

**EPCAMR Board Cooperating Organization Reports for the
EPCAMR 2nd Quarter Board Meeting**
April 20, 2006

Presidents Report

Prepared by: Michael Hewitt
Ed Wytovich

- Passed around pictures of the Audenried Treatment System. June 17th, 2006 will be the Treatment System Dedication.
- Response to former Secretary Dave Hess' e-mail about fund diversions of Growing Greener Funds
- Call from head of the NRCS in PA about possibly re-funding RAMP in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- May is Watershed Awareness Month; post your activities to the POWR Website, www.pawatersheds.org

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association:

Audenried Treatment System

- As most of you know and have seen, the Audenreid System has been up and running since Mid-December. During this time, the Schuylkill Conservation District, CCRA, and other project partners have been working on individual system components insuring that they are operating correctly. There are various things that we still need to figure out, with the major one being the siphons. O'Hara's equipment is now gone from the site since the repairs to the intake and outlet from the tanks to the ponds have been completed. The initial water quality results are as follows:

○ From the Tunnel –	4.5 pH	0 mg/l Alkalinity
○ Tank 2 (surface water) –	6.0 pH	17 mg/l Alkalinity
○ Tank 2 (outlet to ponds) –	5.5-6.0 pH	17 mg/l Alkalinity
○ Outlet to Creek -	5.0 pH	2 mg/l Aluminum (not flushing), 8 mg/l (flushing)
○ Brandonville -	5.5 pH	
○ Zion Grove (~8 mi.d.s.)-	6.5 pH	
○ Shumantown Bridge	6.5 pH (trout)	
- Held another Technical Steering Committee meeting to hammer out some specifics related to siphons, limestone, wetlands, aluminum precipitate reduction, access gates, and valve operation. The SCD plans to submit a grant to the 319 program to purchase supplies to tweak the system.
- Hosting a Mining Engineers Association of America meeting at the "Top of the 80's" to talk about the treatment system. A tour will follow.
- The CCRA Website has been having troubles; we are looking at other options to have the site available to the public again.

Columbia County Conservation District

Prepared by: Cathy Haffner, Watershed Specialist
Mary Wagner, District Manager

Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association

- First general membership meeting was February 16, 2006
- Officers have been elected and bylaws have been accepted
- Officers are: President – Bob Rush, Vice President – Kristen Vitkauskas, Secretary – Tom Spock, Treasurer – Carl Miller
- Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Growing Greener grant has been submitted for start-up monies

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (See Ed Wytovich's report for more detail)

Audenreid Treatment System

- System is currently running in a semi-manual flush mode; siphons are repaired temporarily 2 out of the 3 tanks are automatically flushing
- Discussions of mechanisms to encourage more Al to settle in the ponds and to increase the effluent water quality have occurred
- Audenreid treatment system dedication scheduled for Saturday, June 17. Open house from 12:30 to 4:00 with the dedication ceremony starting at 1:30 pm

Oneida 1

- Still in need of repair
- RETTEW estimates repair will cost around \$65,000
- \$11,000 from FEMA can be used towards repair, extension was granted till September, but that leaves over \$50,000 to make up. SCD and EPCAMR staff will be looking

Oneida 3

- Dr. Steve Rier and two undergraduate students from Bloomsburg University have been conducting studies of nutrient uptake on Tomhicken Creek above, below, and at the confluence with the tunnel. This study is in progress and results will be shared with CCRA when available.

Educational activities

- Ed attended the Keystone Coldwater Conference in State College February 26 – 28 where a poster of the Audenreid treatment system was presented.
- Ed and Tom Davidock will attend the Schuylkill River Conference on March 4. The Audenreid treatment system poster was displayed.

Fishing Creek Watershed Association

East Branch Fishing Creek/Heberly Liming

- Baseline data collection continues at the headwaters of East Branch Fishing Creek. Three more sites were recently added at the headwaters of Heberly
- Liming of 100 acres at 4 tons/acre will commence in early Spring.

Other

- Cathy has coordinated with Audubon Pennsylvania on a State Wildlife Grant to involve watershed association volunteers in Louisiana Waterthrush surveys on headwater streams. Louisiana Waterthrush have been referred to as 'feathered trout' because they are excellent indicators of stream and forest health. If the grant is awarded, volunteers will be needed. Please contact Cathy if you might be interested.

Dauphin County Conservation District

Prepared by: Andy McAllister

Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association

Bear Creek AMD Remediation Phase I:

- EPCAMR OSM Grant: Subdivision plans for the Phase I land were reviewed by County planning and Township planning and approved. Are in the process of setting up a closing date with EPCAMR/Game Commission/Medco for sometime in late April to mid-May.
- DCCD 319 Grant: Expect to receive final design plans and bid documents from Skelly and Loy on 4/14/06. Barring any problems/changes to the final design and bid documents by either PGC or DCCD, the DCCD expects to put the construction out for bid early during the 2nd Quarter, 2006 and having a pre-bid site meeting in early-mid May. In a recent conversation with Scott Bills, regional land manager for PGC, Scott said the PGC is very much looking forward to getting this project on the ground.

