

**EPCAMR Board Cooperating Organization Reports for the
EPCAMR 3rd Quarter Board Meeting Tentative
July 20, 2006**

Presidents Report

Prepared by: Ed Wytovich
Michael Hewitt
Tom Davidock

- Presentation to Office of Surface Mining Vistas from PA, WV, OH, VA in June at the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team Northern Regional Training.
- Quick Response at least \$350,000 allocated for Growing Greener Project Repairs Statewide. WPCAMR holds the money. Work through CD Watershed Specialists and Watershed Manager for approval.
- Audenried Blowout: It is estimated that flow ranged between ¼ million and 1 million gallons per minute. An Update from Tom Davidock reads “The Audenreid system suffered a minor, yet significant, blow during flooding episode we had at the end of June. I call this minor because the system is still functioning (I’ll estimate at a 30-50% capacity) and it appears that the damage was concentrated at the intake area. The repair, however, will not be cheap and will require some significant earth moving and construction work. You can check out some pictures of the damage on the Blog at <http://audenreid.blogspot.com> . At the intake system you’ll notice that a new opening appeared in the bank. Also, if you look at some original photos, you will be able to see that about 50-60 feet of the bank washed away. You will also see in the pictures that the discharge was running black for a few days. We are still waiting to final analysis of some water samples to see exactly what it was. As for finding the money to repair the damage, the Schuylkill Conservation District has been going through the public assistance process with FEMA. We are still waiting to have an individual meeting with them to go over the damage in more detail. This should take place in the next week or two. Rettew Associates and CCRA are assisting with this process.”

Columbia County Conservation District

Prepared by: Cathy Haffner
Mary Wagner

Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association

- Website developed – check it out!! www.rcvca.org
- Logo designed – see website
- Held first organized stream clean-up for Earth Day
- Still working on soliciting memberships and finding projects
- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Watershed Expo

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association

Audenreid Treatment System

- Dedication ceremony held June 17 – over 100 people in attendance!
- Major flood damage after severe June storms only a week later (see Ed’s Report)

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- Applying to the Emergency Response program to repair this system.

Educational Activities

- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Watershed Expo
- Will have new website: www.catawissacreek.org

Fishing Creek Watershed Association

East Branch Fishing Creek / Heberly Liming

- 62 acres completed, an additional 38 acres to be limed
- Heberly Run and its tributaries will continue to be sampled monthly

Kocher Park

- Severe flood damage to the park. The FGM structures in Fishing Creek "did their job" (USFWS), however.

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Prepared by: Michael Hewitt
Bruno Najanka

Bernice Mine Treatment System (aka Lewis Mine Site)

- Met at the site to see Hedin's site for the treatment system

B Tunnel Treatment System

- ALD blew out and needs to be repaired. PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office visited the site after the flood to take pictures and present them to FEMA. Prior to flood the Moshannon Mine Office and Wilkes-Barre Office were going to conduct another study to determine the impact of the treatment systems on the "Sock". They were hoping to increase the size of the treatment system to treat all of the flow.

Schuylkill Headwaters Association (source: SHA Newsletter Vol. 10, Iss. 11)

Prepared by: Bill Reichert, President
Paul Lohin

Post-storm Projects Update

- Minersville Wetland -- Our first completed project is working exactly as designed. During the recent floods along the West Branch of the Schuylkill, the wetland was inundated with water. High water markings indicate that the river flowed across the berm directly over top the intake structure. The water coursed through the wetlands and exited over top the outlet structure. A good portion of the berm along the Minersville side of the wetlands was not submerged. After the flood waters receded, the project needed only some minor cleanup of both the inlet and outlet structures. The system is currently working normally.
- Oak Hill Boreholes – The Oak Hill Project is simply several weirs placed into a serpentine stream channel in an effort to slow down the water long enough to allow the iron to settle out. As you can imagine, nothing was able to slow the amount of water that drained the Oak Hill area as a result of the 15" rainfall we received. The

flow from the boreholes appears to have risen approximately 2 feet above the normal outlet height. The strong force of the water was sufficient to flush a good portion of the iron that had previously settled in the retaining pools downstream into the river. Iron sediment flushing was a concern prior to this storm event and strongly emphasizes the necessity to re-visit the discharge with a different strategy for remediation. The system is currently operating as before.

- Bell Colliery – Bell worked fine through both Hurricane Ivan and the recent rains. During Ivan, the river overtopped the wetland berm, leaving debris in the wetlands, and causing some erosion along the river channel. The recent event did not top the berm and did minor erosion to the river bank. Thankfully, we had Lloyd Aungst Excavating armor the stream bank with large stones. The discharge did show indications of a really large flow with evidence that the overflow spillway worked exactly as planned. The system is currently working normally. We would like to enlarge the settling pond area.
- Otto Discharge – The system at Otto is designed to capture a portion or all of the discharge depending on the amount of flow. During the recent rains, the flow volume was more than the inlet structure could allow into the treatment system and the excess water continued down the original channel into Muddy Branch. Erosion and sediment controls put in place at the end of construction, i.e., drainage ditch, diversion swale, and vegetated stabilization, prevented any problems. The drainage system the township required us to install along the baseball field appears to have kept the ball field dry. The system is currently working normally with some overflow still occurring into the original channel.
- Newkirk Tunnel – Technically this is not one of our projects, but it is within the watershed and of concern to us. This system was inundated with coal fines during Hurricane Ivan from an upslope coal operation. The coal operators swiftly corrected that problem after Ivan. During this event, the system was again hit with sediment and coal residues but from another direction. This time the waters came from the drainage channel along Route 209. Curiously, a large amount of trash has collected inside the tunnel's bat gate as though this trash was flushed from inside the mine. This system has been challenged from the start by its very small size for the amount of flow and will need to be re-visited to develop a different strategy for remediation.
- Reevesdale – Completed in April 2006, the system is an oxic limestone drain that empties into wetland settling basins. Flows from the discharge have increased to the point that the excess flow is by-passing the system to flow through the original discharge stream channel. This feature was designed into the system and is working as planned. The system is operating normally.
- Pine Forest – Work on this project got underway one week prior to the rains. Only the rock construction entrance and some fabric sediment fence have been installed. The project will address the discharge (no oxygen, high iron, sulphur odor, and constant flow) originating from the borehole. A second discharge (high aluminum, intermittent flow) joins the drainage channel immediately outside the borehole. The second discharge will not be immediately addressed due to the aluminum loading.
- Project West of 901: Working to restore a stream to the surface in conjunction with Schuylkill Assessment Network.

