

# MEETING MINUTES 2018 Winter Business Meeting San Antonio, Texas February 6, 2018

# CALL TO ORDER

The NAAMLP Winter Business Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by President Bob Scott. The meeting began with a greeting from President Scott, along with a thanks to Cory Gretlein and the Texas Delegation. Roll call was followed by an introduction from all meeting attendees.

# PROXIES

Steve Fluke for Glenda Marsh, California

# **ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY TREASURER (Travis Parsons) – MEMBERS PRESENT:**

AL (Chuck Williams, Jeff Butler, Dustin Morin); AK (Justin Ireys); AR (James Stephens); CO (Jeff Graves, Tara Tafi); IN (Marvin Ellis); IA (Susan Kozak); KS (Marlene Spence); KY (Bob Scott); MD (Mike Garner, Tim Miller); MO (Mike Mueller); MT (Autumn Coleman); Navajo (Madeline Roanhorse, Cortasha Lyeshaw); NV (Robert Ghiglieri), NM (John Kretzmann, Lloyd Moiola, Erin Marynak ); ND (Bill Dodd); OH (Jim Bishop, Mike Bowden); OK (Robert Toole); PA (Eric Cavazza, Brian Bradley, John Stefanko); TX (Cory Gretlein, Adam Levy, Paige Sprague, Robert MacNabb); UT (Steve Fluke); VA (Lesa Baker); WV (Travis Parsons); WY (Alan Edwards, and Jeff Meena).

### **MEMBERS ABSENT FROM MEETING:**

AZ, CA, Crow, Hopi, IL, LA, MS, TN

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

IMCC (Ryan Ellis, Greg Conrad, Tom Clarke); OSMRE (Yolande Norman, Sterling Rideout, Tom Shope, Al Clayborne, Jay Bautista); BLM (Miyoshi Stith); NPS (Hillary Smith).

### **ATTENDING BY PHONE:**

USFS (Scott Ludwig)

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:**

West Virginia made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Pennsylvania. Agenda is approved.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING IN LEXINGTON, KY

Minutes were distributed to the membership in advance by email. Comments were received, and the minutes were so edited for final distribution. North Dakota made a motion to approve, seconded by Pennsylvania, motion carries unanimously, minutes are approved.



### TREASURER'S REPORT (Travis Parsons):

Beginning Balance (September 2017) = \$89,162.79; Current Balance (February 2, 2018) = \$99,067.26; Major expenditures since 2017 Annual Business Meeting were Six-month services to IMCC (\$15,000), Three scholarships (\$7,874.93), procure services for NAAMLP Booklet (\$734). Major Deposits include Kentucky Conference/OSMRE Sponsorship/OK Reimbursement (\$33,318.63). The Treasurer's Report was distributed to meeting attendees. Montana made a motion to approve the report, Wyoming seconded, motion carries unanimously.

<u>AML SUMMIT UPDATE</u> (Ryan Ellis): The 2017 AML Summit was held December 13-14 to discuss key issues and organize ways to work through them with OSMRE. The work groups developed were as follows:

<u>E-AMLIS</u>: Work to develop fixes and changes to the AML Inventory. This will make it easier for the Association to answer questions from Congress and other groups in relation to Reauthorization. OSMRE has a contractor on-board and are currently working on them.

<u>AML-1</u>: Reviewing Directives on how the inventory is updated

<u>Data Reporting</u>: Looking at ways to generate data related to AML financial information, other than through eAMLIS

<u>Messaging</u>: Talking about what AML does, and our accomplishments. Building upon the videos produced by Wyoming and Pennsylvania.

<u>NEPA</u>: Find efficiencies within AML, possibly expanding Categorical Exclusions categories.

<u>Grant Process</u>: Reviewing the simplified grant process, possible changes, as well as the possibility of OSMRE taking over Emergency Grants.

