

WRTT Conference Call Title IV & V

December 13th, 2011

Tuesday 11:00 AM Mountain Standard Time

Call: 1-877-612-4949 Passcode: 8870122

WRTT

TIPS, Technology Transfer, Training and General Information:

- Please check out the updated **NTTT** website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- Please check out the updated **TIPS** website for recent updates! These are located in the “What’s New?” section of the page **Please check the site frequently:** <http://www.tips.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE** website at: <http://www.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE-WR** website at: <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov>
- Please review the *new* **WRTT** *SharePoint* site at: <https://nttt.osmre.gov/TechTransfer/default.aspx>
- Upcoming events: <http://amd.osmre.gov/ttcalroot/TTCalendar.aspx>

Discussion Topic:

The month’s topic addresses planning WRTT meetings for 2012. We have used the “topic driven” style of meeting for the past few years. The meetings have varied from everyone calling in each month, to, each respective group (Title IV/V) calling in and having their own call/own month. As WRTT team leader, my intent is to empower *you*- The monthly meetings are for you (states/tribes). They have never been meant to be OSMRE driven. So, I am requesting your input for future 2012 meetings. My ideas:

- No specific “topic” decided on by OSMRE. An open ended call that everyone attends monthly.
- Each state/tribe takes turns hosting the call each month. Your topic/your choice.
- Have a call “as needed”. There will be no monthly call if there is no topic of discussion. If there is breaking news involving new regulations/funding/innovative reclamation techniques, or, a problem that needs to be solved, then, a call will be held that month.
- Quarterly call.

Again, these calls are for you. Please be prepared to discuss!

Note: If you have another idea that you would like added to this list, please let me know by Friday, December 9th, 2011 and I will add it.

The discussion began by stating that WRTT is for all of YOU. We want input from all states and tribes to make this group work for you. Alaska started by stating that the meetings could take place on an “ad-hoc” basis. They also suggested a “bulletin board” to post questions/have discussions on might be helpful. OSMRE stated that we used to have a SharePoint site for this, and, the site could be resurrected. DFD mentioned that these meetings were very beneficial for them and provided much needed information for that division. Montana stated that the monthly calls should continue as they are right now. The system works. North Dakota stated that the topic driven discussions were an excellent idea and to stay with this format as it kept everyone focused. Colorado noted that OSM leading the calls would reinforce the “continuity” that we already have. North Dakota also noted that the monthly call is the best place to receive timely information regarding OSMRE matters.

The end result of the call is as follows:

- The format will stay the same with all calls occurring the third Tuesday of each month. The calls will take place at 11 am Mountain Time.
- The calls will take place as follows (starting in January, 2012): Title IV- Month one; Title V: Month two; Title IV and V: Month three. This cycle will repeat until the end of the year.
- The calls will remain topic driven.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Title V: One proposed mining public notice to go out for a Usibelli property (Jamamoto Mine?). Alaska DNR determined that the Chuitna project was worthy of a “lands unsuitable” designation. Wishbone Hill, an older mining permit, would like to go from inactive to active. They are having problems with their air quality permit. LINC Energy is drilling in the Beluga property (4000 ft deep) in anticipation of future in-situ coal mining.

Title IV: The Jonesville project has been shut down due to access problems. The hydraulic pits projects need access via a bridge or stream crossing. AML is working on its 3rd iteration of a 300 ft highwall reclamation project. The DEC has primacy over EPA on the issuance of stormwater discharge permits. BLM is giving out \$300,000 for inventory work to be done on land title transfer of land to the state. The BLM and state want accurate GIS work (down to the parcel level) for this inventory.

Arizona (Navajo): Not present.

Arizona (Hopi): Not present.

Colorado: Title IV: An annual review taking place. Close out reports are being completed in AMLIS. There are 5-6 projects ongoing (as long as weather permits).

Montana: Title IV: Working with BLM to evaluate and contain a coal seam fire. Subsidence has occurred in the Eastern part of the state. A new water supply was installed in Sand Coulee. An acid mine drainage mitigation project is taking place basin wide.

Title V: The signal peak mine was shut down for the past two weeks due to high carbon monoxide levels (possibly due to an existing coal seam fire that’s causing the carbon monoxide to be pulled into the mine). The mine is currently pumping nitrogen into the mine to make the carbon monoxide inert and MSHA is telling the company where test holes need to be drilled to evaluate the problem. There is a lot of interest in coal mining in Montana right now. There are two major investors in the state right now which, in turn, may cause three to four potential EIS’s to start next year.

Montana (Crow): Not present.

New Mexico: Title V: The McKinley mine is being evaluated for a director’s order of release and liability. Worldview 2 imagery is being used to evaluate an AML site for vegetation growth/decline.

Title IV: A construction project went through the RFP process and will be using geomorphic reclamation to reclaim the site. The project should start in March.

North Dakota: Title IV: Three major surface projects (2.5 million tons of material moved) and I underground project are done or nearly done. One

hundred and fifty subsidence holes filled. Three recent subsidence related emergency projects were just completed. North Dakota is working on a mine mapping grant. They are utilizing a student temporary on the project. An outcrop fire was identified in the southwest part of the state and they hope to secure funding to address that fire.

Title V: One large surface mine application is awaiting approval (Center Mine- BNI coal).

Utah: Title IV: Two coal mine fires are being addressed. An engineering firm has been contracted to inventory existing hard rock AML sites. Outreach efforts are underway (check out www.ogm.utah.gov). A recent poster contest for the new calendar can be seen on the website. The division has a new secretary.

Wyoming: Not present.

Casper Field Office: Several permit revisions ongoing (Absaloka). The borehole camera is being used by the state of WY in Rock Springs, WY. The Crow have a new Tribal Historic Preservation officer. They might want to use him as a cultural monitor for the buffalo kill site.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: Not present.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: The head of DFD reiterated that he really thinks the monthly WRTT calls are important.

TIPS: Henry Austin stated that we might be able to use some of the state outreach material in our booth in the near future.

- The **new equipment** for some state and OSM offices has been received and is going through the property tracking process.
- OSM through TIPS partnered with the USGS on **using unmanned drones** in a proof of concept exercise on a WV mine site. A Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was flown to collect color video for the purpose of inspecting drainage ditches along the permit boundary. This area is very dangerous and time consuming for an inspector to walk. The second part of the mission was to use the Raven's thermal camera to look at a known mine fire at the same location. The results of this pilot provide promising opportunities to use this technology to support SMCRA activities.

Based on the positive results of the WV pilot, OSM plans to continue working with the USGS on other project sites in FY 2012. Part of this effort will be to test the Raven's ability to map coal seam fires in Colorado accurately and consistently as well as additional sites in the Appalachian Region. Comparisons will be made on using the Raven with traditional inspections and inventories accomplished via helicopter. OSM hopes to measure and demonstrate efficiencies obtained by utilizing the UAV platform to support SMRCA activities.

- TIPS worked with NGA's **Rapid Response Ortho (RRO) Program** to acquire orthorectified imagery for all three regions over priority areas at no cost. OSM has requested approximately 75 high-resolution satellite images worth a total of

\$427,500. This is imagery that has already been collected in the past decade. The imagery requested represents most areas of active mining in the United States with the Appalachian Region being the only region that does not have complete coverage.

Additional questions/comments?

Next Call: January 17th, 2012

(We will continue calling in the third Tuesday of every month unless the format is changed).