

WRTT Conference Call Title IV and V

October 18th, 2011

Tuesday 11:00 AM Mountain 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>
- Suggestions for our upcoming OSMRE Service Manager meeting?

Discussion Topic:

I am assuming that many of you attended the 2011 National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs (NAAML) annual meeting. What is the status of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) funding for certified and non-certified states/tribes? Are there any exciting technological developments you saw at the meeting that you might want to pass along to our group today? Did you learn of any new laws/directives/regulations that might affect our AML programs?

The general assumption was that the status of the AML funding for certified and non-certified tribes remained the same. The Navajo Nation stated that funding for certified state and tribal programs are still set to be cut. North Dakota stated that non-certified programs will have to now apply for funding through a national council. Money will be awarded to the most competitive proposals. UT talked about an inventory tool that loads into a Trimble unit. They also mention using a decision making tool with AML closures. TIPS stated that AML projects would be incorporated in the Geomine project eventually. Montana mentioned the use of the Capturix digital pen. The Navajo nation mentioned

that one of their consultants used a digital pen two years ago. He mentioned that you needed to set up your data fields before using it. Nicolas Bugosh (geomorphic designer) also uses one. New Mexico mentioned that geomorphic reclamation was to be used on the Swastika mine project. Geofluc will be used to change a channel from straight to curvy. North Dakota mentioned that new hardrock legislation was proposed to have an AML program to clean up hardrock AML sites. TIPS mentioned that this would be accomplished by a severance tax, bonding preferences and a royalty on existing hard rock mining.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Absent due to AK holiday.

Arizona (Navajo): Work is beginning on the Morrison #2 project (inaccessible waste piles). Budget has been submitted to OSMRE.

Arizona (Hopi): Absent.

Colorado: Absent.

Montana: Inventory is being updated. Subsidence work is continuing in Eastern Montana.

Montana (Crow): Absent.

New Mexico: A new project is in the works for the Swastika Mine. This project will be a RFP project. This is innovative as it proposed to use the most qualified for the job vs. just using the lowest bidder technique. Reason: This project wants to use geomorphic design. NMEMNRD is meeting with BLM every 3-4 months and are working on completing a comprehensive survey of "holes" (at least 3,400). They are using Arcgis shape files to show where the "holes" are located.

North Dakota: ND just finished a hazardous high wall project. They are still working on two more surface projects. One large drilling and grouting project is taking place near Beulah. They have 150 sinkholes to fill. They have two additional sinkhole projects to complete. A cultural resource mitigation project is also taking place. The ND AML program has been using their new downhole camera (with great success).

Utah: The UT AML program is working on a coal fire project and the subsidence associated with it. They may use fire suppressant foam or grout. An old OSMRE mine fire remediation project is now venting, so, UT is going to revisit that project.

Wyoming: Absent

Casper Field Office: Business as usual.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: Business as usual.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Ginger Kaldenbach recently gave a presentation on CO2 gases at a CA mine at the NAAML conference. She also staffed the OSMRE booth. Ginger is currently mentoring Elizabeth Shaeffer. Ron Sassaman has recently been assigned to work on the newly formed "tribal primacy" team. Christine Belka and Ginger Kaldenbach will be covering for Ron during his absence.

TIPS: The service manager meeting is taking place in Indianapolis, IN the week of November 24th. The training schedule for 2012, as well as the training budget is being finalized.

Next Call: November 22th, 2011