

MEETING MINUTES
2014 NAAML P Winter Business Meeting
Anchorage Alaska
February 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The NAAML P Winter Business Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Bruce Stover. The meeting began with introductions from all meeting attendees, both all in attendance and those attending by conference call.

Proxies

Connie Loucks for Maryland; Joan Breiner for North Dakota; Mike Sharp (phone) for Oklahoma; Travis Parsons for West Virginia; Bill Locke for Wyoming.

Roll Call by Vice president (Eric Cavazza) – Members Present

AL (Chuck Williams, Jeff Butler, Michael Vinson); AK (Justin Ireys, Samantha Hudson); AR (Jim Stephens); CO (Bruce Stover, Jeff Graves); HOPI (Norman Honi, Keith Pahovama); IN (Steve Herbert); IA(Susan Kozak); KS (Murray Balk); KY (Bob Scott); MD (Connie Loucks); MO (Michael Mueller);MT (John Koerth); Navajo (Madeline Roanhorse); NM (John Kretzmann); ND (Joan Breiner); OH (Jim Bishop, Lanny Erdos); PA (Eric Cavazza, John Stefanko); TX (John Caudle); UT (Dana Dean); VA (Richard Davis); WV (Travis Parsons); WY (Bill Locke).

Members Tele-present, via Conference Call:

IL (Greg Pinto); OK (Mike Sharp); CA (Glenda Marsh); MS (Stan Thieling)

Members Absent from the Meeting: Arizona, Crow, Louisiana, Nevada, Tennessee

Also in Attendance: IMCC (Greg Conrad), OSMRE (Al Klein, Denver & Sterling Rideout, Washington, DC); BLM (Larry Jackson, WY)

Official Sign-in Sheet and Membership Roster was circulated for attendees sign-in and updating of Membership Roster information.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Williams requested moving the Undelivered Orders Data Update from Old Business to an Executive Session to be held immediately following the lunch break. The meeting agenda was so modified by President Stover. No other changes were made to the Agenda. Kansas moved to accept the revised agenda, Kentucky seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from September 2013 Annual Business Meeting in Daniels, WV

Minutes were distributed to the membership in advance by e-mail. Comments were received, the minutes were so edited and final distribution was made in January, 2014. Indiana made a motion to accept the minutes as edited, Wyoming seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Hard copies of two financial reports were distributed to the members of the Finance Committee on the previous day and were e-mailed to the membership upon return on March 12, 2014. These included the 2013 year-end summary and the 2014 year-to-date summary of the NAAML P checking account and the Certificate of Deposit (CD) accounts. A summary of NAAML P assets, outstanding obligations, balances and significant financial transactions was presented to the attendees by the Secretary/Treasurer and included the following: 2013 Balance Brought Forward: \$36,631.10. 2013 Total Receipts \$41,682.81 including a CD redemption for \$12,594.98, and a return from the Daniels, WV conference of \$22,584.12. 2013 Total Disbursements: \$35,084.56. December 31, 2013 ending balance: Checking Account - \$43,229.35, one CD - \$12,830.68 (matures 08/30/2014 @ 0.4%) for a Total of \$56,060.03. 2014 year-to-date disbursement: \$1,500 additional seed money to Ohio for 2014 Fall Conference.

Kansas moved to Accept the Treasurer's Report, Arkansas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Undelivered Order Data Update – Moved to Executive Session immediately following lunch.

Review of OSM's Allocation of Mandatory AML Monies Under the 2014 Distribution.

Sterling Rideout of OSM gave a brief explanation of the AML distribution process. He stated that although they try to get the distribution out every year by mid-December, this year's distribution had just come out this week and had been again delayed not unlike the last two years by sequestration, except this year the delay had been more significant (even later) due to increased approvals required by OSM & DOI with more OMB involvement and scrutiny.

Question: Is the amount shown on the news release the final allocation? Last year 10% was taken up front due to sequestration, but 5% was later returned. Will they be returning any sequestered funds this year?

OSM: Money returned last year was the extra buffer amount taken because the exact sequestration amount was unknown upfront. DOI just arbitrarily withheld 10% and later returned 5% which turned out to be that amount over and above the actual sequestered amount. This year they knew the exact sequestration amount in advance, and there was no extra buffer amount included. Therefore, the dollar figures shown in this week's news release is the correct and final amount.

Question: Where do the sequestered funds go? Is it placed into a special fund like the old non-committed funding that used to be withheld – is there some sequestration account it's being held in?

OSM: My understanding is that this money is not related to the non-appropriated balance. I'm not certain where it goes – that's a very good question. I suspect it probably just goes back to the Treasury and it's gone forever. I'll look into it and get back with an answer.

Question: Will this be the case again next year?

OSM: - I can't speculate on that – we won't know until the budget comes out next year.

Question: When do you expect the Title V Program grant funds to be distributed and for how much?

OSM: Actually, those probably went out the day after the Title IV distribution (yesterday) for some \$71-\$72 million I believe.

Question (G. Conrad): Do you think we need to put this sequestered money question issue into a formal request to Joe (OSM Director) or let you handle it informally?

OSM: I don't think it needs to be formal - you'd probably never get an answer. I'll try to find answers as soon as I return.

Conclusion: Let Sterling provide us with answer(s) and if he can't, we then prepare a formal request from the Association for clarification.

Greg Conrad

- A member of the House Appropriations Committee told me he thought that the sequestered amount will not affect mandatory distributions.
- When told about DOI's position that sequestration does apply to mandatory AML distributions, the House Appropriations Committee staffer said he did not know if the sequestration that was applicable to AML mandatory distributions was government wide, or if DOI or the AML Trust Fund had been singled out. He noted that his Subcommittee deals primarily with discretionary funding and has no control over mandatory funding. Those decisions are made by authorizing committees such as the House Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Energy Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.
- The authorizing committees work with the budget committees regarding funding targets and the appropriations committees don't get much leverage or input, which is unfortunate because they've always been very sensitive and responsive to our appeal to them in the past for both Title IV and Title V funding issues. OSM doesn't have much control over these decisions regarding mandatory funding and sequestration either. Those decisions are generally well above OSM and likely even well above DOI. I'll try to research it some more when I return.
- You should be aware that, to his great credit, Director Pizarchik made a significant move to attempt to pursue exemption from sequestration for the AML mandatory payments. He knows these cuts should not happen because they are mandatory payments. So far he's made very little progress. I think our problems are well beyond what OSM may or may not be able to do. Somebody in OMB or the DOI budget office has got to know and be able to tell OSM or us exactly where this sequestered money goes.

Question (WV): We were told two months ago that although our funding application is the same as it's always been, there are some questions this year. We've asked for guidance but have had no response.

OSM: We will follow up.

