



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS

Newsletter Spring 2005 Vol. 27 No. 1

Dave Bucknam 1944 - 2004



Longtime Colorado AML Program Manager Loses Battle With Cancer

David Lee Bucknam succumbed to metastatic melanoma after 5 years of living—and living well—with the disease on November 22, 2004. Dave taught junior high history and geography for several years, worked for the Colorado Land Use Commission and then for over 24 years with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Minerals and Geology. He retired as Director of the Office of Active and Inactive Mines, and when asked what he did, he always smiled and said he “closed up old mines”. Under Dave’s leadership, Colorado’s Inactive Mine Reclamation Program and the Colorado Mine Safety and Training program were nationally recognized. In the past 12 years, Dave added to his outdoor activities by taking up high-performance driving at events put on by the Rocky Mountain Region of the Porsche Club of America, winning the Distinguished Driver Award this past year. He had also taken up sailing, often bare boating around the Caribbean.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Susan Hurlbut Bucknam, and son Alan, daughter-in-law Robyn, granddaughters Sophie and Piper; son Peter, daughter-in-law Tiffany and a new addition to the Bucknam family granddaughter Allison (born March 2005.). He is also survived by brothers Bob and John, their families and the Hurlbut clan. He was an amazing man and is sorely missed. Over 300 family, friends and colleagues attended a memorial service for Dave in December.

From staff of the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program.

“We worked with Dave for many years. But whether the time was twenty years or two, Dave gave to his working relationships the same compassion and energy that he gave to all his endeavors.

Dave managed our staff with a blend of leadership, friendship, respect, trust and encouragement. His qualities as our friend, mentor and supervisor have made our workplace a truly unique experience. We will always remember him for his competitive spirit and tireless energy to do just one more task... survey just one more mine site, go just one more mile. To all who have contacted us at and his family we want to thank you for your kindness and condolences.”

The following is an excerpt from a tribute written by Mike Kastl, Director of Oklahoma’s Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program.

By now most of you know that Dave Bucknam was a family man, an adventurer, a leader, a professional, a gentleman, an organizer, and a lover of life. I have had the great opportunity to know and work with Dave for almost 20 years. Like any new federal program, the AML Program was dynamic and required changes as it matured. Dave was elected President of the National Association of AML Programs at the annual fall meeting in Breckenridge, Colorado, in 1990. His one tenure as president was very memorable. His leadership was critical because of the “Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990” passed by Congress. This Act had a significant impact on all state and tribal AML reclamation programs. During this period, Dave navigated us through some rough waters with a firm hand at the helm. One of Dave’s AML passions was training. Dave always felt that one of the most important facets of a successful AML program was to keep staff properly trained. Dave was instrumental in working with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and state/tribal AML staff to develop a training program for both state and federal employees. Dave along with other folks developed the first AML course focused on AML project inspection. I was fortunate to teach that first AML course in Norton, Virginia, in 1991 with Dave and Alan Kraps (OSM - D.C.). You could tell immediately that Dave had that natural ability to relate to others. Dave taught by “weaving” his own past AML field experiences into the lesson for that particular day. Dave was always thinking of ways to improve the AML training program. He was also the driving force in the development of AML Design Workshops for Dangerous Openings, Dangerous Highwalls, Mine Fires, Subsidence, and Landslides. I would normally end this tribute with “May He Rest in Peace.” But, with Dave, it just doesn’t seem appropriate. Rather, when we meet again, I would like to say, “Let us climb that highest mountain, ski that fresh new fallen snow, take that ride in your favorite Porsche, and sail into that beautiful blue bay of water.”

More on Dave’s life and to post a tribute:
<http://www.bucknam.org/aboutdad.html>

Virginia Announces Plans For 2005 Annual NAAML P Conference

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

2005 NAAML P Annual Conference

September 18-21, 2005
Bristol, Virginia

MISSION STATEMENT

1. To provide a forum to address current issues, discuss common problems and share new technologies regarding abandoned mine land reclamation;
2. To foster positive and productive relationships between the states and tribes represented by the Association and the federal government;
3. To serve as an effective, unified voice when presenting the states'/tribes' common viewpoints; and
4. To coordinate, cooperate and communicate with the Interstate Compact Commission, Western Interstate Energy Board and all other organizations dedicated to wise use and restoration of our natural resources.

