA at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel. Attendance now appears to have topped out at about 70. IMCC has also been spending time preparing for the stakeholder meetings being held around the country concerning the proposed OSM/BLM consolidation. We plan to have at least one state present (and hopefully participating) at each stakeholder meeting. IMCC will present comments at the January 30th session in DC.

WEIB Report

- The western states applied science proposals were reviewed with scores provided to OSM. WIEB continues to coordinate with IMCC on matters including technical transfer, grant funding, oversight policy, and OSM rulemaking activities.

NAAML P Report

- Winter business meeting is February 27-29, 2012 in St. George, Utah. The agenda was sent to all of the team members.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- Colorado Mining Association Meeting in Denver in March by WR
- ASMR Tupelo, MS June 9-14, 2012 MCR (National Coordination)

- NAAMLPA Annual Meeting Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada WR & HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Des Moines, IA September 2012 by ??
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

Next conference call will take place at 1 PM Central Time, March 1, 2012.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

March 1, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, Lois Uranowski, **David Lane**

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – Lou Hamm

NTTP – **Tom Hines**

IMCC – Greg Conrad

WEIB – **Dave Berry**

NAAMLPL – John Koerth

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The **National Western Mining/Colorado Mining Association Conference** is being held March 19-22, 2012. Please contact Henry Austin for the particulars regarding our OSMRE booth/staffing and materials.
- **General service manager duties** are being performed.
- We are assisting with **ASMR conference** as needed.
- The **OSMRE e-learning initiative** is still developing with the Galena class being offered live next month.

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA is being sued by the environmental community for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Solicitor review has been initiated on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for July of 2012.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It will sponsor technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest. 84 papers and posters have been submitted for this meeting. The documentation necessary for an OSM cooperative agreement for ASMR sponsorship has been prepared. Funding should be awarded by the end of March.
- **NAAMLPL Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLPL with this event.

AR Report:

- AR continues to work on updates of the **Applied Science web site** as quarterly and final reports arrive. Maintenance of the site is significantly aided by customer comments and reviews by in house personnel that help keep information current.
- A **Blasting Workshop** is being planned for September 5-6, 2012 at the MSHA Academy in Beckley, WV. The workshop will focus on open discussions on how to better apply the science of blasting, critique and approve blast plans, evaluate compliance with the performance standards, keep records, certify blasters and take and defend enforcement actions. All regions are encouraged to participate. Most of the states should be able to stay at the academy free of charge through the MSHA/states cooperative agreement.

NTTP Report

- **Sarah Donnelly retired** the first of the year and Ann Walker is serving as Acting Chief of NTTP in the interim. The position has been posted and applications received.
- Numerous **NTTP Course offerings** were delivered in January and February 2012; they include Permit Findings Workshop Special Session in Salt Lake City, Enforcement Procedures in Pittsburgh, PA., Expert Witness Special Session in Denver, CO., AML Drilling and Grouting in Indianapolis, IN., Excess Spoil Handling and Disposal in Covington, KY., Rosgen Fluvial Geomorphology Class in Charleston, Effective Writing in Knoxville, TN., and next week Blasting and Inspection in Cincinnati, OH.
- NTTP is still working on **filling the remaining course coordinator positions** to assist with the many classes on our schedule.
- The **Rosgen Stream Fluvial Geomorphology course** was presented February 20-24 in Charleston, WV. The course was well received with 44 students attending from around the country. The course included intensive classroom lectures and exercises as well as two field days reviewing previous stream restoration projects and practicing the restoration design techniques learned in the classroom.
- The NTTP **National Steering Committee** will be meeting to review program activities on March 21-22.