Question (OH): Our funding cuts are significant this year. We feel that they are disproportionate and the numbers are not adding up. We would like some details on the math and how they're being determined.

OSM: We'll find out and get back to you.

NEW BUSINESS

Sequestration/OSM Government Efficiencies Workgroups

- Sequestration discussed in Old Business
- Three OSM joint States/Tribes workgroups established. Al Klein will send to NAAML P copies of all 3 draft charters. Updates follow:

Cost Recovery Feasibility Workgroup (Al Klein, Executive Sponsor)

- Primarily Title V; For states to recover costs for overseeing permits
- Still trying to finalize draft charter objectives and develop recommendations
- To develop a National Production Fee would require an amendment to SMCRA.
- Have met 4-5 times by teleconference and scheduled to meet face to face in Denver the first week of April, 2014.

TIPS & NTTP Training Workgroup (Bruce Stover & Eric Cavazza)

- Includes 4 states, 1 tribal and 4 OSM representatives
- Eric will send out copy of the Charter to the membership
- Have developed comprehensive list of how training program works, how it may be improved, recommendations on making these improvements and ways to save money (especially reducing/controlling travel costs).
- Working with a professional facilitator; have developed six new categories.
- Can send out copies to anyone interested. Suggested the Training Committee be sent a copy for their review.
- MT: Any suggestions for increased online courses should be scrutinized closely. Some previous online courses have been dreadful – group in agreement.

TIPS/NTTP Training – Program Combination

- OSM: Reviewing advantages/disadvantages of combining TIPS & NTTP programs including how to possibly improve both as separate programs.
- OSM: TIPS & NTTP both have Steering Committees with reports due end of July, 2014.
- OSM: TIPS is moving forward without Steering Committee input.
- OK: Steering Committee is still trying to figure out what a combined training program would look like and how (or even if) we could blend the two together efficiently in a modern/adult education fashion. The final decision will be OSM's.
- OSM: TIPS-OSM has a working arrangement with Adams State University in Alamosa, CO regarding Distance Learning. They have a cadre of expertise in developing college level training programs. They are currently training OSM employees on how to set up and operate distance learning (offsite/online) courses. Currently, we are developing (still in planning stage) three online courses. The objective is for Adams State to approve or accredit them (college credits) for their use, so it becomes a win-win situation both for the college and OSM. Also considering vendor-oriented online courses.

Program Efficiencies Work Group

- Had four conference calls, another scheduled for March 13, 2014 and a meeting on March 26 & 27, 2014 in Cincinnati.
- Narrowed discussions down to 12 bullet items, hoping to pare that down to the 6 most critical. Making real progress (as recently as yesterday).
- OSM: This effort targets both Title IV & Title V Programs in finding ways to make them both more efficient. Recommendations expected by July 31, 2014.

Database with GIS for Project Costs

- Placed on agenda at the request of Mike Garner, MD
- MD – Maryland is in process of developing a GIS Database that will connect their water quality to other programs to enable comprehensive tracking.

Question to membership: What have other states done; what works/doesn't work; how is your water quality data delivered (electronically/excel file which has to be inputted into a GIS application); what is the least time consuming with best accuracy?

Answer: Contract labs are playing a bigger role. One responded that they had been using a certain lab for awhile and have requested that they let only one person input and analyze their water quality tests, and that same person enter the results in an excel spreadsheet. They can then upload it remotely into their own database. Seems to be working well.

PA: We use both outside labs and our own lab. Most data is entered into excel spreadsheets. We are finding out that we have to do a lot of clean up to get it into a workable spreadsheet form.

MD: We use the EDMR (Electronic Data Monitoring Application) Programs for Title IV AMD Set Aside Programs, which tracks the performance of all the different treatment systems and has a separate spreadsheet that tracks operation and maintenance costs as well as other items.

- OSM: (MCR & App. Region) working on setting up a regional meeting this spring for all the States' AML Programs which have operating AMD Set Aside Programs.

MT: Most national and local labs are willing to input the data into any format you need to match your software.

OH: Considering transferring some data with our new GIS Staff into Geo-mine when it goes live – maybe for both Title IV & Title V applications. Will OSM's Geo-mine format be able to play into this?

OSM: I think Geo-mine would be a very good vehicle for housing that information. We are using Geo-mine as a pilot project for the four state Appalachian area (WV, KY, VA, TN/OSM). A draft report is currently in circulation. We are using cloud storage for the data. Other Federal agencies are also using this: EPA – huge amount of water quality data; USFWS is involved; USA COE has started but not yet posted any data. The Director will decide in May if we get to move forward and expand that program. Basically, OSM is finished with the pilot – it's available now.

CA: We currently have a database modernization program underway. We want to be able to track ongoing projects, costs, and be able to incorporate data from Federal databases so we can all co-manage and utilize the data together.

PA: In PA we provide funding for a website www.datashed.org (GIS based) which has information on every passive system built in PA. Also the Susquehanna River Basin Commission has put out a new GIS application with their watershed work including a lot of information on water sampling data.

AL: Aaron Eckhart has been a huge resource in assisting us with our GIS setup. Also, Matt Riley from Ohio is a very good resource- he's helping us in adopting field procedures they use in cataloging data through GIS.

SMCRA REAUTHORIZATION – Establish an NAAML P Committee: Mission, Goals & Guidelines

Bruce – In our West Virginia Business Meeting, Director Picharzik reminded us that reauthorization is only seven years away and we need to start planning for it now. It was decided to establish a new committee with a definite purpose and guidelines to work with and coordinate SMCRA Reauthorization. A draft charter was sent out to everyone for comments with only one response regarding a change in committee composition. (Bruce hands out a copy to membership and reads the Draft Charter's Preamble - copy attached hereto).

Question: What was the suggested change made to the committee composition

Bruce: At least one of the eight members be from a Minimum Program State.

The catalyst was a Reauthorization thought-piece we developed (attached to the draft charter), which includes basic questions and guidelines that the committee will begin to work on.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Topics Discussed:

- Start committee with approximately eight people and can expand later if needed to help with research, coordination, outreach and recommendations.
- Two participants from member states/tribes from each OSM region plus two co-chairs who can be from any region.
- At least one participant included from a minimum program state.
- Basic Task of the committee: Work from the thought-piece and develop a strategy and a specific product/platform of recommendations for consideration and vote by the full membership. This would give the committee a focus and specific mission.
- Need to nominate co-chairs and the initial committee members. Makeup needs to include a few (especially the co-chairs) who have been around and went through the previous 2006 reauthorization process, balanced with some younger members who are going to be around in seven years and beyond.
- MT: At least one of the original committee members should include someone from a certified state and also include one Tribe.
- Bruce: I sent this out months ago for comment and assumed if there were issues they would have surfaced previously, but they did not. If everyone is in agreement with our goals (thought-piece and charter) we need to move forward and do so.
- Chuck: Since the director brought it up, we wanted to go ahead and kick it off now, elect a core committee and get them started working so when we meet again in Ohio in the fall, we can discuss the progress of the committee and not lose six months.