Officers

President:

Steve Hohmann, KY

Vice-president:

Mark Mesch, UT

Secretary/Treasurer:

Loretta Pineda, CO

The 27th Annual NAAML P Conference will be held on September 18-21, 2005 in Bristol, Virginia. The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) will host this year's conference with the assistance of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC).

A Pre-Conference Tour of AML project sites in the Southwestern Virginia coalfields is scheduled for Friday, September 15th and Saturday, the 16th for those who will be arriving early. The tour's highlights will include an overnight stay at beautiful Breaks Interstate Park on Friday, and on Saturday participants will be treated to some great country music at the famous and historical Carter Fold in Hyltons, Virginia. The Carter Fold is the home of the Carter Family who are well-known pioneers of country music. Family member June Carter Cash and husband Johnny Cash were both known internationally for their successful songwriting and performance of country music. Bristol, VA/TN is known as the "Birthplace of Country Music". Yes, the conference will have a down home country music flavor. Ya'll come.

The Conference will start on Sunday, September 18th with registration and a reception. A golf outing is also scheduled for Sunday beginning around 11 a.m. We would like to get an idea of how many people plan to play golf, so please email Richard Meade at:

richard.meade@dmme.virginia.gov.

Plans for the reception include a country/blue grass music theme complete with entertainment. Monday and Tuesday, September 19 and 20, will be occupied by Technical Sessions, Papers, and Workshops. Two Field Tours will be offered each day for conference participants along with Spouse Tours to various attractions in the area. So bring along your spouse or significant other,

we're sure they will enjoy. On Wednesday, September 21st, the Technical Sessions continue and the NAAML P Business Meeting will be held.

A CALL FOR TECHNICAL PAPERS, FOR PRESENTATION AT THE TECHNICAL SESSIONS, HAS BEEN ISSUED. THE ABSTRACTS FOR THESE PAPERS ARE DUE MAY 1, 2005. THE FINAL DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 1, 2005. Anyone who is interested in presenting a paper at the conference should contact Richard Davis at 276-523-8216 or richard.davis@dmme.virginia.gov.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Bristol, Va. for the Conference. A website:

www.dmme.virginia.gov/NAAML P/default.htm has been setup to provide further information about the Conference. The website will allow you to download registration forms, vendor/exhibitor information, agendas, etc. Links are provided for several of the tour sites, airport and travel information and just about anything you may want to know. The website will be updated throughout the coming months, including information about the Technical Sessions/Workshops schedules. If you should have any questions about the Conference please do not hesitate to contact Roger Williams, AML Services Manager at 276-523-8208.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

400 - 500 words. Articles subject to editing. Submit in e-mail or hard copy. 2 photo limit. Include author's name, title of article, captions for photos. Submit photos in TIF (preferred) or JPG format, 300 DPI, and original photo size. E-mail photos as individual files, not embedded.

Deadline for the Fall edition is November 15, 2005.

Email articles to steve.hohmann@ky.gov or mail articles to:

Steve Hohmann, Director
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands
Department for Surface Mining and Enforcement
2521 Lawrenceburg Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

For more information, call Steve Hohmann, Mark Meade or Ben Enzweiler at 502-564-2141.

Spewing Camp Branch Refuse AML Project



Refuse Dump on Spewing Camp Branch

The Spewing Camp Branch Refuse AML Project completed reclamation on a 60-acre coal refuse dump that had been abandoned since 1974. The Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) began construction work on the site in late 2002 under a contract with Hawkeye Construction Co. LLC, of Robinson, Kentucky. Hawkeye completed the majority of the reclamation with a year and the contract was closed in October 2004. The total project cost was \$3,517,367 that included the cost of the two satellite projects.



