

## Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant Program Status Report June 28, 2008 – December 31, 2008

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**Organization:** Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable

**Contact:** Dvon Duncan  
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**Grant Information:**

Grant Assistance #: WS-97357801-0

Project Name: "Hope and Hard Work"

Project Period: January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012

Description: The project will be used for capacity building and the solving of environmental problems throughout eastern coal country, which will address challenges unique to coal mining impacted watersheds and economic sustainability plans for acid mine drainage and wastewater within the eastern coalfield states and focus efforts on protecting and restoring water resources.

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Contacts:**

Project Officers: Bob Runowski (215-814-5385) and Marion White (215-814-5714)  
 Project Manager: Dvon Duncan (304-294-1005), ECRR Executive Director effective 8/1/08  
 with the assistance of OSM/VISTA Kelsey Fischer

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**Funding Status:**

Federal Funding:	Total Grant:	\$558,560
	Awarded:	\$404,990
	Expended 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr:	\$12,545
	Expended thru 12/31/08:	\$98,340*

	<u>COST TO DATE</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>
* Pers/Fringe:	\$34241	\$77,600	\$43359
Travel:	\$9368	\$41,000	\$31,632
Supplies:	\$5600	\$3,000	-\$2,600
Contractual:	\$12100	\$266,177	\$254,077
Other:	\$37028	\$170,783	\$133,755
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$98340</b>	<b>\$558,560</b>	<b>\$460,220</b>

**Summary of Progress:**

**Fall 2008 Trainings: October 27-29 and November 17-19**

The total cost for these two trainings was \$60,953.94. Cost to ECRR = \$55,055.19. ACCWT (Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team) cost share was \$5898.75.

- Training had four tracks:
- 1) Beginning Water Quality Monitoring, taught by Jeff Simmons from Mount St. Mary’s University, and assisted by Tim Craddock (Department of Environmental Protection);
  - 2) Beginning Grant Writing, taught by Sonja Carlborg;
  - 3) Advanced Water Quality Monitoring, taught by Ben McCament from Ohio University;
  - 4) Advanced Organizational Development taught by Peggy Mathews.

Trainers were determined through bid process/bid documents available for review. Two General Sessions led by ACCWT were titled: a) Identifying Stakeholders, Creating a Community Engagement Plan, and Overcoming the Bumps Along the Way; and b) Volunteer Engagement and Management: Investigating the Role of the Volunteer in Watershed Organizations – Funding, Managing, and Maximizing Your volunteer Energy.

There were additional guest speakers, including: 1) Lisa Wells with the West Virginia Development Office, discussing business tax credits – a Watershed investment opportunity (this was a last minute fill-in as a result of a cancellation); 2) Karen Vuranch and Julie Adams with a presentation on the early history of coal camps; 3) Patrick Angel (OSM – Office of surface Mining), Scott Eggerud (DEP), and Jon Lawson, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy discussing the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative and use of abandoned mine lands by planting hybrid American Chestnut trees; 4) Peter Butler and Ashley Kyber with WVU’s Architectural Landscaping Program discussing the planned use of abandoned and contaminated properties; 5) Jessie Purvis, a Fishery Biologist with the National Park Service, provided a power point presentation of the New River and challenges to the habitat; 6) Eric Stockton (ARC) discussed funding opportunities; 7) George Carico and Patrick Kirby with the Brownfields Assistance Centers providing information on the use of and funding sources for reclamation of brownfields.

There were several cancellations by guest speakers due to weather during both trainings, so as a result we provided films: a) Acid Mine Drainage: Pollution to Solution – a film by The Earth Conservancy; b) Abandoned Mine Reclamation and SMCRA Title IV Reauthorization, Parts I, II, III and IV – films by WPCAMR-Western Pennsylvania Coalition for

Abandoned Mine Reclamation; c) The Big Sandy – Clean Water Begins With You, distributed by The Big Sandy RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) Area, funded by the Virginia Environmental Endowment and the EPA. Dvon Duncan provided a power point presentation at both trainings, discussing the Clean Water Act. There were more than 22 instructors and presenters, 156 trainees, and 64 watersheds represented. **See Attachment 1 for a full fall 2008 training cost breakdown.**

It should also be noted that the ECRR Board met on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday morning October 27<sup>th</sup> for a strategic planning session hosted by Peggy Mathews, working toward developing a business plan for the organization. A “SWOT” analysis is provided in **attachment 2**. All material compiled during this planning period will be formally documented and provided in the next quarterly report.

**Attachment 3** provides a state-by-state breakdown of counties represented at the two trainings. At Canaan Valley Resort there were thirty watershed groups, with thirty counties represented. Eighteen of these groups were single-county, and twelve were multi-county organizations. At Breaks Interstate Park there were 34 groups representing 32 counties. 24 of these groups were single-county and ten were multi-county. **Attachments 4, 5, and 6** are graphic representations by state.

We asked each watershed to respond to the question: “What are your top five environmental issues?” The majority of the number “1” answers fell into the AMD category; most 2s and 3s were related to coliform, bacteria, sewage, CSO, public access, volunteer recruitment, community involvement, illegal dumping, pollution or litter, environmental education, and developing partnerships with other watersheds. **See attachment 7** (two pages).

On our return from the November training, OSM/VISTA Kelsey Fischer placed a survey instrument on “Survey Monkey” asking that the 64 attending watersheds respond to the following five questions: 1) Which of these topics would you like to see covered in future trainings, ranking them one to ten; 2) Are there any other topics you would like to see that are not listed above? Feel free to include suggestions for time limits and presenters; 3) What is your primary source of financial support; 4) What is your secondary source of financial support; and 5) If there is anything else you would like to see from ECRR, or any way we can improve, please let us know. There were 59 respondents for questions one, 57 for question three, and 56 for question four. Most interesting, 66.7% of those responding to question three said government was their primary source of financial support; question four showed 26.8% receiving financial support from “other” sources, and 25% from foundations. **See attachment 8** (three pages).

#### **Actual vs. Projected Budget Estimations:**

Given actual costs in 2009, we determined that a “change of scope” was in order. The successes of our fall 2008 trainings have already gone beyond the numbers of attendees/watersheds originally projected for the entire period of the grant. While it is difficult to know what the economy will do over the next 18-24 months, we estimate that we will be able to comply with the grant requirement of six more trainings (spring and fall 2009, and spring 2010), and two





**Other Activities:**

Kelsey attended the Appalachian Community Economics conference in Abingdon, VA September 19-21, 2008, where she presented information about ECRR, and attended presentations on the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative, hydro-power, carbon credits, etc.