15 minute break

CONCLUSION

- **Bruce:** We researched the committee charter over the break and because of all of the details we've discussed, and that we have so much interest, I am revising Paragraph B-2 in the SMCRA Reauthorization Committee Charter and will appoint two co-chairs and the original committee members as outlined below:

We will not limit membership at this time. I will now appoint the following twelve (12) committee members in accordance with interest shown today. The co-chairs will decide going forward how many and who to add or delete (if any) with one caveat: If the committee operations bog down and/or are unable to function effectively at any time, we will revisit the membership and make whatever adjustments necessary.

Co-chairs: Murray Balk, Kansas and Brian Bradley, Pennsylvania

Members: Mike Garner, Maryland Alan Edwards, Wyoming
 Travis Parsons, West Virginia Justin Ireys, Alaska
 Mike Mueller, Missouri Bill Dodd, North Dakota
 Jeff Butler, Alabama Glenda Marsh, California
 Susan Kozak, Iowa Madeline Roanhorse, Navajo Nation
 Greg Conrad, IMCC

OSM UPDATE (Sterling & Al)

Sequestration/Budget Impact

- Phone call over the break to answer previous questions regarding sequestration:
 - Out of the dollars sequestered, the historical share and state share are going into an unappropriated balance fund, but statutorily it cannot be accessed. Nothing in the statutes says this money will be returned and no one else can access the money.
 - Funds sequestered from the certified states went into the treasury and they too are gone.

Question (Greg Conrad): Is the unappropriated balance in the Trust Fund or someplace else?

Answer (Sterling): New category within the Trust Fund.

Question (IN): What about the PBR (Prior Balance Replacement) Funds? There was a significant amount of money pulled out this year.

Answer (Sterling): This year is the last year for PBR Funds and it too is gone.

Response (Greg Conrad)

- Not all of it; just the amount that was sequestered since that was paid from the Treasury.
- Just made a phone call to Kathy Benedetto (House Committee on Natural Resources). This is the first her committee has heard regarding the applicability of sequestration to mandatory funding. She needs to find out just why sequestration would even apply to AML monies unless there was some kind of arrangement.
- From her perspective it makes absolutely no sense: It is dedicated money; it would be taking money away from a fund for a dedicated purpose based on a fee paid into that Fund; furthermore, that money generates interest which is then used to benefit other programs.
- There isn't any reason she would ever support anything like this. She will dig deeper. This money should absolutely stay in the Fund for distribution to the states for its intended purposes.

- This initiates a formal inquiry request process with the Natural Resources Committee to find these answers.

Sterling: Haven't heard anything about status of grants. President's budget will be released next week March 4, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.

Undelivered Orders and Open Grants

- Sterling hands out new AML Grant UDO graph.

Sterling: This graph represents what undelivered orders look like for grants open as of December 31, 2013. This will change once you add the 2014 data.

Question (Bruce): Is this generated every year and is it only an internal document?

Answer (Sterling): Yes. It was brought up last year at one of your AML meetings. Al Whitehouse informed us all that no one sees it but OSM (and NAAML). We don't want some outside budget person that doesn't understand how AML Program Grants work to question where all this money is going and how it's being spent. We want to show that we are spending it and making progress.

Question (Chuck): So it's not requested by OMB or anyone else?

Answer (Sterling): No, it's internal only.

Question (KS): Why doesn't OSM go back over past years and redo/bring current the data? The way it's presented in your annual UDO graphs makes us look bad – like we're still hanging on to all of this money back from 2005. Why can't you bring it up to date?

Answer (Sterling): You probably could – I just think initially they had us do it this way to show how we got this big influx of money in 2006.

Questions (AL, KS, PA): It appears that it would make us look better and would be even more beneficial to OSM that you provided the states all of this money and they have and are using it. Which would mean that it would reflect positive change every year because most all of the money from the older grants that haven't been spent in their first three years have all been closed out, the money rolled forward and eventually spent – but OSM's graph handed out every year doesn't reflect that.

Answer (Sterling): We'll look into that

NEPA and Categorical Exclusion (CE) Update

Sterling: Was not aware of this item

Eric: Al Whitehouse had informed us that OSM was hiring a new NEPA person in Washington DC who would be looking into the entire NEPA process. I'm unaware of the status.

Chuck: She has been hired – Robin Ferguson. She's from Defense Dept. and is coming to Alabama next week for her first field trip to observe how we perform NEPA compliance and will be later visiting other states.

Eric: Requested Sterling send a write-up to us of her objectives through the OSM RD's.

Update on OSM Rulemakings

Stream Protection Rule: A decision has not yet been made by upper management on the proposed preferred alternative in the draft EIS which is delaying the process.

Cost Recovery Rule: The final draft rule is in the Solicitor's Office for their legal approval process. We hope a final rule will come out sometime in May, 2014.

Limited Liability Rule: The final draft rule is stuck in the Solicitor's Office, after which it will go through the management review process. Once that's completed it will be published in the Federal Register. Proposed rule is scheduled to come out in May, 2014.

Coal Combustion Residue Rule: Still in the early review process of the draft EA. Still due are more departmental and OMB reviews, which could take as long as 90 days. Looks like a proposed rule may not happen until December, 2014.

Dam Safety Rule: The draft rule is still bogged down in our Solicitor's Office. It is still in the preliminary draft stage and has been put at the back of the line. The Solicitors review could determine whether this even goes forward as a rule or not. Also, still coordinating this with MSHA.

SMCRA Reauthorization – OSM's Participation

OSM: We don't know how OSM fits into your Association's New Committee and early plans.

Bruce: We just assembled our Reauthorization Committee today. Now that we have a committee, we can start going out to all of the stakeholders – OSM is a major stakeholder with whom we will be in close coordination. The Reauthorization Thought Piece we provided to OSM (Al Whitehouse) back last fall is appended to the Charter provided today. Once we develop the issues with this new committee we will be substantially including OSM.

AMLIS

Al: We have a current western states initiative underway with Tara Shifflet who provided training with the States/Tribes covering AML-1 and AML-22 guidance and e-AMLIS database items. There is also a revised e-AMLIS user guide uploaded in AMLIS, so if you log on you will be able to see the changes based on recent questions from the Western region. Tara could probably also provide this guidance to the other regions if requested.

Sterling: They've recently updated a new Restricted State User Account that allows the States/Tribes to have read-only access. If you have account requests contact Aaron Eckert. Also, Aaron has been working with States/Tribes in coordinating with GIS as well as cleaning up data for alternative funding such as for Planning Units (PU). He hopes to have this completed in early April. Let me or Aaron know if you have any questions.