OSMRE's Perspective (Sterling): Gave supportive statement about the Summit (Al Clayborne) gave summary statement & support of Summit

<u>eAMLIS Call (Sterling)</u>: First call was held 1/24, and discussed the purpose of eAMLIS, how to make it the best it can be. Identify problems, submit a list of "fixes" by 2/23 to move ideas forward. Open invitation for all states to submit ideas/needs.

**NEPA (Travis Parsons):** OSMRE was not included in the initial work group or on the first call. Asked who they would want to have added to next call, and Sterling volunteered. The first call discussed WV's Programmatic Agreements with US Fish & Wildlife Service. Other issues involving the US Corps of Engineers, and issues with their permitting requirements.



Discussing NEPA requirements on Maintenance projects. Work toward extending Cat Ex's to include Waterline Projects.

<u>Messaging (Eric Cavazza)</u>: Getting organized, putting the team together, and identifying issues to focus on with the group. Trying to tie-in ongoing efforts from the Association and the Summit. Introducing "Our Work's Not Done" in the afternoon.

**Data (Brian Bradley):** Look at existing data and to best use that information, and avoid data gaps, which will eliminate the perception of "missing data." Tie-in with the Reauthorization Inventory/Expenditures subcommittees. Make suggestions on receiving data, and how to use it to support the program.

<u>AML-1 (Autumn Coleman)</u>: Reformulate the team that had worked on Priority Documentation, and Chapter 6 (Cost Evaluation), and resurrect old edits (2014). Possibly incorporate some of the requirements from the OIG Report regarding Certified States. Send edits to Autumn or Travis & they will get passed along to OSMRE.

<u>Grants (Sterling Rideout)</u>: Out of all the Summit teams, this one was placed at a lower priority, but they are trying to get their work group together.

Follow-up Summit (Ryan Ellis): May have one later in the Summer, possibly in June.

### OSMRE UPDATE (Sterling Rideout and Yolande Norman, OSMRE):

- 1. <u>Federal budget and Appropriations</u>: OSMRE is working under a Continuing Resolution. Congress is in the process of passing a new budget (FY18), which may be passed Thursday. FY19 Budget proposal may be released this afternoon (2/8/18). Greg Conrad stated that another short-term CR will be passed, followed by an Omnibus to end the year. AML grants are mandatory obligations, and are not affected by the CR. Only the regulatory grants are affected.
- 2. <u>Filling the Director of OSMRE Vacancy</u>: Just like other political positions, it is hard to say when the position will be filled.
- 3. <u>Proposal for e-AMLIS Fixes with State and Tribe Participation</u>: OSMRE has a 5-year contract, which is pretty general. It focuses on developing identified fixes (Summit work group), and maintenance. Ryan stated there is a location data issue, which is not on the short-list (emergency fixes). There seems to be options for fast-tracking the fixes.

Autumn asked about the fix for Location Data, because Montana has had two lawsuits recently claiming AML was diminishing property values. Ryan suggested possibly



freezing/deactivating public website until fixes can be made. Yolande was worried that would give perception that the system is "broken." She asked the States to hold-off on editing data themselves, which would be a recipe for disaster. She hopes to get back to states ASAP.