Bear Creek AMD Remediation Phase II:

- DCCD applied for 319/Growing Greener funding to begin constructing a passive treatment system for the lower discharges at Bear Creek after Phase I is completed. DCCD is still working with PennDOT for the placement of mitigation wetlands to serve as polishing wetlands for Phase II. A draft MOU from PennDOT for the funds to construct the wetlands is now being reviewed by the DCCD board and the County solicitor. DCCD is examining the options for Phase II land acquisition.

Other:

- DCCD board signed the AML Resolution at their April board meeting.
- Stormwater BMPs: If anyone is in Dauphin, stop by the District office to take a self-guided tour of 15 Best Management Practices including such practices as: permeable asphalt and concrete, a rain garden among others. Other Conservation Districts have taken advantage of having this demo project so close to home and have brought tour groups with municipal officials, etc to check it out. The DCCD has already hosted guided tours for Adams CD and Cumberland CD groups.
- You can go to www.dauphincd.org to check out the PDF files of the Stormwater BMP fact sheets.

Friends of the Nescopeck

Prepared by: Tim Ference

Upcoming Event:

- DCNR at Nescopeck State Park and Friends of the Nescopeck will co-sponsor a "Get Back to Nature" day on Saturday, May 13th from 10am to 3pm at Nescopeck State Park. Featured will be a wildflower walk conducted by Dr. Tim Block of the Morris Arboretum, a nature hike led by John Serrao, and a bird walk conducted by Alan Gregory. Other highlights include: Live Birds of Prey from the Carbon County EE Center; canoe demonstrations with Lehigh Valley Canoe Club and PFBC; fly fishing and fly tying by Trout Unlimited; and the PA Wood Mobile. There will be a special children's craft area with bluebird box building, AMD tie-dye t-shirts by EPCAMR, and nature sculptures.

Development:

- In the past few weeks, two developers have presented plans for a total of 2,598 residential units in proximity of the Nescopeck Creek. This is in addition to ongoing development in the same area. Although these plans might be limited by problems with sewage plant expansion and compliance with new nutrient levels, the potential impact on the Nescopeck is a concern for local watershed organizations and residents.

Wind Energy:

- A request has been made by Gamesa Energy USA to install monitoring equipment on the Nescopeck Mt. in Sugarloaf Twp. to determine the feasibility of developing a wind turbine farm. Discussions are still being conducted, but in the meantime, township supervisors have adopted an ordinance regulating the construction, operation and maintenance of wind turbines.

Hazleton River Dredge:

- Most of the current activity concerning the Hazleton river dredge proposal continues to take place in Philadelphia and New Jersey, but a confidential memo prepared by a PA DEP engineer questions the plan for monitoring wells on the site.

Ag Preservation:

- A 133-acre farm in Black Creek Twp. has been added to the Luzerne County Agricultural Preservation Program and an application for another 63-acre parcel owned by the same family is pending.

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Prepared by: Carol Kaefer – President

Bruno Najanka – Board Member

Bernice Mine Treatment System (aka Lewis Mine Site)

- Received Hedin's design for the Bernice Mining Treatment System and plan to meet on site to review the design. The goal is to get a contract ready for this summer of fall. EPCAMR will be giving \$5,486 to the watershed group for the portion of the design through a Western Pa Watershed Program Grant. DEP 319 is paying for the rest of the design work.

Schuylkill Conservation District

Prepared by: Michael Hewitt

Paul Lohin

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

- Reevesdale South Dip project is complete. The system is an oxic drain with 2 small wetland cells. This project is funded with 319 money, OSM, and Targeted Watershed Initiative funding.
- The Pine Knot study has gotten underway. SHA, SAN and Rettew Engineering flew the Hechersville Valley in a helicopter.
- Discussions were held with Reading Anthracite about doing the first phase of the Pine Forest discharge see previous report, nothing new to update.
- Plans are being developed for Phase 2 of the Belle Colliery project, Mackeysburg and Mary D.
- Blashack Coal Company will donate land to replace the Mary D. ball field (being destroyed by the treatment system).
- Belle Colliery project has been running for about a year and is down 4ft from original fill height.
- Spoke with Jim Gusek, Golder Associates, about the possibility of treating Oak Hill discharge with Electric Arc Steel Slag.
- COALS held their first cleanup in Schuylkill County.

Northumberland County Conservation District

Prepared by: Michael Hewitt

Carey Entz

Shamokin Creek Restoration Association

Site 15:

- Ready for construction

Site 23:

- Site 23 was scrapped and money was put toward a hydrology study for the Big Mountain discharges as well as adding compost to Site 42.

Other

- Anthracite Heritage Festival of Arts on May 27th, Market Street in Shamokin
- Leadership Class Tour in the Shamokin Valley stopped at the Sterling Discharge, Centralia Mine Fire, and the Co-Generation Plant.