One result from the AML-22 update is more current Cost Justification Guidelines. We're going to establish an OSM/State team to keep this cost justification information current.

Question (Bruce): What's the status on Al Whitehouse's replacement?

Answer (OSM): The position has been announced. It's closed and HR has a list of candidates under review – currently in interview process.

NTTP/TIPS Training Program Update

Already discussed in OSM's Government Efficiencies Workgroup discussion. No more issues to discuss at this time.

IMCC UPDATE FROM GREG CONRAD

AML Program General Overview/Status Update

First I'd like to thank the association for the continued financial support for IMCC for the legislative, regulatory and policy advice and counsel we provide to the Association. I have provided Chuck with our most recent invoice with a list of services that were provided over the last six months (included herewith).

I thought I might begin with some 20,000 foot perspectives. I had an opportunity recently to attend a meeting of the Appalachian Region technical transfer team to give a Washington overview of issues from where I sit in working with various agencies in DC. There's always some level of expectation that we as state and federal governments have from our citizens. And that level of expectation continues to remain high for us depending upon who you are talking with I think. Those types of expectations come from Capitol Hill and some of the folks they represent -- their constituents, like the environmental and citizen groups. Expectations also come from the industries we either work with or regulate and sometimes they come from OSM -- that's part of what oversight is about under SMRCA. So depending upon the belief by our constituents about what we do and how we are doing it will define the landscape for the work that we do as government employees. Oftentimes it results in an honest assessment about what our competing priorities are and where we are going to invest our time, resources and people, particularly given the level of congressional oversight about the grant monies that we receive under both Title IV and Title V. As a result, our competing priorities tend to deserve our special attention because we not only have to justify our existence but we have to justify how we spend that money. Part of this is what these new government efficiency workgroups are all about. This is in some regards a new approach for us to take with OSM -- not in terms of working together, because we've done that in several different areas in the past (e.g. performance measures; oversight; reforestation practices; U/G mine mapping; hydrologic analysis; joint workshops; and recently GeoMine). We have a successful track record of working together, probably better than state/federal relations in many other programs and it should come as no surprise because that's how SMCRA is structured. But in this newest undertaking we are venturing into an area that allows us to assess priorities and expectations and how that plays out in terms of the resources that we have available to us. There will likely be some bumps along the way in initiating the three work groups we've been discussing because it is a little different, not in terms of working together, but in terms of subject matter. I think it's good that we're giving it a "good old college try" to see if we can really make some progress because we know that these funding challenges will continue. One of the other things I think we need to do (probably more in the Title V Program than the Title IV Program), is ascertain from our constituents what they really believe our priorities should be for these programs. It's a little easier in Title IV but for Title V that's a huge undertaking. Since we have limited resources, what's most important to them -- if we can't do it all, what do they want us to do first? Do they want us to achieve some level of permitting excellence; do they want us to be in the field doing inspections/enforcement; do they want us to train up an experienced work force; do they want us to be mindful of technological advances so that we implement cutting edge programs? At some point we see all these issues cascade down upon us without any indication about what their actual priorities are. That would be a unique way of looking at our programs. It's not like we haven't had citizen or environmental groups at the table with us before. We've done that on oversight, on reminding, and I think we may have

pulled some people in on the coal ash issue at one point. But it doesn't happen very often and the real challenge is who do you ask to come to the table and how do you structure it to make something more than an antagonistic exercise that does nothing but let people vent. We may be getting to the point of needing this exercise because of these expectations and these hard looks that folks are taking, and as this becomes more and more meticulous. Unfortunately, you see new lawsuits every week, either in a particular state or against OSM or a program. In some respects this dynamic has to change in order for us to be able to do our jobs in an effective way. We are getting to the point that the best protection for state governments is the courts. That's where we are having to take our cause and that should be the last option— talking more broadly now about state sovereignty and primacy. But many times that's where we are having to win the day for our programs and our role in these programs just because of the intensity of the players and the issues and the litigious nature of the environment in which we find ourselves. So we've been fortunate that we've had some good decisions (although some not so good), but basically some stronger decisions regarding state primacy. That's all part of this over-arching environment in which we are working today. As I think back about our years of working together as an association, and where we've been with the SMRCA program, it's interesting how we've come through a cycle of how this program has unfolded. In the early years (late 70's), when the program was new and we were all getting our feet on the ground, moving from an interim program to a permanent program and establishing approved AML programs and state primacy programs, we were kind of sorting out state and federal authority - who was on first base, how we could get out of one another's way and how we would work together. And then we moved into an era of "regulatory reform" and litigation (80's), all the SMRCA rules had been enacted for the most part and everyone was suing (dozens of lawsuits), to try to sort out what exactly these rules required and whether they were legal. That got sorted out and then we moved into this area of culture shifts - culture perspectives - on how we are going to handle oversight for both Title IV and Title V - efforts to identify our shifting responsibilities and authorities. Then we moved into measuring success: what does success look like for these programs? That was somewhat motivated by GPRA, but also by our own desire to determine how we were doing with these programs and we're still operating pursuant to these GPRA measures - they are still very much a part of the oversight programs for both Title IV and Title V. Now we're at the point of program justification due to funding restrictions and due to a shifting landscape of how people are looking at government in general and this program in particular. How this will play out in the end is a matter of protecting the credibility and integrity of our respective programs. This is particularly important for OSM right now, because as you know there was an effort not too many months ago, to potentially merge some of the OSM & BLM functions and OSM was fighting for its institutional life. What I came away with from that effort was that we need to be thinking about how important it is, to us as states, to have an independent bureau like the Office of Surface Mining still in place under the Surface Mining Act. OSM currently serves as the best mechanism for us to do our work and protect our interests, particularly when it comes to budget. I think that what OSM learned from that threat is they need to be tooting their own horn and having others supporting them in that process and that's sort of where we're at, and part of what this government efficiency initiative is about, at least at a higher level. I just wanted to share these perspectives because sometimes we don't get a chance to step back and look at where we are and recognize the progress that we've made and the challenges that we currently face, especially in the context of what we've faced over the years. By and large I think we're still at a very good place for a statute that is as broad and as dynamic as SMRCA. It's the most extensive

citizen participation law that has ever been passed. There are more citizen rights and citizen participation provisions in that law than any other, believe it or not. I think there's real value in understanding that.

OSM & DOI Budget/Appropriates Update

We still have a few things to resolve with how we're seeing funding play out under our current budget and appropriations. We'll see what comes up with FY 2015 next week – I don't think it will look dramatically different than what we've seen before.