- 4. <u>Title IV AML Summit (future meetings)</u>: Sterling anticipated monthly/bi-monthly meetings moving forward
- 5. <u>Combining Messaging with States/Tribes Accomplishments</u>: States will be involved in that process, and Summit groups will cover that sufficiently. OSMRE will give update on eAMLIS disclaimer later this Summer.
- 6. <u>Projections of Title IV Grants and AML Fee Collections</u>: Sterling had no projections. Ryan stated approximately \$150M can be expected, which is on-course with last year. Jay Bautista said production will impact the State Share.
- 7. <u>Trump Administration's Impact On OSMRE</u>: New people; new priorities; new initiatives, and OSMRE should work to achieve tasks/orders received from the administration.
- 8. <u>NEPA Reform</u>: DOI meeting bi-weekly. EIS's have a 300-page limit, and EA's have a 75-page limit. There are no new Programmatic Agreements, and there is a major push for fixes within one year. Third parties completing the EAs does not change the time-line.
- 9. <u>NTTP and TIPS Training Programs</u>: There are 26 NTTP courses. Less funding, will result in less courses. Unsure of what Continuing Resolution will do. Discussion about adding an "Annual Grants" and "eAMLIS" courses. The Association should conduct a "Needs Survey," as part of the formal process. OSMRE can be developing the agenda, audits and requirements in the meantime. Keith Closson is currently revising several chapters in the training manual. There are 170 eAMLIS users, which is 170 opportunities for mistakes to happen.
- 10. <u>AML Pilot Program (2017) Report to Congress</u>: OSMRE has vetted 27 projects in PA, WV and VA. They have made awards to all but three states. There is a huge interest in the Pilot program from Congress and Administration. They want to see progress, success, and how the projects are leveraging additional funds. Eric stated that PA submitted 12 projects, but have not received any approvals. They have responded to all of OSMRE's questions.
- 11. <u>OIG Report on Certified Programs and Implementation of Recommendations</u>: OSMRE is working on a response, and Summit teams will address some of the issues. Grant application process will deal with "fixes" outlined in OIG report. A lot of data inquiries (internal) to take up time. OSMRE is creating "action plan" and will meet with Certified and Minimum



Programs for work group. They will work with, and around, the differences between all programs.

- 12. <u>House Committee on Natural Resources eAMLIS, Grant Reporting, AML Inventories, and</u> <u>OSMRE Oversight</u>: Some of those issues have been addressed. About the same as OIG issues. Not much to report on RECLAIM. No movement in DC.
- 13. <u>Federal AML-Related Legislation</u>: Community Reclamation Partnerships Act (CRPA) passed House, and seems to be a good bill. HR4426: Oil & Gas bill with RECLAIM. Greg said it was a forgettable bill, anticipates it will die, but it does outline many discrepancies with OSMRE.
- 14. <u>OSMRE Reclamation Awards</u>: Submissions are due to Moshay, tentatively in April. Sterling will provide the specific date later.
- 15. Applied Science: There is no funding available, but continue submitting projects to OSMRE
- 16. <u>Technical Assistance for AML Projects</u>: OSMRE has a fleet of drones (UAV's), and pilots that are available for assistance. States can include them in grant application. OSMRE expects to move past hurdles in the next week or two.
- 17. <u>Civil Penalty Grants (Bond Forfeitures)</u>: OSMRE has received final approval, and States should be receiving notice this week. Another batch of funds will be available later this year. Funds coming from Tennessee, but can come from the West too. Grant recipients are not limited regionally. Projects have been on Maryland's Bond Forfeiture sites, but work is done by AML group.
- 18. <u>State Plan Submissions</u>: Alabama has been on step 35 of 46 for a couple months. Costing money out of AMD Set-Aside. This has been a two-year process. OSMRE stated there has been an effort to streamline the process, and it has been pushed to the forefront. They don't know which ones are close to approval. OSMRE will check into it and provide an update to Chuck. The last update was given to Colorado on 1/27.

### Bob called for 15 Min. Break (9:30) -- Reconvened @ 9:45

### **OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAM UPDATES**

1. <u>USFS-UPDATE ON USFS AML ACTIVITIES (Scott Ludwig)</u>: The Forest Service (FS) continues to work on a National Database project with the USGS. They have developed a test site based on BLM's AMSCAM model. The site crashed, and The FS is working with USGS to rebuild that site. There are plans to conduct an AML Safety Training at the MSHA academy



in West Virginia in the Summer of 2018. They are also proposing to send some of their Rangers to (NTTP) AML Safety Closure Training in FY2019.

The Mining and Metallurgy Society of America is hosting a Good Sam Summit, April 26th at the Colorado School of Mines. The Summit appears to be for NGO's, Federal and State Agencies, and other stakeholders (ADMA?) to discuss obstacles and possible paths forward. The agency is really noticing the retirements and attrition of their staff. They have lost three of their AML Coordinators over the last three years. Two of the three remaining will be gone in the next year. Scott will likely retire in four years. They have received approval to fill one of the positions, but not sure which one yet. They anticipate cooperative agreements for other federal, and local state folks to attend the mine safety training. Coordination is underway with the BLM Training Center.