The Spewing Camp refuse dump had long been one of the worst remaining abandoned mine sites in eastern Kentucky. From 1952 to 1973 the site had received coal refuse generated by the Price coal preparation facility located on the opposite side of the mountain. Over 7 million cubic yards of refuse was placed in the pile from an aerial tram that transported the material from the coal washer, over the crest of the mountain, and dumped it. The pile is up to 165 feet deep in the middle.

After the Buffalo Creek waste dam failure in West Virginia, the Spewing Camp refuse dump received serious attention from

MSHA and the Kentucky Division of Water Resources. The agencies were concerned that the refuse could slide into Spewing Camp Branch creek and dam it up. Failure of that dam would cause catastrophic downstream flooding. Because of this concern, the creek was relocated to its present channel, farther away from the dump.

Eventually, the dump became inactive in 1973 and was formally abandoned in 1981. The site was left in an unvegetated state and began to erode. The deterioration caused coal sediment to wash into the stream clogging the channel and polluting the water all the way into the Left Fork of Beaver Creek, more than a mile away. Giant gullies over ten feet deep eroded into the sides of the refuse pile.

In the late 1980s, a company named Enerpro attempted to extract the coal from the refuse on-site by running it through a reprocessing plant. The effort ended in failure, and the Enerpro reclamation bond totaling \$296,100 was forfeited to the state in 1993. The site was again abandoned. It continued to degrade the environment and became an attractive location for illegal dumping, partying, and hazardous off-road vehicle activity.

DAML began efforts to reclaim the Spewing Camp refuse pile shortly after the Enerpro failure. However, other parties continued to express interest in reprocessing the coal waste causing DAML to indefinitely suspend reclamation plans. In 2001, it became apparent that reprocessing the waste was not economically feasible and DAML began design work for a reclamation project to reclaim the pile.

Design was completed in 2002, and construction began in spring 2003. The coal waste was graded in place, and covered with two feet of earth. The earth cover came from three sources. An area adjacent to the dump owned by Progress Land Co. was used to cover the upper reaches of the pile. The lower areas received cover from material generated at two other AML projects. The Hoods Fork and Curtis Johnson AML projects involved the

Spewing Camp Refuse Prior to Reclamation - 2002



reclamation of two landslides caused by abandoned mines. These two landslides were located within trucking distance of Spewing Camp Branch. Since both projects required DAML to locate an area to place the excavated landslide material, DAML decided to make these projects satellites of the larger refuse project. Earth material from these two sites was transported to the Spewing Camp refuse project and used for cover.

After the refuse was covered, drainage features were installed. Ditches were constructed and lined with rock to prevent erosion, and the area was reseeded. DAML employed a seed mix that contained a wildlife-friendly blend of species including clovers particularly attractive to elk.

Funding for the Spewing Camp Branch Refuse Project came from four different sources. The primary source, contributing \$2.1 million, was the Commonwealth's Federal Abandoned Mine Land Grant. Also, \$723,297 in funding from the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, made available by the federal Office of Surface Mining, was used. DAML also contributed \$406,665 from the state supplemental reclamation fund to supplement the forfeited Enerpro reclamation bond.

The completion of this project eliminated the hazards associated with one of the worst remaining AML problems in the eastern coalfields. Citizens downstream from the project will no longer see the coal waste eroding into the creek causing periodic flooding. The site is no longer an aesthetic blight and is another success attributable to the reclamation provided by the Abandoned Mine Land program.



Spewing Camp Project After Reclamation - 2004

Uraniferous Mine Reclamation

The North Dakota AML Program reclaimed the Belfield uraniumiferous lignite surface mine during the 2004 summer construction season. The Belfield AML Site is located in the southwestern portion of the state. Some of the coal deposits found on this area contained higher than normal concentrations of uranium.