I'm a little concerned about grant administration and how quickly you all are getting your grants once distributions have been made for Title IV & Title V. I'm getting a sense from some of the things I've heard from some of the states that the grants folks at OSM are really overwhelmed with a lot of work and are finding it difficult to get to your grant requests in a timely manner, particularly based on the grant years that you have. So those of you that started your grant year on January 1 for instance, have been put in a difficult position because we didn't get an Omnibus until the middle of January and here we are at the end of February and we're just now getting our distribution (and the distribution doesn't get you your money). You still have to apply for your grants and then receive your disbursements and I understand that can take anywhere from three to six months. I don't know how we get beyond that, but it's becoming more and more of a concern; we are going to have to find a way to address it, and I don't know if that means lobbying for more people to do this kind of work at OSM or helping them find a way to work more efficiently or advancing grant years, moving them back and forth – we've done that in the past. But that's another aspect of all this – we need to pay some attention to.

SMCRA Legislation

With regard to other SMRCA legislation, we're done with trying to fight for the use of unappropriated state share balances for non-coal work. That unfortunately never played out and now that's a done deal.

There are two other bills that you probably should be aware of, one is **HR2824** which addresses stream protection. It would require OSM to allow the 2008 rule to be implemented by the states, as opposed to them moving forward with a new stream protection rule. Of course, the dynamic has changed dramatically since last week when the District Court in D.C. vacated the 2008 rule based upon OSM's failure to adequately consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (a very strong opinion by the judge in DC), so that rule has now been vacated which will have an impact on what this legislation can or cannot do. This bill was scheduled to go to the floor next week so they are now having to go back to the drawing board. This is only on the House side. It's already passed the House Natural Resources Committee and now it's getting ready to go to the floor.

They are probably going to have to make some adjustments to account for the court decision. There is no equivalent bill on the Senate side so this is probably not going to go anywhere. There is also a bill on coal ash which has passed the House, **HR2218**, that would defer all coal ash regulations to the states and would clarify that EPA needs to defer to the states and would focus the rule on a subtitle D, instead of a subtitle C, approach for coal ash regulation. There is a companion bill in the Senate, but they are losing some of their support for that particular effort. In terms of other legislation like mining law reform, nothing's been introduced, nothing's

moving. There's been some fits and starts on a Hardrock AML Program - mostly proposals from Interior as part of their budget. I suspect we will see that again on Monday, but that's never really found its way to the Hill; it's not gained a lot of interest. Bruce will update you on the Good Samaritan action later. Not much else to say on OSM Rulemakings. Sterling did a good job of updating status of where that stands. I think OSM needs to hire more attorneys to break the log jam in the Solicitors office. They only have two attorneys and that's just not enough, but the solicitors office has taken some serious hits from the budget. I think there are only eight solicitors dedicated to SMCRA work nationwide. There are a number of solicitors that are rumored to be retiring from the Knoxville Office, so that will put them at a bigger disadvantage - not only staff wise, but knowledge wise.

Other Possible Legislation

I look forward to working with you on the reauthorization piece. We are not under the gun, - we can take our time and be very thoughtful and deliberate - it's good we're being very proactive instead of reactive. There are a lot of issues to be sorted out and we can begin doing that and continue bringing it back to the membership and get their reactions to some of the ideas that we come up with and some possible solutions. As for where the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) stands, they continually need this money more than any of us were anticipating. We thought that their funding needs for the UWM Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) would start to fall off significantly by now and I don't think they have. There is legislation that would allow them to use some of the money that was authorized under the 2006 amendments to supplement CBF funding, i.e. The Care Act, There is a version of this act that has been introduced in both the House and the Senate but it's never gotten legs and frankly BCOA is not pushing it. So that leads me to believe that they don't have any imminent needs, but they want to keep the issue on the front burner without pushing strongly. But if they do ever want to push it, we need to think about whether that might be a vehicle that we continue to attach our caboose onto like we did last time around. That's something that would be guaranteed to move.

I welcome your perspective on any of these issues.

OSM Rulemaking Review

Question (MT): HR2218, Subtitle D - EPA rule on coal ash - where does that stand?

Answer (Greg): That regulation currently occurs under Subtitle D - the EPA rule on coal ash has two potential approaches: 1 under Subtitle C - hazardous waste, or keeping it under Subtitle D, or a variation of what they call D+. Under Subtitle D the states take the lead and under Subtitle C EPA has a much stronger role to the point that the states could potentially be pre-empted.

Question (MT): I know you have talked about this dealing with Title V - what do you see with the Title IV side?

Answer (Greg): I've learned over the past year, particularly in the past couple of months that there is a potential back-door interest to Title IV growing out of an initiative called the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which is an international effort to ensure transparency of revenues that are paid to governments by the extractive industries. It would require the government to report on revenues that were received: requires the extractive industries to report on revenues that they paid, and then an independent reconciler comes in and looks at both of those sets of payments and reconciles them. It's not an audit, it's a reconciliation. It's an extensive undertaking. This idea was initiated by Tony Blair back in 2000

and since that time there have been several countries to join in on this – they are headquartered in Norway and there are several countries that have joined this initiative as full-fledged members. The U.S. just recently submitted a candidacy application to participate in this initiative. The way that's been done is that they've formed a federal advisory committee called a Multi-Stakeholder Group and there are representatives from civil society, government (of which I'm a part), and industry. There are nine representatives from industry, nine from civil society, and seven from government. When I'm sitting in meetings with these groups, I'm hearing from civil society why this is important to them. I begin to get a different flavor of why they are so interested in these revenues that are being paid to government, and one of the revenues in question is AML fees. What they are interested in doing is tracking how these fees are paid and where they go and not just do they go to the states but how those states use those funds to ensure the socio-economic benefits to the citizens of not just their states, but their counties and their cities. This participation by the CSO (Civil Society) is very much focused on how they can use this data and this information to make a case for why governments are doing or are not doing their jobs well and how/why money is getting funneled where it belongs or doesn't belong, and whether we are ensuring sustainability of communities especially where minerals are being extracted (which are not sustainable). Also, what do we do with those communities, particularly like those in West Virginia where we are seeing a fall-off in production and companies are moving away, and what is left for the citizens of those areas? There's an intent to use some of this information that we generated in the course of this EITI reporting mechanism to allow those groups to make the case for much larger concerns that they have. That's where we will see some heightened interest in what's happening with the AML money (very different, very unique).

SMCRA Reauthorization

Question (MT): Reauthorization is down the road – do we see these groups/efforts (you just discussed) as partners or hindrances?