HEADQUARTERS Report

UGMM:

- **Benchmarking Workshop**-I provided a presentation at the event titled, "Overview of OSM's UGMM Projects"
- **FY'12 Solicitation** is complete and ready to go
- Currently waiting to hear back with regard to the **Additional Needs Funding Request** that was submitted

RULES:

- **Temporary Cessation**-The team received the second round of comments from the Solicitor's Office. It is my understanding that the proposed rule will be published this month.
- **Cost Recovery Rule**-A letter will be mailed out to OSM's various Stakeholders announcing OSM's intent to develop a proposed rule for Cost Recovery. Under the authority of part 507 of SMCRA OSM will seek to develop a

- rule that will compensate OSM, for the full amount, for activities associated with permit review, amendments, reassignments/transfers, inspections, etc.
- **SPR**-To be delivered to the department Friday, but under the current political atmosphere, it may be delayed

ADMIN:

- The position of **Hydrologist** has been filled within HQ's Division of Regulatory Support. The new employee comes to OSM from USGS in Colorado. He will begin by the month's end.

TIPS Report

- The **TIPS steering committee** is slated for May 8-10, 2012 in (I'm assuming) Denver, CO.
- A few TIPS folks attended the **Federal ESRI conference** in Washington, D.C. February 21-24, 2012.

IMCC Report

- **IMCC Benchmarking Workshop on Mine Mapping** February 15 and 16 in Pittsburgh, PA at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel. The benchmarking workshop was a huge success – 75 attendees and all very good to excellent evaluations of the presentations and presenters.

WEIB Report

- WIEB – **Colorado Mining Association conference** will occur week of March 19. Reclamation awards luncheon will occur March 22.
- WIEB continues to coordinate with IMCC regarding **national oversight and program funding issues**.

NAAML P Report

- Winter business meeting is February 27-29, 2012 in St. George, Utah.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- Colorado Mining Association Meeting in Denver in March by WR
- ASMR Tupelo, MS June 9-14, 2012 MCR (National Coordination)
- NAAML P Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Des Moines, IA September 2012 by MCR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

Next meeting: The Applied Science Consensus and Technology Transfer Planning Meeting will take place in Pittsburgh, PA at 1 PM March 28 through Noon on March 30, 2012.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
March 29-30, 2012
Pittsburgh, PA

Participants

AR – **Lois Uranowski, Karrie Bernhard, Arielle Avishai, Jeff Trump, Tiara Neal**

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – Duane Matt

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP – **Tom Hines**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – **Dave Berry**

NAAMLTP – John Koerth

Indiana – **Jerry Heltsley**

Attendees in **Bold**

Technology Transfer Annual Meeting

APPLIED SCIENCE PROPOSAL CONSENSUS SCORING

The team developed consensus scores for 11 proposals received during the FY 2012 solicitation. This result of this effort was provided to management for their action on April 2, 2012.

EVENTS

The team will be working on planning for events on the following topics for 2013 and beyond.

IMCC: Bonding Benchmarking Workshop
TIPS: Geospatial Conference
AR: Water Quality and Protection of Aquatic Species
WR: In Situ Mining
MCR: Coal Combustion Residue
Endangered Bats

OSM TT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The OSM team members will be working on the follow issues related to improving technology transfer products and services.

- Website
 - Bi-Annual Reviews
 - Continue with current system
 - Calendar Events
 - Managers will discuss
 - Using Main OSM Event Calendar/Merging NTT events

- Access
 - Who will add these events
- Content Updates and Ownership
- Re-institute a counter, is NTT worth posting?
- Web Conference Calls
 - Every three months
 - Include Non Web Tech Transfer to re-open lines of communication
- Videos / Cameras
 - Develop a eLearning training class to help OSM employees learn how to use cameras
 - TIPS purchased Camtasia Software licenses
 - Software is used to screen capture video and add voice for demonstration and training videos.
 - Go through Camera Manual so that it may be finalized and distributed to OSM personnel to enhance camera techniques when taking pictures in the field
 - Develop class or training video/[elearning](#) on Photo Editing -as a tutorial and training resource for OSM personnel
 - [Look into I&E Photo Gallery for sharing](#)
- Tech Transfer Newsletter
 - Combine TIPS, WR, MCR and AR database contact list
 - Lou to send TIPS contact list
 - TIPS Oogle also available on (state and OSM employees)
 - [Develop graphics for the Newsletters](#)
- [Using](#) SharePoint for Making for Web Posting Requests
- Applied Science Final Reports and Fact Sheets
 - Create a “Subject” list
 - Kim will send the subjects to follow
 - Develop the missing Fact Sheets
- CDs
 - MCR CD still uses a Tech Transfer CD with AS and other info on it
- Collaboration of Tech Transfer Products
 - Use Web Team / NTT Conference Call Every 3 months to help collaboration effort
 - Managers to discuss