The nearby volcanics were originally the host material for the uranium. As this overlying formation eroded groundwater leached the uranium from the uranium-bearing formation and transported the uranium downward and laterally through the permeable sandstone strata located above the coal bed. The uranium-bearing water percolated downward and reached the coal. The uranium remained in the coal because the carbonaceous material acted as

filters to concentrate and cause fixation of the uranium as a result of ion exchange or by the formation of organo-metallic compounds.

The Belfield mine was a surface mine where scrapers removed the overburden. Once the lignite's uraniumiferous zone was reached the uranium bearing coal was piled in the pit and burned. The burning process concentrated the uranium in the ash. The uraniumiferous ash was loaded on trucks and hauled to a processing plant in the nearby town of Belfield.

The spillage of the uranium ash in the pit resulted in higher than normal radiation levels within the mine. A scintillometer (Ludlum Meter) was utilized to conduct a radiation survey of



the site. Background count within this area is between 15 and 20 microentgens/hour. Pre-reclamation Ludlum Meter readings at the Belfield Site were between 30-300 microentgens/hour. Most of the site had readings between 40 and 70 microentgens/hour. Two small piles of contaminated material on-site had readings as high as 300 microentgens/hour.

Selective handling and disposal of the contaminated material was incorporated into the reclamation operation. The pit bottom was sealed with non-radioactive spoil material then the radioactive material was disposed of in the pit between two 200' by 100' 16 mil polyethylene pit liners. The remaining pit was filled with

non-radioactive spoil material. The project also included the elimination of 3200 feet of dangerous highwall left at the uraniumiferous strip mine. The construction contractor moved approximately 60,000 cubic yards of material to eliminate the hazards from this 14-acre site.

Post-reclamation scintillometer readings were between 20 and 30 microentgens/hour except for a small area in the east hillside where the readings were above 35 microentgens/hour. However, after topsoil was respread the average scintillometer readings were 25 microentgens/hour for the entire site.

Mark Knell, AML Division, N.D. Public Service Comm.

Ohio's AMD Treatment Projects

A doser is a water-powered machine for dispensing lime products into acid mine drainage (AMD) impacted streams. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), in cooperation with local watershed partnerships, has been working to put this technology to use in returning affected waterways to the highest possible water quality use designation.

The Jobs Hollow site is located in Perry County in South-eastern Ohio. A doser was used to treat an unnamed stream that receives constant discharge from several abandoned underground mines and is responsible for approximately 15% of the acid load in Monday Creek. The Monday Creek Restoration Project (MCRP) completed an investigation at Jobs Hollow showing that raw water in the tributary had a 2.96 pH, 225.4 mg/l acidity, 12.0 mg/l iron, 12.1 mg/l aluminum, 4.2 mg/l manganese and 529 mg/l sulfate prior to the start of the project.

Construction of an Environmental Doser International (EDI) at the Jobs Hollow Project totaled \$308,886.50 at completion. The work was performed between April and July 2004. The project partners have experimented with dolomitic kiln dust, lime kiln dust and quicklime fines (calcium oxide or CaO). Calcium oxide proved to be the most efficient in neutralizing AMD at the project site and from other sites up to seven miles downstream in Monday Creek at higher flow regimes. The MCRP is performing water sampling and maintenance of the doser and intends to experiment with the doser settings to achieve neutralization of the greatest possible length of Monday Creek. Continued monitoring will reveal whether this doser system can restore the stream biology in the treated reach.

Likewise, the Carbondale Project, located in Athens County, employed a doser system to treat AMD pollution in Hewett Fork, a principal tributary of Raccoon Creek. The Raccoon Creek Partnership identified the Carbondale mine site as the cause of 80% of the AMD pollution in Hewett Fork, producing water sampling results of 3.9 pH, 466 mg/l acidity, 117 mg/l iron and 37 mg/l aluminum. Prior to construction, which was completed in April 2004 for a total of \$401,622.04, up to 2.245 pounds per day of acidity entered Hewett Fork from the Carbondale site.