Answer (Greg): I think that the groups that have been most interested in AML over the years, that we've worked with (especially back in the mid 2000's when we were working towards reauthorization) were primarily supporters, not detractors. They have their concerns about how some of the money was being used, which is exactly what some of the people on this EITI group will do, but by and large I think they believe that there is real value to this program. I don't know if we will necessarily gain any new or different allies or approaches as a result of the EITI effort, but I do think that there is still a high level of interest by certain citizen groups about having an AML program and what that program means. They fall into two camps: Earthworks, the Citizens Coal Council and Save Our Cumberland Mountains, which look broadly at policy, while Wild Earth Guardians are very active in SMRCA issues. And then you've got the folks that deal with on the ground issues like the Pennsylvania Watershed Groups, the Ohio Watershed Groups and the Colorado Watershed Groups that really know how some of that money can be used to make a difference in their communities. They are probably our biggest allies. Right now, we see both of those sectors as being supporters.

IMCC Contract for Services with NAAML

OSM (AI): I'd like to add that IMCC has been and continues to be an invaluable asset to OSM through its interaction with the states for both Title IV and V Programs. It is an especially excellent vehicle for the communications process due to the extensive diversity of the 31 NAAML States/Tribes. It's been a good marriage.

Bruce: I'd like to thank Greg for this long list and for everything that he does for our Association each year, for his support and for keeping us in the loop. We really rely on Greg for what's going on in Capitol Hill and for what's coming and keeping us as proactive as possible. So on behalf of the Association I appreciate your continued hard efforts and diligence and I know that sometimes you have so much going on that it's difficult – these days are pretty crazy.

Greg: This is the one part of my job that I truly enjoy. I really value working with this group and the issues you pursue. Thank you very much for that opportunity. I gave Chuck a list of my services performed and attendance at this meeting will be included. (Copy of IMCC's list of services rendered is included herewith).

Bruce: This ends the morning session. We'll break for lunch and reconvene with the Executive Session immediately following lunch.

END OF MORNING SESSION - 11:25 A.M.

LUNCH BREAK – 11:25 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch presentation by Iditarod Dog Musher TC Waite who works half of the year in Colorado as a State Minerals Program Inspector and the other half in Alaska helping train and care for sled dogs involved in each year's upcoming Iditarod Race. Her nine year old Alaskan Huskie (retired), four time Iditarod finisher "Goose", also attended the presentation.

BRUCE REOPENS PUBLIC SESSION OF BUSINESS MEETING AT 1:30 P.M.

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAM UPDATES

BLM Update (Larry Johnson – BLM/AML Program, Washington DC)

- Here to assist the states any way we can. Program overview follows:
 - Recent years budget approximately \$16 million a year
 - \$5 million to labor and overhead
 - \$11 million distributed to 11 states
- Also have a hazmat provision - that's another \$15 million.
- Many of our projects are in the \$10 to \$40 million range, so we're always looking for any way we can to get additional funding.
- BLM has 9,000 – 10,000 employees, and only 65 are AML funded, so we're always looking to partner or leverage what funds we have.
- My main objective as the new AML program lead is to continue to build our foundation, our inventory, and identify what our mega projects are; what our overall objectives are and present that to our leadership.
- We use the AMSCAM database (our legacy) system which we've been trying to validate over the last two or three years. We're looking for ways to upgrade and transition into the ESRI type environment with ARCMAP.
- Just completed a physical safety feasibility report that identified 22,000 physical features that need remediation: estimated \$400 million.
- Next is an environmental feasibility study of what's our overall environmental liability and that will be in the tens of millions of dollars.

- We also hope to be working with DOE on their uranium issues. Apparently a lot of their legacy uranium issues are on BLM land. They'll have to primarily fund them as they know we don't have very deep pockets. Basically, 50% of all DOE sites where they extracted uranium for DOD are located on public land administered by BLM. We hope to be partnering with them as they've said there were some 4,000 identified uranium related sites. It's my understanding that if and when it comes to reclamation, they would fund it.
- They have four draft reports on uranium issues online for anyone to read. They are also putting together an estimate of the liabilities and it's huge. These reports are still at the comment stage.
- Whether they're going to be able to fund this or not is still questionable. Ray Plyness of DOE said that DOE can fund the research necessary for what he expects will be a 15 page report to congress.

NPS, USFWS, USFS Updates

No one from any of these agencies in attendance, but expect a report from each at our fall meeting in Columbus Ohio.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Research Committee (John Koerth)

Nothing to report as the applied science program has been inactive for some time due to funding problems. We've reviewed only one research project which was a review of proposals for applied science grants.

(Bruce) – I feel we should still keep it intact in case there becomes a demand (John Koerth, Bob Scott, Connie Loucks).

Training Committee (Bob Scott – New Chairman taking over for Luci Malin)

Most of this was discussed this morning during new Business, but we'll summarize here again;

- TIPS & NTTP have been vital to the program training over the years and are now in a transition phase.
- Efforts to make them more efficient, reduce redundancy. Efforts to get the training closer to the individuals, etc.
- Considering pluses and minuses in merging the two programs.
- States have a lot of resources, most which are on their websites (i.e. KY, WV). May try to use the Association's website with links.
- Eric: We provided most of the details of our workgroup this morning and have emailed everyone our workgroup charter. Would appreciate any comments once reviewed.
- Bob: The seminars presented at the National Conference every year provide excellent opportunity for AML specific program training. Encourage as many as can to take advantage of it and volunteer to make presentations – excellent means of information exchange.
- Bruce: We've (CO) made a trend away from using as many consultants and concentrated more on in-house designs for smaller projects, and doing more of the smaller jobs as opposed to fewer large jobs.

