

AML ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Semi-Annual Meeting

June 3, 2009

A regular meeting of the AML Advisory Committee was called to order at the Smith-Buchanan Building, Room 211, Big Stone Gap at 1:30 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all committee members:

Present: Jerry Baird, Chairman, Equitable Resources; Phil Shelton, citizen; Ian Dye, Office of Surface Mining; Glenn Graham, Lonesome Pine Soil and Water; Wade Biddix, NRCS; Gerald Ramsey, Consolidation Coal; Richard Davis, Roger Williams, Randy Casey and Marilyn Gates, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

Absent: Carol Doss, Upper Tennessee Roundtable; Jeff Linkinhoker, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Martha Podren, TVA; Eddie Hannah, Lonesome Pine Soil and Water.

Jerry Baird presided, Marilyn Gates recorded/transcribed the proceedings. The minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting were approved with two changes noted: Wade Biddix asked that his name be added to those who were absent at the last meeting. Phil Shelton said that Page 4 of the minutes is incorrect in stating that the Grundy Airport is abandoned. Mr. Shelton made the motion to accept the minutes and Ian Dye seconded.

DMLR Program Update – Roger Williams

- Roger noted that a lot of the projects discussed at the September 3rd meeting are still ongoing. He stated that there was an increase in AML funding in 2009 (7 million dollars granted). The bulk of this year's grant money will be used for water projects. Two upcoming projects are:
 - Horsepen, Tazewell Co. (partnered with WV AML program)
 - Haysi – Big 'A' Mountain (partnering with Dickenson/Buchanan Counties – Council area)
- **2010 Budget**

Obama administration has made changes to AML legislation which may impact AML funding.

- Elimination of AML payments to certified states and tribes (primarily western states)
- Phase out of AML emergency money (states would have to absorb the cost of emergency projects)

Roger noted that coal production is down.

- Stimulus money may be forthcoming from NRCS. The Corp of Engineers used theirs for Wolfe Creek Dam project in Kentucky.

Grundy Regional Airport Project

The Grundy Airport Project is still a “work in progress”. Legislation passed that will create the new Regional Airport Authority which may result in partnering with AML on an enhancement project.

Park Avenue Highway Project – Randy Casey

- Working with City of Norton (and the City is working with VDOT) to reclaim highwall (safety issue).
- Consultant selected
- Sidewalk to elementary school will be relocated
- When Preliminary Engineering Report is finalized they will work on the design.

Richard Davis

- Richard reviewed an organization chart which was done February, 2009 and noted changes since February.
- Projection on AML funding
- Presented a slide show on the AML inventory on various projects and discussed the work being done.
- Arbor Day, 2009, was a success; 350 6th graders from Buchanan Co., from a Pike Co. (KY) elementary school, home school students from Buchanan Co. and a large contingent from Mountain Mission School in Grundy attended. Clintwood Elkhorn funded the event. New trees were planted and Richard noted that trees from last year are fairing pretty well.

Wade Biddix

- Advised that authorization/approval has been received (March 4th) for funding of the north fork of the Powell River watershed plan and four other projects.
- Funding is good through September 30, 2009.
- Wade advised to delete “RAMP” from next agenda

Richard and Wade discussed possible funding by NRCS for tipple site in Lee County and Roger Williams discussed the Dunbar water system.

Committee Business

Jerry Baird advised the committee that he is no longer with Alpha Resources. He is with Equitable Resources and voiced the concern that this might make a difference with him serving on this committee. No one voiced any objections and Mr. Baird will remain chairman.

The next meeting of the AML Advisory Committee will be September 9, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Roger L. Williams
DMME Abandoned Mine Land Services Manager

RLW/mlh