Next NTTTT Conference Call: May 23, 2012 at 1 PM Central Time.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

May 23, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, Lois Uranowski, David Lane

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – Duane Matt

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP – Tom Hines, **Jim Kennedy**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLPL – John Koerth

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The Western Region is working with IMCC and WIEB to plan the **Western States meeting** for later in the summer. No date is yet set

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA is being sued by the environmental community for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Solicitor review has been initiated on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for July of 2012. A public meeting in WV took place May 11. Testimony have been provided to congress. A conference call with EPA is being scheduled for June 7.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It will sponsor technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest. 84 papers and posters have been submitted for this meeting. Attendance should be apx 160. The final program should be printed the week of June 4.
- **NAAMLPL Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLPL with this event.

AR Report:

- Plans continue to be made for the **ARTT Blasting that is to be held at the MSHA Academy in Beckley WV September 5-6, 2012**. The event is limited to 60 blasting specialists from states and OSM.
- At the **OSM-State meeting** to be held June 5-6, 2012 in Stonewall Jackson State Park, a discussion on how best to deliver technology transfer and technical training in these limited budgetary times will be conducted.

- **Tiara Neal**, our SCEP student, has recently completed her studies in Graphical Design. Her position with OSM as a Visual Information Specialist is now permanent. She will work along with Karrie Bernhard on numerous regional and national web and graphic efforts.

NTTP Report

- Ann Walker has been selected as the **new Chief of NTTP**. With the challenges facing all of our programs, we are looking forward to Ann's capable leadership for NTTP.
- NTTP is pleased to report the addition of **two new course coordinators** to the staff: John Leehang joined the staff this spring, and Chris Bryson recently became the newest addition to the coordinator staff this month. They are both quickly getting up to speed with the program details and are a welcome addition to the training staff.
- Numerous **NTTP Course offerings** were delivered in April and May including the Pilot offering of the new Mine Gas Workshop in Pittsburgh, PA on April 24-25. The workshop was well received and many constructive and complimentary reviews were received. The second offering of the new SMCRA Principles and Field Procedures course will be in Columbus, Ohio from June 3 – 15 with some 30 students scheduled to attend.
- A **special session** of the Effective Writing course was presented March 13-14 in Albuquerque, NM ; a special session of the Acid-Forming Materials: Fundamentals and Applications is scheduled for June 5-8 at the request of the State of Montana; an offering of the revised Quantitative Hydrogeology course will be offered June 26-29 at the request of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- A questionnaire was circulated to state, tribal and OSM agency directors in April, to ascertain the interest and audience for the **development of an impoundment inspection course**. The results have been received and are being analyzed before making a recommendation on further development a course.
- NTTP is reviewing the current courses to determine if there are areas where components of TIPS software examples and potential applications can be incorporated in the course modules.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- **UGMM** The program will not be funded for FY'12
- **Rule(s) Status**

Cost Recovery-On 5-10, a revised draft was sent to Ruth Stokes for review and in preparation for her to brief the Director.

Coal Combustion Residue-OSM received comments on the EA from SOL. The draft rule is complete. Sterling met with representatives from the environmental community the week of May 7th in WV to discuss the draft rule, and briefed members from Capitol Hill last week.

Temporary Cessation-The draft rule an EA have been sent to SOL for a final concurrence and Mr. Klein will be briefing the Director.

Stream Protection Rule-Senior management and the Department are considering additional alternatives to the draft rule. It does not look like the draft rule will be published before the end of December.

Limited Liability-A preliminary draft rule is complete and has been delivered to Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. Postle is conducting Tribal Consultation. Feedback from the tribal council meeting could result in slight modifications to the preliminary draft rule.

