

## Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant Program Status Report January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009

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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, 2009 – June 30, 2009

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 thru 12/31/08:	\$98,340
	Expended Jan – June 2009:	\$72,156
	Total Expenditures:	\$170,496

	<u>COST THIS CYCLE</u>	<u>COST TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL BUDGETED</u>
Pers/Fringe:	\$20538	\$54,779	\$99,543
Travel:	\$8928	\$18,296	\$72,700
Supplies:	\$5172	\$10,772	\$32,800
Contractual:	\$16659	\$28,759	\$103,000
Other:	\$20859	\$57,887	\$170,783
TOTAL	\$72156	\$170,496	\$558,560

### Summary of Progress:

#### **Spring 2009 Trainings: May 15-17 (Pine Mountain Settlement School) and June 1-3 (National Mining Academy)**

The total cost for these two Spring 2009 trainings was \$38,982.16 – much less than Fall 2008 training which equaled \$60,953.94. Cost to ECRR = \$27,607.16, since ACCWT (Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team) insisted on reimbursing ECRR for their 35 attendees which equaled \$11,375.00 (as of this writing, reimbursement has yet to be received). As a comparison, the ACCWT Fall 2008 cost share was \$5898.75.

Training had four tracks:

- 1) Water Quality Monitoring and Developing a Watershed Based Plan  
(Western Pennsylvania Conservancy/WPC),
- 2) Grant Writing and Administration, WPC
- 3) Project Development and Reporting, WPC
- 4) Environmental Education (The Mountain Institute)

Trainers were determined through bid process/bid documents available for review. Two General Sessions were led by ACCWT titled: a) Marketing and Communicating with the Media; and b) Working with Legislative Representatives - A Watershed Best Practices Open Forum Conversation. There were additional guest speakers, including: 1) Herb Petitjean with *Brownfield in Appalachia*, 2) Randi Pokladnik: *The Effect of Buffer Zones on Lake Water Quality*, 3) Patrick Angel and Scott Eggerud with OSM, and Brad Edwards (DEP) providing an update on the *Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative* and use of abandoned mine lands by planting hybrid American Chestnut trees, *How SMCRA Works For You*, and *How WCAP Works for you*, 4) Tom Biebighauser providing a hands-on workshop on *Wetland and Stream* 5) Ralph Goolsby with the WVDO talking about ARC grant opportunities, 6) John Comerci and Traci Rowen with USDA Rural Development talking about grant/loan opportunities through their organization, and 7) Andrea Zimmer from EPA Region 4 to talk about EPA grants. After every block and general session trainees were asked to think about what they were going to “take home” from that lesson. On day 3 watershed organizations had an opportunity to sit together and write down what they were going to use from a personal, organizational, and community perspective.

There were several cancellations by guest speakers due to weather during the Pine Mountain Settlement School training in May. Congressman Nick Rahall spoke at the National Mining Academy, and assured us that the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP) language would be reinserted into the FY2010 Federal appropriation. There were 10 trainers at PMSS and 14 at NMA, 120 trainees, with 56 watersheds represented.

See **attachment 1** for a full Spring 2009 training cost breakdown.

There were 20 watershed groups and 42 trainees at PMSS, and 36 watershed groups at NMA with 78 trainees.

**Actual vs. Projected Budget Estimations:**

Budget Revision/Proposed scope change was approved in June 2009. Breakdown of how \$\$ has been used to date is **attachment 2** (multiple pages based on personnel, fringe, travel, supply, contractual, and other costs). Given the difficulty of obtaining the required \$154,000 cash match, ECRR has had conversations with EPA Project Management staff that would allow this match to be “in-kind.” Future cash requirements is estimated at:

Remaining office for 2009:	\$35,000
Office for 2010:	\$70,000
Summer 2009 Practicum:	\$30,000
Spring 2010 training:	\$60,000
Roundtable July 2010:	\$30,000
APPROXIMATE PROJECTION TOTAL:	\$225,000
SPENT TO DATE:	\$170,496
TOTAL ESTIMATED THRU DEC 2010:	\$395,496
TOTAL EPA CASH AVAILABLE:	\$404,990

**Summer 2009 Practicum:      July 6-10, Mullens Opportunity Center, Mullens WV**

This training will include Save Our Streams Certification – Level I and Level II Certification (through DEP), and Leadership Plenty for Watersheds- the same program provided for the Commission for National and Community Service (CNCS), but on a watershed theme.

**Given the successes achieved over the last five (5) trainings, ECRR has decided NOT to have a Fall 2009 training, but to focus during the next six (6) months on organizational development, and providing a training in Spring 2010 that very precisely provides the training that watershed organizations need from a knowledge-retention perspective.**