The DMRM, in cooperation with the Raccoon Creek Partnership, installed an Aquifix brand doser at the Carbondale site.

Initial field trials with LKD were less successful than anticipated due to material clogging in the feeder system during periods of high humidity. Subsequently, DMRM committed to funding a one-year trial using calcium oxide (CaO), a stronger and more expensive base. The effects on water quality were immediate and pronounced, neutralizing acidity from two other major mine drainage sites in Hewett Fork. Along the entire ten-mile length of Hewett Fork below the project site, above neutral pH and net alkalinity is being maintained.

A monitoring site at the ODNR Waterloo Wildlife Experiment Station along Hewett Fork previously had no fish and a pH consistently below 4.0. Investigations by Raccoon Creek partners and the Ohio Division of Wildlife found seven species of fish at this location in September 2004. In 2005, the partners hope to conclude a macro invertebrate study at the Carbondale site.

The Carbondale and Jobs Hollow projects are important demonstrations of committed parties applying themselves and new technology to achieve the common goal of restoring Ohio's streams which are contaminated with acid mine drainage.

Mitchell Farley
ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management

Doser Silo



Time Can't Heal Old Wounds

Charlie Miller has an interesting analogy for correcting subsidence issues caused by pre-regulation mining. "It's kind of like filling a mine with money," said Miller, assistant director of the Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation. "It's not cheap, but it's very, very necessary," he added. "It's difficult to imagine the cost to individual West Virginians without the crucial aid this program provides." The Abandoned Mine Lands program is housed within the Division of Land Restoration in the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. It employs 56 staffers from inspectors to project managers and handles everything from subsidence to mudslides, and acid mine drainage to waterlines. As vital as its purpose is and as impressive as its national awards are, it's a program existing on borrowed time.

Initially intended for a 15-year stint, AML was granted a 10-year extension in 1992. Later, it was granted another 5-year reprieve. Up for reauthorization by Congress last fall, it again survived a close call with a 9-month reprieve. Its fate is to be decided June 30. The program is funded by a fee placed on coal, currently set at 35 cents per ton for surface-mined coal, and 15 cents per ton for coal mined underground. Allocations from the AML fund are made to state and tribal agencies through the congressional budgetary process. DEP Cabinet Secretary Stephanie R. Timmermeyer recognizes the need for the AML program and hopes Congress does, too.

"Abandoned mine lands pose some of the biggest public health and safety threats West Virginia faces," Timmermeyer said. "DEP makes the most of the money it receives to reclaim the old mines and the polluted streams, and we have a long-term need for funds to abate the problems and protect our citizens." Congressman Nick Rahall agrees. He is responsible for twice reauthorizing the program and is the ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the issue. "Throughout Appalachian and coal mining regions across the country there remains a high number of abandoned mine sites which endanger

Heavy rainfall caused a five-acre abandoned coal refuse slurry dam at Neds Branch to fail sending thousands of cubic yards of slurry, coal refuse and debris into the Right Fork of Neds Branch. Approximately 12 families were trapped.

BEFORE



the public health and safety," Rahall said. "While much progress has been made in combating these threats, without new legislation the resources will not be available to complete the job."

The federal program was created in 1977 under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. States prepared proposals to receive primacy over the mining side of the program. In 1981, West Virginia submitted and received approval from the Office of Surface Mining for its State Reclamation Plan. It was then authorized to implement the AML program. A little background: Before the DEP existed, the AML program was housed in the Division of Energy, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of the Environment, the Division of Natural Resources and the DEP as a division and a department.

Don't be confused. Throughout the name changes, the AML program and mission has remained the same – to manage the reclamation of lands and waters affected by mining before 1977. The AML mission is to protect public health, safety, and property from past coal mining and enhance the environment through reclamation and restoration of land and water resources. The best way to understand the program is to take a look at a few of its success stories. Patrick Park, assistant chief of the AML program, can reel off the success stories quickly and easily.