- **OSM Booth-MINExpo** September. Last week Jeff Trump (co-coordinator) and myself met with Tiara and Karrie regarding the table top displays. The themes and pictures were selected and Tiara and Karrie, during their free time, will work on completing a preliminary display. I am coordinating efforts to secure rental chairs and a table. Jeff is working on the logistics of shipping the displays.

TIPS Report

- The **TIPS Steering Committee meeting** two weeks ago, May 8-10 resulted in 36 action items. Among the issues discussed was the need for access to remote sensing data and how that is to be accomplished with the limited resources of TIPS. TIPS discussed the addition of the Apollo server to the ERDAS software suite. Apollo will allow TIPS to have an easy system to log in to a server and access satellite imagery, identify precise areas of coverage, and easily download the data. The Apollo system is available inside the OSM network, and a meeting was held yesterday to arrange for the system to be accessible by state and tribal SMCRA folks by June 4th, providing that there are no final access security issues encountered.
- One other big item discussed was the need for a **Geospatial Conference** similar to those sponsored by TIPS in 2004 and 2008. The Steering Committee members emphasized how this has historically been a great forum for states to see what other SMCRA offices are doing in the geospatial arena and sharing those ideas and technologies with one another for the benefit of SMCRA. They also mentioned that it would be a great forum to include a discussion on interstate efforts toward electronic permitting and where that capability is in today's technology. The state representatives offered to explore getting the support of IMCC and WIEB to sponsor a conference.
- We also discussed TIPS cooperation with NTTP to **develop eLearning courses**. TIPS has revised its Virtual Classroom website to include NTTP information and to make it available to NTTP for putting up new eLearning courses as they are developed by the NTTP folks.

IMCC Report

- The **IMCC Annual Meeting** in Asheville, NC was well attended and productive. It included an OSM/States session on May 1 that was attended by OSM's executive leadership. Growing out of that meeting was a suggestion to re-evaluate the current status of the Geomine pilot project to make sure we are not expanding too far beyond its original intent and purpose. IMCC will coordinate a conference call of OSM and State representatives in the near future to pursue the matter.
- As a result of discussions at the recent **TIPS Annual Meeting** in Denver the first week of May, IMCC was asked to facilitate a conversation among state and OSM representatives to discuss the potential for another Geospatial conference within the next year or so.

IMCC will hold a conference call with a newly constituted steering committee in the next few weeks to begin the vetting process and will coordinate with NAAMLPLP and WIEB.

- The Appalachian Region will hold its annual **OSM/State regional meeting** on June 5 and 6 in Roanoke, WV at the Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park. Several issues of common interest are on the agenda.

WEIB Report

- WIEB is awaiting word from OSM regarding a possible **western states/OSM meeting** later this year. Coordination with IMCC continues on national policy issues.

NAAMLPLP Report

No report provided.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- ASMR Tupelo, MS June 9-14, 2012 MCR (National Coordination)
- NAAMLPLP Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Daniels, WV September 30- October 3, 2012 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

Next conference call will be July 3, 2012 at 1 PM Central.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

July 3, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, **Lois Uranowski**, David Lane

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – Lou Hamm

NTTP – Tom Hines, **Jim Kennedy**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLTP – **John Koerth**

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- Work continues on expediting the applied science cooperative agreements and interagency agreements.
- We continue to work with MCRCC on the upcoming NAAMLTP conference. We are assisting with the upcoming 2013 ASMR conference.
- We have begun work on a possible press release regarding our applied science cooperative agreements/interagency agreements.
- Duane is the acting Multimedia Training and Asset Management branch manager for the next four months.

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA is being sued by the environmental community and ash recyclers for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Solicitor review has been completed on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for November of 2012. A conference call with EPA was held June 7 where EPA confirmed that they expected OSM to do SMCRA rulemaking.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It sponsored technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest that were very well attended with good discussion. Attendance was apx 185. The next annual meeting will be in Laramie, WY June 1-6, 2013.
- **NAAMLTP Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLTP with this event and will take the lead on an exhibit. WR will assist with the exhibit.