- Greenberry Project - Asked EPCAMR and the Schuylkill Conservation District for a letter of support to PA DOT to support the installation of larger conveyance pipes under the road. The water floods the road from an AML Site and the conveyance pipes under the road are very much undersized.

Monitoring Stations

- Dr. Chuck Cravotta, USGS installed seven continuous gauging stations around the watershed. At this time, only the Pine Knot station has been visited. Two gauges were installed near the confluence of the discharge and the West Branch of the Schuylkill. The discharge gauge appears to be working normally. The gauge monitoring the West Branch took a direct hit from large debris flowing down with the floodwaters. The affected gauge will need to be re-installed.

Friends of the Nescopeck (source: FON July Meeting Minutes)

Prepared by: Betsy Doan
Tim Ference

- The Black Water episodes that had been reported to DEP resulted in no action by that group except to blame the Butler Township Sewer Authority, which we feel is in error. Unfortunately, SRBC is more concerned with sedimentation than with Acid Mine Drainage so there is little concern there.
- In the aftermath of the recent flood, the problem of storm water management becomes even more important. There is a sample ordinance, Act 167, which is not finalized, from DEP for municipalities. Better Management Practices, (BMP), for storm water management include, among many others, rain barrels, parking lot alternatives to asphalt paving, etc. The Nature Conservancy has a program on storm water management.
- Michael Hewitt, EPCAMR, Reported his assessment of the Nescopeck Creek after the flooding: The Gowen tunnel had eroded 30 feet back from the outlet, Black Creek cut a new course near Tank, and other photos of damage from the Nescopeck. A letter of support to EPCAMR from the Friends of the Nescopeck in their efforts to improve storm water management would be helpful. As of now many storm water basins empty themselves into old mines, which eventually empty out into a town. A good project would be to use BMP to prevent detention basins losing water into our watershed. Finding that project site may be tricky.
- Plan to begin choosing cleanup sites for the COALS Program, a cooperative plan with DEP and coal companies to clean up dump sites. Man power is needed to identify sites of Abandoned Mine Lands. Steve Bartos will be coming to investigate the sites we choose.

Luzerne Conservation District

Prepared by: Josh Longmore
Michael Hewitt

- Minewater / Stormwater problems in Avoca blowing out in peoples backyards on Grove Street and Plane Street. Geology is similar to Carbondale Area. Fingers are

pointing to the Airport with the expansion of their stormwater basins and subsidences within the basins. These problems have been remediated, but not as satisfactorily as expected. Other infiltration points have also been identified above Rte 315.

- Pocono Northeast RC&D received a grant from the Office of Surface Mining to revamp the Orchard Limestone Drain in the Northern Swatara Creek Watershed.
- Several mine subsidences in Luzerne County as flood water subsidises. Several in Schuylkill County and all over the anthracite region.

Dauphin County Conservation District

Prepared by: John Orr

Michael Hewitt

- Bear Creek Treatment System Phase 2: Site showing is over with and the bid process will begin again on Monday. \$400,000 has been secured for the building of the treatment system.
- Kerrigan Project: Tower City Lions Club and the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association met and decided to kick in some project money.

Lackawanna River Corridor Association

Prepared by: Bernie McGurl

Michael Hewitt

Flood Damage

- Yucca Flats: Reconstruction of the Lackawanna River near Forest City. The river had taken a turn into AML lands. Planning to redirect the flow back into its original channel.
- Blowout in Carbondale: Similar to problems Avoca. Bernie explained the geology and hydrology that made the problem. Ask him about the “saddle”. May have to consider this site in the Powderly Creek Project.

Watershed 2000 Projects

- Powderly Creek Project: Carbondale, PA aka the “Silt Bank Grand Canyon”. Working with the ACOE on this project. It is in the planning process.
- St. Johns Creek Project: Old Forge, PA to line and rebuild the loosing sections of the stream bed to keep the water on the surface. The project is in the planning process. It is predicted to cost \$3-4 Million by the time it is done.
- Leggett’s Creek Project: Scranton, PA is in the planning process.
- Anoxic Limestone Drain: on Ayelsworth Creek is under construction.
- Jermyn Discharge Pipe Reconstruction: pH and Iron are mild at this site. The cold water is good for the fish. Issue with sulfur odor will cause them to place a duckbill flap gate on the discharge.