2. <u>BLM-Update on BLM AML Activities (Miyoshi Stith)</u>: Miyoshi is the Division Chief of Environmental Quality Protection, and is Acting AML Program Lead, which was previously filled by by Larry Jackson.

There are 67 AML employees in BLM, out of 9,000. The AML budget for 2017 was \$19M. BLM's AML inventory includes 54,000 sites, 100,000 features, and cover 245,000,000 acres of land. About 20% of the inventory has been addressed, 80% remain backlogged, and 5,400 new sites are discovered each year. Another 93,000 sites are believed to exist based on some type of given information, but require field verification, in California, Nevada, and Utah.

Priority of making America safe and energy independent through shared conservation stewardship, volunteer service and youth engagement. AML is the nexus in achieving these priorities. They are developing priority habitat monitoring, bat conservation, and recreation. BLM is currently developing a 5-year strategy to identify and prioritize AML sites. They are working with Department of Energy on defense-related Uranium Mine Sites project.

AML is competing with other programs for funding. We must engage with public for awareness and support to remain relevant. A CERCLA booklet has been produced and distributed. BLM maintains a separate database, and their inventory is not in eAMLIS. Discussion about including BLM & Forest Service inventory numbers with "Messaging" efforts. Need to ensure projects are vetted by DOI in a timely fashion.

3. NPS-Update on NPS AML Activities (Hillary Smith)

Hillary has been in the position for two months. She was a Mine Engineer on Title V mining, and with MSHA. Her experience includes active mines, tourist mines, and research facilities. Hillary would appreciate any advice and other information folks are willing to provide. NPS has limited funding. They take funding & apply it to AML. She has heard hints of



Maintenance Backlog disbursements. NPS get entrance fees returned, and welcome partnerships with State programs to get work done. Discussion on having the same "messaging" issue as in BLM update, as well as in the eAMLIS work group. All inventory data needs to be captured in eAMLIS for completeness and centralization. All agencies need to speak the "same language" when discussing the inventory.

### 

### IMCC Update (Greg Conrad, Tom Clarke, and Ryan Ellis):

1. IMCC is in transition with new Executive Director, Tom Clarke. Greg's official retirement is April 30, but is leaving D.C. at the end of March. He will be using unpaid leave May/June to serve as a consultant.

<u>Introduction of Tom Clarke</u>: Tom has a background in Mining Engineer (WVU), worked underground, practiced law, worked for Peabody, Committee National Coal Association. His experience also includes being a lawyer for WVDEP, head of Title V, Special Assistant & Council to Secretary. Tom has written rules for interstate transportation; and completed analyses and recommendations for WV relative to the Stream Protection Rule and Clean Power Plan. He has won 100 cases, and testified before Congress.

<u>FY 2018 Budget</u>: Congress will vote today for an extension to the CR until March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Immigration reform is causing difficulties for obtaining an Omnibus.

- 2. <u>Coal Miner Protection Act (Manchin Bill)</u>: There are no anticipated effects on AML. Long term shoring of funds through Treasury. There was language in the budget that ensured any impact on Treasury Cap (\$490M) will fall only on other funds, not AML funding.
- 3. <u>Legislative Updates</u>: Summary of Legislative update meeting from Monday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. There is not much to report on RECLAIM or CRPA. They are still trying to find offsets. CRPA-passed House, but still needs to pass Senate. Additional sponsors are needed. Discussion about the importance and benefits of the bill. We need to continue working with elected officials, NGO's and OSMRE to address concerns on AML inventory and project data.