AR Report:

- Plans continue to be made for the **ARTT Blasting that is to be held at the MSHA Academy in Beckley WV September 5-6, 2012**. The event is limited to 60 blasting specialists from states and OSM.

NTTP Report

- **SMCRA Principles and Field Procedures** course in Columbus, Ohio from June 3 – 15. The course was very well received with the vast majority of the students rating the course as highly useful or essential to their current position.
- A special session of the **Acid-Forming Materials: Fundamentals and Applications** was delivered June 5-8 at the request of the State of Montana and was customized specifically to address issues pertinent to Montana circumstances. Special acknowledgement to Eric Perry, Richard Beam and Brian Hicks for their exemplary work with preparation and delivery of this course.
- The revised **Quantitative Hydrogeology** course was delivered June 26-29 at the request of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- **Rule(s) Status**
 - Cost Recovery-On 5-10, a revised draft was sent to Ruth Stokes for review and in preparation for her to brief the Director.
 - Coal Combustion Residue-OSM received comments on the EA from SOL. The draft rule is complete.
 - Temporary Cessation-The draft rule an EA have been sent to SOL for a final concurrence and Mr. Klein will be briefing the Director.
 - Stream Protection Rule-Senior management and the Department are considering additional alternatives to the draft rule. It does not look like the draft rule will be published before the end of December.
 - Limited Liability-A preliminary draft rule is complete and has been delivered to Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. Postle is conducting Tribal Consultation. Feedback from the tribal council meeting could result in slight modifications to the preliminary draft rule.
- **OSM Booth-MINExpo** September. Last week Jeff Trump (co-coordinator) and myself met with Tiara and Karrie regarding the table top displays. The themes and pictures were selected and Tiara and Karrie, during their free time, will work on completing a preliminary display. I am coordinating efforts to secure rental chairs and a table. Jeff is working on the logistics of shipping the displays.

TIPS Report

- The budget is close to being finalized.

IMCC Report

- FY 2013 Appropriations Bill – the full House Appropriations Committee approved the Interior FY 2013 Appropriations bill on June 28 along party lines. Among other things, the bill provides nearly \$69 million for state Title V regulatory grants, the same as last year. OSM had proposed a cut of \$10 million for these grants. The bill also contains a provision prohibiting OSM from spending any funding on a re-write of the stream buffer

zone rule. The Committee report contains language rejecting OSM's cost recovery proposal (which would have increased permit fees) and OSM's proposal to increase inspections and enhance federal oversight of state regulatory programs. In particular, the Committee did not approve the \$4 million and 25 FTE increase requested for this activity. The Committee report also contains language cautioning against the OSM/BLM consolidation and directs that no further funds be spent on studies to merge the functions of the two agencies. Also, during consideration of the Interior Appropriations bill, an amendment offered by Rep. Lummis (R-WY) to prohibit funding for EPA to develop rules related to financial assurance under Section 108(b) of CERCA was adopted following vigorous debate from both sides. Rep. Lummis relied heavily on a WGA resolution on bonding for mine reclamation. Whether these, and other, riders will survive in the Senate remains to be seen. Similar provisions did not become part of the Omnibus Appropriations bill last year.

- AML Amendments – During consideration of the massive (600 page) Surface Transportation Bill, an amendment offered by Senator Baucus (D-MT) was approved that would cap payments to certified states and tribes under Title IV of SMCRA at \$15 million per year. The amendment was contained in that portion of the bill that provided off-sets for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program administered by the Interior Department on behalf of rural counties in the West. The only certified state impacted by the bill is Wyoming, which stands to lose 90% of its annual funding. However, there are implications for non-certified states, in that an equivalent amount of money that would otherwise have been paid to Wyoming will not be reallocated for the historic coal production account, pursuant to the 2006 Amendments to SMCRA. This will reduce historic coal share funding by almost 1/3 for these states. Efforts are underway to reverse this debilitating amendment to SMCRA, but the prognosis is very uncertain at this time.
- IMCC Benchmarking – IMCC has requested \$125,000 for its benchmarking contract with OSM to facilitate a geospatial workshop in late 2013 or early 2014. IMCC will work with an OSM/State Steering Committee to plan the workshop, should the funding be approved with year-end funds by OSM.