- Bob: The more that we do ourselves (i.e. surveying, design, pressure grouting, etc.) the more critical the training becomes.
- Richard-(VA): Many NTTP and TIPS instructors are entering the last years of their careers and there is (and will be coming) a big shortage of instructors. Making a plea to consider becoming an instructor and a good place to start is with the Instructor Training Class.
- Bob: Much thought going into newer methods of teaching, online courses, virtual classroom, etc., as Al mentioned this morning about Adams State College pioneering online learning for us.
- Eric: Of course, many classes need live field sites and student interaction which would lend themselves away from online courses. We need to carefully assess each course from both perspectives in order to make sure we retain the quality instruction and learning experience we need.
- John-(MT): Over the last couple of years, we've seen a trend (over 50%) of new instructors only interested in teaching TIPS classes and not NTTP. Approximately 2/3 of new instructors this past year were interested only in TIPS because of the newer trend (younger employees) of only doing something involving computers. There's a real need for technical (science) people for NTTP instructors.
- Bruce: I agree. We need to rely heavily on OSM to let us know where the bulk of incoming instructors is going to occur – they know which instructors (both OSM and States) are leaving and which ones are expected to be available. We rely on the training steering committee to let us know in advance when they see classes that are not going to have instructors. We need to see where the gaps will be in order to keep replacing them from our staffs.
- Steering Committees: TIPS – Mike Sharp (OK); NTTP – Bruce Stover, (CO)
- Steve – (IN): We've recently identified a need for "regional" training classes dealing with regional issues. Whereby we'd invite only people from states who have the same physiography. Our task force has developed a whole page of regional type issues which will require regionally appropriate instructors for say 2 or 2-1/2 day seminars. It may be something that's only needed every four or five years or as we get new staff.
- Also, there's even a greater need for certain topics in Title V rather than Title IV. Take Title IV stream restoration for example: from a regionalization perspective, if we held a stream restoration course in Indiana, we'd only be inviting people from say Western Kentucky or Illinois (or others with similar physiography), not Alaska, New Mexico or Colorado. It would do no good for someone in Illinois to attend a stream restoration class in Montana. Likewise, considering our regulatory staff, we have very few people that are equipped to be an inspector on stream restoration issues. We require it because we have to, but they don't really know what to look for nor how to judge it. It's something our AML staff has been doing for some ten years, so maybe our AML staff would be able to better instruct our Compliance inspection staff on it.
- Bruce: It's similar to the Rosgen Stream Restoration Course held in WV a couple of years ago. It's being held this year in New Mexico, so OSM is already regionalizing it.
- Eric: We hope to eventually develop a skeleton outline of these kinds of issues and have individuals within our workgroup to investigate those and develop ideas for solutions. They'll probably be reaching out to all of the states for input for classes which we think

would be better regionalized versus those which don't really matter whether you take it in the east, mid or west.

Scholarship Committee (Murray Balk)

It's really too early to have anything to report. Typically, we get busy in May as the deadline for scholarship submittals is May 30. For 2015, the Finance Committee did approve going back to three scholarships at \$2,000 each, one for each of the three regions. Please get those flyers out to your schools of higher education so we can hopefully get plenty of worthy applicants. Last year we had three very worthy winners who presented papers.

Minimum Program Committee (Justin Ireys – AK, Mike Sharp – OK)

- Mike Kastl requested to be removed as committee chair.
- Minimum Program States are: AK, OK, MD, AR, KS, IA, ND, MO
- Sequestration really hurts minimum program states, but shouldn't be the focus of the committee since there's nothing any of us (including OSM) can do about it. One significant issue is those minimum program states with fairly sizeable inventories.
- Reauthorization is another significant issue, but we're well represented there with Murray – KS (co-chair) and Justin – AK.
- **Bruce:** Any other comments? (Group discussion of candidates concludes). Minimum Program States Committee new co-chairs are Mike Mueller (MO) and Justin Ireys (AK). Mike Kastl resigns only the chair and remains on the committee.

Finance Committee (Murray Balk)

- Finance Committee met and raised the 2015 scholarships from two back to three. We reduced it last year to two with a concern over our finances, but got a boost when WV returned over \$22,000 from the Fall Conference (Stellar job WV!).
- We also discussed publication fees and again, due to current financial status decided to reduce those back from \$250 to \$150 for 2015.
- Also paid IMCC invoices as discussed earlier in Chuck's financial report.
- **Chuck:** I will send everyone a final report copy when I return. (Sent 3/12/14)

Membership Committee (Eric Cavazza)

- Ideas from our last meeting: whether or not to allow conference call voting; proxies; what is considered 'attendance' at a meeting, etc. The intent of proxy voting has gotten clouded. A proxy is really supposed to be a method of being able to vote on issues even if you (the delegate) can't attend. That can be done by either delegating your proxy to another member of your staff who attends or have another state or tribe which is physically present to vote on your behalf. This does not include the case of an alternate who is in attendance. The delegate just needs to give the Vice President advance notice in writing (e-mail) who the alternate is and that he/she will be attending and voting in his/her absence. According to how the bylaws are worded, that is the only way you can have a proxy vote, which excludes conference call voting.
- A group discussion of the advantages of being at the meeting in person against the perspective of in this day and age of video conferencing, facebook / social media, youtube, etc., (not to mention travel budget limitations) produced the following conclusions:
-

Conclusions

- Leave the bylaws unchanged – each member shall name a delegate and alternate to represent the state or tribe at all Association Business Meetings. In the event that both the main delegate and alternate are unable to attend (in person – clarification added), the delegate may appoint a replacement to represent his/her state/tribe with prior written notification. Proxy voting by other members on behalf of member states/tribes unable to attend will be allowed only if written notice of the proxy assignment has been provided to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee prior to the opening of the Business Meeting. You cannot give your proxy to anyone once the meeting has begun.
- People attending via conference call are not actually in attendance and can only vote if they've either given prior notice of their alternate who is in attendance or, prior notice of their proxy delegated to someone else who is in physical attendance.
- In attendance means literal, physical attendance.
- To pass a resolution requires a unanimous vote by all of the attending members (including anyone given approved proxy authority); voting for resolutions will require a roll call; and voting is limited to one vote per member. This is only for resolutions and does not pertain to any motions.

Motion (MO) Attendance means you have to be physically present at the meeting.

Seconded (WY)

All in favor except Murray (KS) – motion still carries as it is not a resolution.

Public Information and Education Committee

Bruce: – Existing Chairperson, Luci Malin, is retiring so I am appointing the new chairperson today, Connie Loucks (MD)

Connie: – We met yesterday and determined with the list given to me by Luci, the following items of concern:

- Much is dealing with the annual conference and working with the host state every year. Currently we will be working with Jim Bishop (OH) for the Fall 2014 conference in Columbus, OH.
- AML Reclamation Awards has been taken back by OSM. Peter Mali is the lead on it and all relevant information is currently on OSM's website. We do still have the Dave Buckman and Stan Bernard Awards, so there's work to be done on those.
- NAAML P website – considering updating it.
- Eric: - Luci had some draft changes she wanted to make. If you'll remind me, I'll drag those out and send them to you.
- Ohio has put the links on the website for the Fall Conference registration.
- OK is still the keeper of the website – Webmaster: Diane Ireton
- Connie: – Education Component – considering cataloging what all is available and where it can be located. Example – “Stay Out Stay Alive” campaign. Requesting each state provide anything they've put together or are aware of – we're considering a booth at the Ohio Fall Conference regarding how different states approach safety or education issues.
- Newsletter – Volunteers needed for material to be put in the Spring Newsletter, coming out around the first of April. We need projects, local state articles and we'll also include a plug on the Fall Conference.