We will see more on Hardrock, and Rare Earth Elements (REE) in the near future. Try to strengthen domestic industry, and to impose royalty or fee on the industry. Continue working with House Natural Resources Committee (Rebekah Jorgensen) for ideas and recommendations. Use Nevada's robust HR program as an example of what inventories look like on State levels, and keep the National effort from interfering with established state programs. Important issues include long-term operation & maintenance; civil penalties for



mistakes; finding a way to accomplish reclamation while following other laws such as Clean Water Act; only being liable for issues that you make worse; identify an "end date" for industry's commitment for funding. Partnerships (private money) makes thing look more inviting, as well as having comfort letters from EPA stating they are not planning to take enforcement action or sue you for your project.

- 4. <u>2018 AML Pilot Program</u> Summary of funding bills (see previous email). Projects must demonstrate a nexus for economic improvement. More information will be available in the Omnibus.
- 5. <u>AML Reauthorization:</u> We should visit NMA and explore their full position on the issue. There should also be a similar visit with Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (DOI), House Natural Resources staff, as well as the Energy and Natural Resources staff on the Senate side. Packets including "Dear Colleague" letters, 2-pager, and booklet should be sent to members of Congress, regional groups, contractors, mining associations, etc. Begin working more aggressively on draft language for Legislative Hearings in next (116<sup>th</sup>) Congress. Discussion on scenarios if fee collection ends in 2021. Something could be passed without full-reauthorization. Industry would become in a better position for arguments if the fee has already expired. We need to keep up efforts with inventory and messaging...telling "our story." Design materials to show "real story" & "true facts" so not to allow NMA to undermine our data/information. Tell the larger story.

### Bob called for Lunch Break @ 11:40. Reconvened @ 12:45pm

- 6. <u>Summary of Title V Summit follow-up meeting held in January 2018</u>: Discussed 10-day Notices (Title V), and revised comments.
- 7. <u>Title IV AML Summit</u>: OSMRE is "stepping up" and moving this initiative forward. The Association should continue working with OSMRE to keep moving ahead. The Efficiencies work group (2014) has been reestablished in a steering committee work group. They will reach resolution of issues & track successes.
- 8. <u>IMCC Meeting</u>: 2018 Annual Meeting April 8-11, 2018, at the Omni Charlotte Hotel in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina. There will be two days of sessions (AML & Title V), Banquet/Reception, and Greg's retirement dinner.
- 9. <u>Projections on Confirmation Hearings</u>: Steve Gardner (Nominated for OSMRE Director) is frustrated at length vetting process. OSMRE is not involved with larger DOI restructuring. Some offices have been exempted, but OSMRE has not been. Bob thanked Greg and encouraged states to attend the meeting and retirement party.



#### Old Business

<u>NAAMLP/IMCC Poster, Booklet, and 2-page promotion flyer (Jim Bishop, Mike Bowden,</u> <u>Autumn Coleman</u>): Work on the poster has been suspended. The booklet and 2-pager will be available on the Association's website, so States can print locally. The deadline for states to submit markups is February 19<sup>th</sup>. Write directly on hard copy, scan, and email to Steve Fluke and Mike Bowden.

<u>NAAMLP Website (Dana Dean and/or Steve Fluke)</u>: Currently collecting and displaying before and after reclamation photos and write-ups, but there are glitches in Web updates. A Draft will be ready in February, and UT staff will review with PIE Committee. There are currently 10 before/after photos. Encouraged folks to continue sending them. There will be a moving banner at top of page highlighting projects, and award winners will be included. Autumn will forward the 2017 Accomplishments Report to Steve once it is finalized, and in pdf format. Discussion about UDO's and whether or not to keep producing them. Ryan thought this topic would fit within the Data Reporting Work Group best, and encouraged states to take request seriously, and participate. We need to keep it clean and simple, and possibly look into how individual programs close grants and roll funding.