He's been associated with the program since its inception. The first regular AML project completed nationally was in Wheeling at Benwood Portals. There was a playground area located near open mine portals with evidence that people were going inside them. The project took 6 months in 1982 and cost \$7,900. That same year, AML tackled the Peach Creek Refuse Impoundment in

AFTER



Logan County. It had been burning for 30 to 40 years. The project cost \$4.2 million, a lot of money back then, Park said.

"What was so unique about Peach Creek is that the Buffalo Creek disaster was still very fresh in people's minds, so the worries about this impoundment were justified. "The burning material had to be excavated by drag line because it was on fire. It was put in a truck, hauled to an area where it could be spread out, doused with water, and further extinguished. It was a challenge," he said.

Subsidence in Fairmont in 1983 cost the program \$2.5 million and saved several blocks of homes from serious damage. In 1986 a burning refuse pile located above the pool at Chief Logan State Park resulted in a partnership between the AML program and

the Division of Natural Resources' parks division. The burning pile was turned into a campground for the park that is still in operation. AML's part of the project cost \$1.2 million. "Those kinds of things, they are what the program is all about," Park said, adding that at that time, mine blowouts were commonplace. They'd happen behind homes, near roads, schools... anywhere.

"We've had our hands in a lot of different things to help the people of this state," he added. "I can't imagine what would have happened in many of our projects if we hadn't been able to fund them." A case in point is the Itmann Refuse Pile in Wyoming



Mine blowout beside a home.

County. Highly unstable, it was located right next to a stream. The project began in 1986 and was completed two years later. The program spent \$1.8 million to reclaim the nation's largest refuse pile at that time.

A project he calls one of the most rewarding is the Blackwater Falls Drum Station. In partnership with the wildlife division of the DNR, an acid mine drainage treatment station was put in above the falls in the state park. The project cost \$1.1 million "It provided, through the canyon, some of the best trout fishing in the Eastern United States," Park said. "As a teenager I worked as a lifeguard at the park and I didn't know why the fishery was not in use. Who would have thought I'd be involved in cleaning it up?"

The AML program provides the money to pay \$140,000 every year for operation and abatement to maintain the Blackwater treatment plant. The money comes from interest from the Acid Mine Drainage and Treatment fund, which pays for maintaining many completed projects. "Damage to water can't just have a Band-Aid fix," he explained. "There is oftentimes maintenance involved for the continual improvement of the water."

A more recent aspect of the AML program is waterlines. Citizens whose wells have been damaged or rendered unsafe from the effects of pre-regulation mining need potable water. The first

AML waterline project was completed in 1991 in Logan County and served homes, a grade school, businesses and a shopping mall. Called the Neibert-Taplin waterline, it cost the agency \$1.8 million and was a partnership project with the Logan Public Service District. "Congressman Rahall amended the law allowing waterlines to be a part of what we do," Park explained. "West Virginia was the second state to complete a waterline in the program." Residents whose lives have been made safer because of the program recognize its merits. The country has taken notice, as well, in the form of national awards for excellence in design, emergency response and reclamation.

The program boasts regional and national awards for work on Pine Creek No. 22 shaft, the Blackwater Falls State Park project, the Taylor Creek hazardous impoundment and, most recently, for work done at Neds Branch near Gilbert in Mingo County in 2003. Heavy rainfall caused a five-acre abandoned, coal refuse slurry dam to fail sending thousands of cubic yards of slurry, coal refuse and debris into the Right Fork of Neds Branch. Approximately 12 families were trapped in the hollow before the AML responders went into action. Park estimates that in top-priority AML projects, West Virginia has potentially more than \$1.06 billion in upcoming projects. "Reauthorization of the fund is so critical for the health and safety of our residents and the welfare of the environment," Park said. "The program benefits residents, our economy and tourism."

Lalena Price

Subsidence damage to a public road.