WEIB Report

- WIEB is working with OSM to plan for a western states/OSM meeting sometime in late August or early September. That meeting will be coordinated with an IMCC meeting on water quality at mining operations

NAAML P Report

- Issued another call for papers for the Des Moines conference.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- NAAML P Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Daniels, WV September 30- October 3, 2012 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR

- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

Applied Science Discussion

The following are the list of 6 proposals that were selected for funding in FY 2012. OSM management has determined that there will be no solicitation in FY 2013.

Title	PI	Institution	OSM Funds	Total Funds
Assessing Geomorphic Reclamation in Valley Fill Design for West Virginia	Leslie C. Hopkinson	West Virginia University	\$148,858	\$200,000
Geotechnical Properties and Flow Behavior of Coal Refuse under Static and Impact Loading	David Zeng	Case Western Reserve University	\$199,460	\$266,662
Blasting Effects on Coal Refuse Impoundment Structures	Braden Lusk	University of Kentucky	\$200,000	\$405,000
Underground Coal Gasification: Water-Quality Hazards and Risk Mitigation Strategies	Joshua White	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	\$200,000	\$200,000
Evaluation of Geomorphic Reclamation Performance and Models in the Southwestern United States	Mark C. Stone	University of New Mexico (Hispanic)	\$199,675	\$417,561
Low-cost, Green Technology to Improve Water Quality in Mining-Impacted Ecosystems, Phase I – Model Development and Optimization	Xingmao Ma	Southern Illinois University	\$199,946	\$427,099

Next conference call will be September 11, 2012 at 1 PM Central.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY
September 11, 2012
1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, Lois Uranowski, David Lane, **Jeff Trump**

HDQ –**Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP –**Tom Hines**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLTP –**John Koerth**

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The WR (Henry Austin in particular- with a little assistance from Duane Matt) is helping with the **OSMRE booth at both the MINE expo and the NAAMLTP** conference.
- The **Total Station** was demonstrated by Stefanie Self and Mike Richmond at the WV offsite meeting. The demonstration was well received and future demonstrations are planned throughout the AR (and all regions).
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories** was recently assigned a grants person and awarded their Applied Science monies. They plan on, not only completing their research grant, but, creating a guidance document for OSM/States/Tribes on how to mine using the in-situ coal mining method.

AR Report:

- The **ARTT Blasting Workshop** was held at the Beckley, WV Mine and Safety Health Administration (MSHA) Academy Sept 5-6, 2012. We had 48 attendees at this event. We have received 33/48 evaluation sheets back to this point. We are getting a 95% overall satisfaction rate for this event. A suggestion was made to have more events like this to be held at the MSHA Academy or facilities similar to this one.
- OSM will be working a booth at the **MineExpo 2012** event to be held from Sept 23-26, 2012. Completed applied science fact sheets and other items will be available for informational and educational purposes. There will also be a table top display at this event for OSM.

MCR Report

- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA is being sued by the environmental and recycling communities for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking-** Solicitor review has been initiated on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for September of 2012.

- **NAAMLPL Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLPL with this event. The MCR will be providing an exhibit. OSM will have 20+ people participating.
- **Mine Placement of CCRs: Planning for the Future, Forum 2014** – A steering committee has been initiated to begin planning for a forum in 2014.
- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines II, Forum 2015** – A steering committee has been initiated to begin planning for a forum in 2015.

NTTP Report

Numerous **NTTP Course offerings** were delivered in July and August including:

- Acid-Forming Materials: Soils and Overburden was presented in Evansville, IN July 17-20
 - Historical and Archeological Resources was presented in St. Louis, MO July 24-26
 - Principles of Inspection was presented in Columbus, OH August 7-10
 - Passive Treatment was presented in Columbus, OH August 14-17
 - Surface and Groundwater Hydrology was presented in Charleston, WV August 14-17
 - Bonding Workshop: Cost Estimation was presented in Pittsburgh, PA August 21-23
 - AML Design Workshop: Dangerous Openings was presented in Wilkes-Barre, PA August 21-24
- Several courses that had been offered once earlier in the training year were **cancelled to be compliant with budgetary constraints.**
 - The **NTTP Steering Committee** met in Denver, CO Aug.8-9
 - NTTP staff is busy with **planning the FY13 training schedule** of classes, instructors and locations.