### Update on "Our Work's Not Done" (Alan Edwards and Eric Cavazza):

Recapped the 7-minute video (AML Highlights) from the Lexington Conference. WY hired a firm to develop messaging videos, and three additional PSA's (~1 minute each) have been developed. States were encouraged to provide high quality videos of high importance projects and add their data to the interactive website. The initial video deliberately focused on PA & WY to show need for cooperation, unity, and emphasizing regional differences in topography, geology, etc. PA is planning to capture "typical" AML sites (typical AML problem types), and post reclamation sites, and compare them in 30 second-to-1-minute educational videos. WY envisions a series of "did you know" videos. Alan showed a 6-minute video, showcasing why specific location data (AMLIS) is not good to have on a public website. ATV riders go into mine and post it to YouTube (Arizona). Discussion about location data, selling mine claims, and the removal of bat gates/closures. This is a welcomed effort and is worth pursuing further.

Update on Appalachian Pilot Projects:

- <u>KY (Bob Scott)</u>: There are 9 projects from the 2016 grant that are in various stages of progress. In 2017, 54 applications (\$225M requested) were received. That list has been narrowed down to 10 projects (\$25M) and have moved into the vetting process at OSMRE. Viewing Pilot as an Economic Development Grant.
- 2. <u>PA (Eric Cavazza)</u>: In 2016, originally submitted 14 projects (\$30M) to OSMRE that were approved. A couple projects had multiple phases, so they ended up with 17



contracts/agreements. As of last week, three of the projects had significant issues, and were suspended. A fourth project was suspended, after design was completed, due to the landowner leasing the site for remining activities. There are concerns about owners/partners completing the economic development, or revitalization, they committed to at the beginning. The Pilot is the foundation of development (focusing primarily on reclamation of SMCRA-eligible AML sites), and as additional funding sources have fallen through, the project partners are losing interest in pursuing the additional work. PA is designing seven projects in-house. Six projects have been executed, and four are in construction. Two more have been awarded (in process) and will go to construction soon. Approximately \$16M, of the \$30M has been committed. Seven have had ground-breaking ceremonies, with videos produced. In 2017, they received 25 proposals, and selected 12 (\$25M) projects. Those projects were sent to OSMRE in October for vetting, but have not yet received any approvals. However, the Performance Period started November 1<sup>st</sup>. PA received a packet of questions from OSMRE which they have answered, and the proposals have been sent back to DC. There is a higher expectation for this round. They now have to reallocate funding for suspended projects. Having to identify projects up-front (vs. Simplified Grants) creates more work on States, and OSMRE.

- 3. <u>WV (Travis Parsons)</u>: Received \$30M in 2016 and selected seven projects. Three have received ATP's. Two waterline extension projects are in construction. The Patriot Guardens apple orchard project has planted 1,000 trees and have 70 honey bee hives. Their goal is to plant 500,000 trees by the end of performance period. That will entice a juicing facility to move in, creating 500 additional jobs. Two projects were dropped, and the money was reallocated. One of those was picked up again, so funding for the replacement had to be split between the 2016 & 2017 Pilot grants. There is also an Elk Restoration Project, which has released 24 elk, and plan to release an additional 60 elk in the coming weeks. The Aquaponics project is waiting on final consultation with USFWS, and then will submit the ATP request. In 2017, 34 applications were received (\$73M), but have narrowed them down to 12 projects (\$25M), including the split funding from 2016 replacement. Have been working with applicants to modify their applications. Most of them have been forwarded to OSMRE for vetting. More reclamation has been incorporated into the 2017 projects. Three of the projects are ATV-related, with the development of trails, camps, and resorts.
- 4. <u>OH (Mike Bowden)</u>: Submitted 11 (\$15M) projects to OSMRE for approval. They are anticipating that some will fall through and wanted to have projects in the hopper to fulfill the \$10M grant. The projects are still being vetted. They were fortunate to have projects on the shelf that fit the mold pretty well, and could just be plugged-in. If \$30M was received, they would be very busy, and have a more difficult time.