Isley Coke Ovens AML Project, Hopkins County, Kentucky

In the spring of 2001 Kentucky AML began work on a small but very polluting AML site in Western Kentucky. The site contained the pre-law remnants of a coking operation. The water



leaving the breached 15 acre coal waste pond on this site was very degraded, having a pH of 3.0, 3,700 mg/liter of total iron, and 11,000 mg /liter of sulfates. Some erosion gullies were well over 10 feet deep. There was a continuous discharge of slurry-laden water resembling crude oil. Within the slopes of the gullies, elemental yellow sulfur formed a crust of acidity waiting for the next rain to flush it into the nearest stream, Copperas Creek, and then into the Tradewater River. The sediment load as well as the toxic mine drainage had decimated several acres of bottomland hardwood forest along Copperas Creek.

This site also contained a row of brick coking ovens that are the last example of that once thriving industry in Hopkins County.



Kentucky AML decided to preserve the ovens by fencing them off. A six-foot chain-link fence was installed to deter public access and vandalism.

Bickett Farms of Owensboro, Kentucky, was awarded the reclamation project contract. Nearly 12,000 tons of agricultural lime were incorporated into the acidic areas of the project. A four acre borrow area was excavated for earth cover. The slurry was graded and capped with the lime and 18 to 24 inches of soil. Erosion control measures and drainage features were installed and the site was revegetated. The project was completed in the fall of 2001 at a total cost of \$350,000.00.



President's Message

Much has happened to report since the last edition of the newsletter. We all mourn the loss of our long time friend and colleague from Colorado, Dave Bucknam. Dave was loved and respected for his warm personal qualities in addition to the contributions he made to the Association and the AML program. We will miss him.

AML fee reauthorization remains the most important issue confronting the Association and its members. Currently, fee collection will expire on June 30, 2005, unless Congress approves the Byrd amendment to the supplemental appropriations act. Approval of the Byrd amendment will extend fee collection to September 30, 2005. The extension language is also included in the FY2006 appropriations bill now before the House. This short-term extension is welcome and is better than no extension at all. However, the Association and IMCC continue to press for a long-term extension to the program.

In that regard, Representatives Cubin and Rahall have reintroduced their reauthorization bill, HR 1600 that would extend AML fee collections to 2020 and make other changes to the program. HR 1600 is almost identical to the Cubin Rahall bill, HR 3597, introduced last session. Additionally, Senator Rockefeller has introduced S.961 that offers changes to the AML program and the Combined Benefit Fund revenue stream.

About the same time in April that HR 1600 was introduced, a small group representing governors from five states (KY, WV, WY, OH, and PA) met in Cincinnati to discuss AML reauthorization and attempt to forge a consensus on key issues. The idea was that consensus from this small group would be presented to a larger group of AML state governors, with the ultimate goal of attaining a broad-based consensus position to present to Congress.

The group of five reached a consensus position on several issues including length of fee extension, amount of fee, disposition of unappropriated balances, disposition of RAMP balance and future use of RAMP collections, and priorities. As of this writing the group is preparing to articulate this consensus position to other AML state governors through an NGA hosted briefing on May 17. Hopefully, broad support from many AML states will emphasize to Congress the need for action on AML reauthorization and give Congress solutions to some of the problems with AML reauthorization.

It is now time to submit your nominations for the annual Stan Barnard award. Please submit the nominations to me by the end of May.

The Virginia AML program will host the 2005 NAAMLPLP Annual Conference from September 18-21 in Bristol, VA. The Call for Papers is now open. You can find out more about the conference at www.dmme.virginia.gov/naamlp/default.htm or call Roger Williams at (276) 523-8208. More information about the conference can also be found in an article elsewhere in this newsletter.

We give special thanks to Joe Wehrman and the Alaska AML program for being such splendid hosts of the Winter Meeting in Anchorage. Their hospitality was wonderful and made our meeting most enjoyable.

Finally, the Association thanks Paul Ehret, our veteran representative from Indiana, for all the work he has done on our behalf over the years. Paul was a leader in the Association and, more specifically, a strong advocate for our position on AML fee reauthorization. We will miss his leadership and dynamic personality.

Steve Hohmann