

Western Region Technology Transfer Conference Call Minutes

July 23rd, 2007
Monday 1:30 PM (MDT)

National: MCRTT: ARTT

- National Technology Transfer Website (Under development but available to view: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>).
- Richard Holbrook is the acting Program director for the Albuquerque Field Office in Albuquerque, NM.

WRTT

- The general consensus is for the WRTT annual meeting to be held in April of 2008. Dave Clark offered to be the host state for this year's conference.

Conferences/Workshops/Forums

- June 18-22: ESRI 2007 User Conference: San Diego, CA
- August 28-29: Western Region Leadership Meeting: Denver, CO
- September 5-7: Coal Mining and Aquatic Environment Symposium: Abingdon, VA
- September 9-13: National Association of State Land Reclamationists: Asheville, NC
- October 7-10: 29th Annual NAAML National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Conference: Bloomington, Indiana
- October 28-31: Geological Society of America (GSA) conference: Denver, CO
- November 13-15: Benchmarking Workshop on surface and groundwater database development and use: New Orleans, LA
- November 26-30: Autodesk University Conference: Las Vegas, NV
- March 24-28: OSM 2008 Geospatial Conference: Atlanta, GA

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Russ Kirkham: He stated that things have been very busy. The petition for lands unsuitable (concerning the proposed Chuitna mine) was rejected. Bob Postle and Glenn Waugh (OSMRE) traveled to Alaska and evaluated the Chuitna mines chances for successful reclamation.

Colorado: Sandy Brown: There are 6-7 ongoing bond releases. She noted that there had been revisions in the post mining land use (PMLU) on some of these sites. Vegetative sampling was taking place on bond forfeiture sites. The state of CO plans to hire a new person, possibly by the end of next month.

Montana: Angela McDannel: Montana is proceeding with a Phase IV bond release. Steve Regele's former position is to be filled. The position will now be called a "Technical Coordinator".

New Mexico: David Clark: The La Plata mine is undergoing a PMLU change. Part of the mine will be used for county facility use (+/-100 acres). A BLM land swap was involved.

North Dakota: Guy Welch/Craig Nelson: Two new permits are being issued. One of these permits will be close to 5,000 acres (Falkirk Mine). An NOV was issued at an unnamed coal mine. The soil scientist position has not yet been filled.

Utah: Steve Fluke: The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) is challenging the Lila Mine permit. A GIS person will be filling Amber's recently vacated position.

Wyoming: Marcelo Calle: A lot of permitting and mining going on in the uranium/bentonite/gravel fields. Carbon basin mine submitted a (hopefully) minor revision. Ash Creek mine had an amendment to their permit. There were possible AVS issues with this mine. The Bridger mine, as well as the west gas fields, is planning on using the natural regrade program.

ABQ Field Office: Rick Holbrook. No report.

Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms. No Report.

Denver Field Division: Howard Strand. The DFD continues to mentor two interns. Their names are Elizabeth Schaeffer and Christine Belka. The TransAlta Mine in Centralia WA has been issued a

Show-Cause Order. TransAlta's motion to vacate the order was denied and a pre-hearing conference is scheduled for July 26, 2007. In the meantime, TransAlta has agreed to begin settlement talks with DFD. Initial talks are scheduled for August 7 and 8, 2007 in Olympia. Counsel for the company and the Regional Solicitor have discussed a joint motion to not set a hearing pending the outcome of the settlement negotiations.

Western Region Program Support Division: Karen Jass: The Absaloka mine (North) has submitted a revision. The McKinley mine is using the natural regrade program for some of its reclamation. The Navajo mine is continuing its public hearing concerning the Desert Rock power plant. The Black Mesa mine is closed at this time. The Kayenta mine is considering using some of the coal from the Black Mesa Mine. The John Henry Mine had a revision submitted to all fill material to be placed on the permit. Bonding software can be downloaded from the OSM website.

Technical Assistance & Training

TIPS Training Program Information

- NTTP/TIPS Training Survey Status – Awaiting final input from some of the state/tribal training contacts on their FY08 training needs. Training Contacts should submit electronically ASAP if not done already. As soon as input is received from everyone a decision will be made on which TIPS classes will be offered and when. Training schedule for the fiscal year will be available on the TIPS website in late summer. POC: Karyn Evans, 303-844.1400, ext. 1492
- Don't forget about TIPS on-line courses: Blasting Log and Evaluation, Galena Slope Stability Analysis, and many ESRI GIS courses. See the TIPS Training website for additional information at www.tips.osmre.gov/training/index.asp.
- Revised Student Enrollment procedures for TIPS classes have recently been posted to the TIPS Training website. Check them out at www.tips.osmre.gov/training/index.asp.
- An equipment "needs" survey is currently being conducted. If you have not heard about this survey at this time, you need to contact your Service Manager immediately.
- Needs?

Hardware & Software

- TIPS software distributions. All should have received the following:
 - Groundwater Vistas, Version 4.25

- Autodesk Map 3D 2007, disk 2 of 2
- Erdas Imagine 9.1, Erdas Image Analysis for ArcGIS 9.2 and Stereo Analysis

Next Meeting: Monday, August 20th