- 5. <u>VA (Lesa Baker)</u>: Received 15 applications (\$48M). All applications were sent to a selection committee. Six projects were selected, which total \$10.8M. All six projects have been sent to OSMRE for vetting and are really close to receiving approvals. If \$30M was received, they would also be very busy (like OH). It really depends on legislation around being able to use Title V sites.
- 6. <u>AL (Chuck Williams)</u>: Received nine feasible applications (\$61.25M). Created rating system to check for four criteria, with economic viability & reclamation being at the top. Three projects were selected (\$10M). Many of the concepts were solid, but the applications were missing details. The first project (\$750,000) piggy-backed a 4,500' Dangerous Highwall AML project, which will expand a recreational area, and residential complex. The second project (\$6M) is a US Steel multi-phase technology park, that already has work in progress. The third (\$3.25M) is also a US Steel project, which is a multi-community park, and residential complex. All projects have been vetted, one returned with comments. There are several additional projects that will make good Pilots, if given \$30M. They will be busy but will take care of it.
- 7. <u>OSMRE (Tom Shope)</u>: It's a new process for everyone. The same community and political pressures experienced in the States also exist internally. Nobody expected the Pilots to be around three years. If it continues (likely) questions on regulation will develop. States should let OSMRE know when projects are being constructed, because they would like to visit them.
- <u>Al Clayborne (Mid Continent)</u>: Alabama was first experience. There has been a good effort, and he is excited to see things move forward.

<u>Policies and Procedures Manual</u>: They have been added to the website, with new Hardrock AML Award Section. The award criteria will be added in the coming weeks. The tri-fold announcement will be changed to 1-page flyer by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for submission is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Possibly change presentation to have winners present at the banquet. States should be able to vote in category in which they have a submission but can't vote on own project. Hard Rock includes all non-coal mining features, including uranium. Pelican cases will be purchased for trophies, to ensure safe shipping to conference each year. Every member state/tribe gets one vote, even if you don't submit a project. Last year, ~10 votes were received.

<u>WPCAMR Partnering with NAAMLP for 2019 Annual Conference (Eric Cavazza)</u>: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation conference will be included in the 2019 NAAMLP conference. This will bring an additional 100-125 attendees, including watershed groups, conservation districts, etc.



### Bob called for break @ 2:35pm, reconvene @ 2:50pm / Group Photo

### New Business

<u>AML Summit Workgroups</u>: Action items and follow-up to morning discussion. Please stay involved if you are currently in a group. If you want to become involved, just ask.

<u>Sequestration of AML Funds</u>: Push from PA watershed groups to revisit reimbursement of sequestered funds. Because of the new administration, Ryan asked if we should make another attempt to end it? Encouraged us to seek specific legislation to protect AML. Most recent application for sequestration pushed it out through 2025. Eric said \$84M has been sequestered, growing to over \$100M with this year's grant.

<u>Virginia and 2018 Fall NAAMLP Conference</u>: Lesa gave registration status, call for papers, and projected attendance. She encouraged folks to start registering. There is a contract for 225 people at Kingsmill, with a capacity of 300. VA must provide a firm number for rooms by August 24<sup>th</sup>. Final numbers for food and beverage are required by September 5<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Recent or Potential Retirements of AML delegates and alternates</u>: Greg Pinto (IL), Retired in December, but is back on Temporary status. Connie Loukes (MD) will retire this year, and Tim Miller will become the alternate. James Stevens (AR) is not retiring, but may not be Arkansas' delegate in the future, due to reorganization.

### **Committee Reports and Discussion**

<u>Finance Committee (Eric Cavazza)</u>: Re-summarized the Treasurer's Report, and the 2017 Closeout Report. Kentucky put \$33,000 back into the NAAMLP Account. The contracts for the Virginia (2018) and Pennsylvania (2019) conferences are final. They may need seed money, but are unsure at this time. Reminder to states hosting meetings that they will need to submit estimated conference budgets for approval, and closeout data (including a financial statement) at the close of conferences. The NAAMLP booklet increased by \$982, and was voted/approved to proceed

<u>Research Committee (Travis Parsons)</u>: Applied Sciences have no funding. Other Tech Transfer Teams (regions) are conducting meetings. Travis requested (Tom Shope) to be included in future emails and communications.