- AK discussed the idea of “Safeguarding, Reclaiming, Restoring” booklet that we published in 2013 – not waiting and doing something like that every 5-10 years, but more frequently, say every couple of years. It would be useful for the reauthorization effort to be able to show even bigger AML accomplishments visually and descriptively – also, to have it published.
- Greg: – Might be too much, too often. No more than every 2-3 years unless a specific need arises.
- Sterling: – We are still collecting any stories you want to submit, not on a regular basis, but as they arise. Anything of special interest you want to share. At one time we were actively requesting them and had a special website set up for them, but that was in conjunction with the 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Hardrock Committee (Bruce Stover)

We met yesterday and got an update from Greg, most of which we went over this morning. However, following are some other items of interest:

- Good Samaritan Legislation – two identical bills, Udall Bill (Senate) and Tipton Bill (House). May be hearings beginning in March.
- EPA issued a CERCLA guidance tool (12/12/12) and they’re still bogged down trying to develop some test cases with Trout Unlimited and other watershed groups using it. A major stumbling block deals with the third party liability issue.
- OSM tells us the SMCRA limited liability provision for Certified States is stuck in the rule making phase and is tied up in the final judicial review process before it can go out to the Federal Register.
- Hardrock AML initiations – nothing new
- We’ve already discussed the DOE abandoned uranium mine report that’s moving forward
- Our Hardrock Committee is ready, willing and able to assist the SMCRA Reauthorization Committee in that effort or initiations that would assist in the reauthorization process. This could include recruiting more states that might not have any coal or a SMCRA coal program, but might benefit from a hardrock initiative.

AMLIS Committee

Bruce: – It’s been discussed and suggested that we don’t need this committee any longer. No necessity to even meet for quite some time. It was originally formed to engage with OSM to work through all the early problems with e-AMLIS, which seems to have mostly been worked out in the past two to three years.

AL – Motion to dissolve AMLIS committee

KY – Second

Motion passes unanimously

National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (Mike Sharp)

- Info on this committee can be found on the TIPS website, under Geospatial (Geo-Committee)
- Chuck will send a copy of my report out to everyone or include in the minutes (copy included herewith).
- Geo-mine Project (Al mentioned this morning) is split into two viewers:

Federal Viewer (online) with the following layers:

- AMLIS PADS
- Underground Mine Map Repository
- USFWS: Wetlands and Critical Habitats
- EPA: 303(d) listed waters
- USGS: General coal fields, National Hydrography data set & geographic names
- COE: Eventually expected to include permitting data

State Viewer

- Includes all Federal Viewer layers as well as the State data layers from Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee (OSM), but State layers currently only available to those states and OSM
- OSM: May is the target date for launching Geo-mine which will have a combination of all layers for public access. OSM has made a request to OMB for a five year funding plan (\$6-7 million). OSM waiting on a response, but hopes to have some funds available this year to add another one to two states into Geo-mine if they have their GIS data formatted.
- OSM is developing a national GIS for measuring their SMCRA data under the Title V Program. Opportunities for interns in developing that this year. If anyone is interested contact Ariel Averson who is OSM's National Data Steward Coordinator. You can go to OSM's website under geo-committee if you need to find out who your data steward is or for more information.

FUTURE MEETINGS UPDATE

Joint Conference with NASLR (National Association of State Land Reclamation)

Eric: - Reads info from Mike Smith - PA Title V Program. Mike has been involved with NASLR in PA for several years. General Context: NASLR meetings are becoming too small to hold an effective annual conference, although their subject matter is similar to NAAML (dissimilar: Title V only and includes non-coal). Member states are New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. He states that the conference formats are similar and includes both a field trip and awards banquet. They are proposing that we hold a joint conference and field trip(s) but separate business meetings.

Murray (KA) & Steve (IN): - Past experiences with both NASLR and ASSMR joint meetings have been negative. Plus since so many states are not SMCRA states, travel might be problematic.

Jim (AR): I am a past President of NASLR. Based on my experience, with their dwindling numbers, hosting joint conferences is a real concern. Not a good fit even with the similar formats and potential overlaps in technical sessions.

Murray: A joint banquet would send it to midnight. Also, getting enough vendors to fund it might be a problem - we might be competing for vendors.

Jim: That's what happened to us. We couldn't get enough vendors so we got stuck with a large portion of the hotel bill.

John (NM); Not an option for the 2015 conference we're hosting. The contract is already signed.

CONCLUSION

Very few advantages with a large potential liability to hold a joint conference in any manner. If NASLR wants to sign up for our conference, pay our conference fees, book their own rooms, listen to our technical presentations or even submit their own papers for their own technical presentations it might work. As far as the hotel guarantee goes, they'd enter into their own agreement with the hotel in that we could give them a break on their conference fee since they would not be attending our banquet. They could even book a separate hotel if they wanted, have their own business meeting, tours, etc.

Steve (IN): Suggest we invite them to send someone to make a presentation at one of our business meetings, see how we run things and go from there. Since they're not planning on doing anything until 2015, we could invite them to come to our winter business meeting in Gulf Shores, put them on the agenda to make their "sales pitch" without all of the distractions of a Conference. Tell them we have a lot of questions and need them to come explain and explore it with us.

FUTURE MEETINGS UPDATE

Fall 2014: Columbus, OH (September 20 – 25, 2014) Hosted by Ohio AML

- Two packets handed out with details.
- Webpage is live and ready for registration
- Submittal for Papers went out Monday – Deadline June 1, 2014

Winter 2015: Gulf Shores, AL – Hosted by Alabama AML

- Save the Date cards handed out
- Likely last week of February or First week of March, 2015

Fall 2015: Santa Fe, NM (September 26 – October 1, 2015) – Hosted by NM AML jointly with Navajo AML

- LaFonda Hotel, Downtown Plaza
- No handouts: www.LaFondaSantaFe.com

Comments:–Try to decide if we want pre/post conference tours.

–Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival is held in Albuquerque the weekend immediately following the conference.

–Will try to get LaFonda to extend conference rates through weekend, although most might prefer to book rooms for that in Albuquerque.

Winter 2016: Sacramento, CA – Hosted by CA AML

Feb/March timeframe

Fall 2016- Red Lodge, MT – Hosted by MT AML (maybe jointly with WY)

Red Creek Lodge (possibly one or two other hotels may be needed)

Likely 2nd half of September, 2016

Winter 2017- Glenwood Springs, CO – Hosted by CO AML

Fall 2017- Lexington, KY – Hosted by KY AML

Likely October, 2017

Bruce: Thanks to Justin and Samantha

Chuck: Send me any items you want included in the minutes.

Farewell and hardy thank you to Steve Herbert for many years' service! (applause)

Bruce: Reminder – Geo-morphic Conference scheduled for Albuquerque in May, 2014.

Includes an AML site tour.

KS – Motion to Adjourn

IN – Seconded

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 p.m.


Signed:



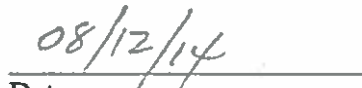
Bruce Stover, NAAML P President



Date



Chuck Williams, NAAML P Secretary/Treasurer



Date