HEADQUARTERS Report

Active Rulemaking:

Stream Protection Rule-Additional alternatives have been vetted and selection of additional alternatives is taking place.

Cost Recovery Rule-Currently being placed into the surname process.

Limited Liability Rule-The rule entered the surname process last week.

Coal Combustion Residues Rule-OSM is currently responding to a letter from Congressman Markey to the Secretary concerning the rule. OSM is coordinating the response with BLM.

Temporary Cessation of Operations Rule-Waiting for OSM senior management briefing.

Possibly Upcoming Rulemaking:

Definition of Coal Rule-Define coal ranks internally to stop relying on ASTM's coal rankings.

Emergency Action Plan Rule-From an IG recommendation regarding Dam Safety, OSM may conduct rulemaking to require EAPs up front. Currently an EAP is not required until the start of failure.

HR Issues:

Vice DeVito-Regulatory Analyst-Harry Payne
NEPA Specialist 13/14 to be advertised

Vice Mitchell-Economist

Other Business:

OSM Booth-The booth and materials have been shipped. DOI/DI-2000 to be used when complimentary luncheon tickets are provided.

ADTI-Cecil Slaughter, Hydrologist, Div of Reg Support is looking forward to running with ADTI.

TIPS Report

- TIPS is poised to assist the IMCC in organizing a **Geospatial Conference** in 2013 as discussed by state members of the TIPS Steering Committee meeting last May.
- Director Pizarchik along with Tonya Mullins, Billie Clark, and Steve Trujillo attending a memorandum of understanding signing with the **Adams State University** to cooperate with the OSM in training, and cooperation between the University and OSM. The TIPS Training Program currently works with Adams State to provide distance learning TIPS courses nationwide. This effort will provide more online training for OSM and more cooperation with placing and training students in the future.
- TIPS remote sensing specialists are in the field in Colorado in cooperation with state personnel to use the **Raven drone aircraft** to obtain aerial imagery over an AML site to assess revegetation success. This is a proof of concept experiment in the use of drone aircraft cameras for evaluating site vegetation. This is the second trial of drone aircraft use by TIPS for remote sensing on coal mine reclamation. The Raven drones are provided through a cooperative arrangement that TIPS has developed with the USGS who are also on site on this project along with BLM personnel.
- New **AmeriCorps personnel** are soon expected to join TIPS in the Denver office to assist with remote sensing projects and with redesign of the TIPS website.

IMCC Report

- The states are watching with great interest the **continuing resolution** for Fiscal Year 2013 which was introduced on September 10. The bill includes a provision to clarify and fix the unintended consequences of an amendment to Title IV of SMCRA in the Surface Transportation bill that was passed in July which would **limit payments to certified states and tribes to \$15 million per year**. That amendment could be read to limit payments to uncertified states for their historic production shares. The newest amendment is also fraught with problems, so it will be interesting to see how things play out in the next few days as Congress contemplates action on the CR.
- **IMCC will be holding its Mid-Year meeting on October 11 and 12 in Chicago** with several issues on the agenda, including the potential transition/re-vitalization of Administrations.
- IMCC continues to work with the **pilot program partners regarding Geomine** who are in the process of reviewing a draft report on progress under the pilot project. A draft report should be available for others to review later this year.
- IMCC may also assist with facilitating a **workshop on Geospatial applications**, assuming it receives funding for the project.

WIEB Report

- The WIEB, western states, tribes and OSM conducted an annual meeting on August 21, 2012. Issues discussed included pending federal rulemaking projects, federal funding, oversight issues, etc. WIEB member states continue to work closely with IMCC to address the many pending issues associated with the above discussion topics.

NAAML P Report

- NAAML P Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA. Currently 150 registered outside the state of IA.

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