<u>Training Committee (Bob Scott)</u>: Summary of available classes was given. Justin Ireys sent a letter with concerns of losing tech support (read letter). TIPs developed a Technical Advisory Group "TAG" w/ 9 people. Request that the team have two folks (1 Title IV & 1 Title V) from



each region. These members can coordinate how to allocate available resources...technical tools, software, and training.

<u>Scholarship Committee (Mike Garner)</u>: There is a need to increase the number of applicants. NAAMLP will hold to 4 scholarships: 1 per region (3) for undergraduates, plus 1 national for graduate students. The committee would like to place the condition that Grad students must present at Conference. Checks will be written to the scholarship recipient and not to the school. Bob urged the Association to get info out to schools, and forward information back to Mike.

<u>Minimum Program Committee (Mike Mueller)</u>: They appreciate the support of everyone and will hopefully receive the \$5M. Reauthorization will benefit Minimum Programs more than RECLAIM. Would like to see more than allowable 30% set-aside for AMD money, possibly up to \$2M.

<u>Membership Committee (Autumn Coleman)</u>: There has been an effort to get Idaho to join. They had a fatality within last couple of months on an AML. Encouraged everyone to identify other states to invite.

<u>Public Information and Education Committee (Jim Bishop)</u>: Deadline for edits to the new booklet is February 19<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Hardrock Committee (Glenda Marsh/Jeff Graves)</u>: There was a conference call regarding House Natural Resources (covered by Ryan earlier) with focus on the breadth and scope of hazardous (safety closures) and environmental features. Good Sam is not just for NGO's, but for States and Tribes too. There are inconsistencies with various inventories. Some are detailed, while others are not. Using UAV's and, LiDAR on AML's for inventory work. Montana is getting first stream de-listed due to reclamation. However, when they report inventory numbers, they are nuanced by what is reported by other federal agencies/programs. Suggested adding a few more questions regarding federal lands to questionnaire.

<u>SMCRA Reauthorization Committee (Brian Bradley/Susan Kozak)</u> -- Resume from yesterday's stopping point (Jay Bautista's presentation): There are many AMLIS discrepancies, including missing numbers, FBMS data, and closed grants. The Total Nationwide Administrative costs are 11%, which looks good for our reauthorization efforts. We need to keep an eye on the Resolution that was signed by Chuck and update it as needed. The Inventory Subcommittee needs to look deeper into numbers, and possibly combine the "White Paper" with the 2-page summary.



Brian thanked Greg & Jay Bautista for support and guidance moving this effort forward. There is a need to form a strategy group within the committee. Members could include Susan, Brian and Eric (PA), IN, Navajo, MO, ND, IMCC, Glenda, Mark Stacy, Travis Parsons, Alan Edwards. This group can flush out strategy, after work groups have finished. They can respond quickly reviewing papers, preparing testimony, or having a phone call. If a larger group is needed, we can go through the committee. Tom Shope could also be involved with the work. There is a renewed purpose for the inventory and consequences committees. Discussion about interconnectedness of Summit work groups, and committees.

#### **Future Meetings**

<u>Sept. 9-13, 2018 – Williamsburg, Virginia</u>: Bob encouraged states to allow their staff to attend the conference.

<u>Winter 2019 – St. George, Utah:</u> Will probably be held in February. Monday will be a travel day, with meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and 1/2-day Thursday. Discussion on extra time for deeper discussions on groups, eliminate people leaving early to catch flights.

<u>Sept. 8-12, 2019 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</u>: Potential tours will include Flight 93 Memorial, and Clipper cruise.

<u>Winter 2020 – Morgantown, West Virginia</u>: Have not lock-down location. Should have commitment, and budget at Williamsburg Conference.

Fall 2020 – Lake Tahoe, Nevada: Exploring location options

Winter 2021 – Orange Beach, Alabama

<u>Fall 2021 – Colorado/Utah or Maryland</u>: The conference in 2021 will be either in Colorado or Utah... possibly, Grand Junction? Maryland has asked to remove their name for consideration. Bob asked for a commitment by the Fall Conference.

### Bob thanked Greg for his service & guidance. Greg received a standing ovation