

EPCAMR 1st Quarter 2007 Board Meeting

Minutes – January 25th 2007

Columbia County Conservation District Small Meeting Room

- 6:30 PM **Call to Order – Attendance:** Bruno Najanka, Mary Wagner, Josh Longmore, Tim Ference, John Orr, Cheryl Brobst, Cathy Haffner, Alana Roberts, Ryan Koch, Robert Hughes & Michael Hewitt Josh, Secretary
- Motion to Accept & Approve Minutes from October 19th, 2006** Josh, Secretary
(Cheryl, Tim & all)
- Treasurer's Report**
- Moved to accept the Treasurers Report including Business Checking Account & PA Invest Account & Sub-Accounts (Mary, Bruno & all) Cheryl, Treasurer
 - 1099's were Filed and Sent to IRS
 - Moved to Engage Kovalcheck and Kollar to complete 2006 990 Form and State Tax Exemption (~\$950) by 5/15 (Cheryl, Bruno & all)
- President's Report** (See Watershed Report Document)
- AMR Program Reports** (See highlights at the end of this Document) AMR PG Staff
- Old Business**
- Update on Luzerne CD - EPCAMR MOU Effort Josh
 - AML Campaign Update - Maps were available showing Priority 1 & 2 sites. Discussion about the possible 30% set aside for Priority 3 Features and upcoming Roundtable Panels. Robert & Mike
 - Tabled a discussion about obtaining EPCAMR embroidered shirt or jacket for Volunteers and Board Members
- New Business**
- Discussed and Signed GG Mine Pool Mapping Southern & Western Mid. Fields Grant Contract (PD060367) - \$150,000 (Cheryl, Mary & all) Robert
 - Discussed and Signed GG Hicks Creek AMR Natural Stream Channel Restor. Grant Contract (PD060048) - \$450,000 (Tim, John & all)
 - Tabled a Motion to approve purchase of Dodge Ram 1500 from LCD (\$2,800) Discussed insurance at \$712 - \$994 per year (Mary, Cheryl & all)
 - Discuss and Sign OSM Bear Creek Revision Grant Increase Application for \$30,000. Needs to be signed by President. John
 - Motioned to approve Full Page Ad. in LCD Banquet Program (\$100) (Mary, Cheryl & all) Robert
 - Discussed the Mileage Rate increase to \$.485 per mile (IRS action effective 1/1/07). Wait till the State accepts the rate, the district will then accept the rate.
 - Discussed the Wyoming Valley Watershed VISTA Work Plan (copies available). Waiting on people to apply through the VISTA Program to fill the position.
 - Motioned to approve Sponsorship of the PACD Annual Conference (\$200) (Mary, Cheryl & all) Josh

Correspondence and Information

- Correspondence, News Articles and Publicity in Manila Envelope. Orion Magazine interviewed staff and published a nice article. Robert

Grants/Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **Flood Coalition Meeting Workshop**; January 26th, PSU Hazleton, Rm. 101 Chestnut Cottage, 10-2 Robert
- **Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" Movie Night**: Feb. 24th and 25th, Nescopeck State Park Environmental Center, 6-7:30PM to register (570) 403-2006
- **Schuylkill Watershed Congress**: March 3-4th, Montgomery County Community College, West Campus in Pottstown
- **LCD Annual Banquet**: March 10th, Waterfront Banquet Facility, Wilkes-Barre, 6-10 (Tickets available 2 for \$70, 1 for \$40)
- **PAEE 2007 Conference**: No Child Left Inside, April 13-15th, Genetti Hotel, Wilkes-Barre (Robert is Keynote on 15th)

Watershed Reports (See Watershed Report Document)

All

8:30 PM

Next Meeting Date April 19th, 2007 and Adjournment

AMR Program Staff Highlights (November 2006 to January 2007)

Regional Coordinator's (RC) Highlights

- Presented as a Panel Member on Luzerne County Environmental Issues and Regional Abandoned Mine Land Issues at the 16th Annual Small Cities Conference, Wilkes-Barre, sponsored by the Joint Urban Studies Center; 125 attendees
- Guest Speaker at the first-annual PA DEP COALS Summit on "Citizen Engagement" that was held at Luzerne County Community College to talk about the Luzerne Conservation District's AML Program and EPCAMR's role in assisting communities to cleanup abandoned mine illegal dump sites; 120 attendees
- Participated in 2 COALS Cleanup Projects: Hicks Creek Watershed AML Cleanup in Exeter Borough, Aaron Szwast, Karen Szwast, LCCC Environmental Club Students, Boy Scouts, and Wyoming Area and Seton Catholic High School Students; 450 tires were collected and 6.5 Tons of trash were removed from 2 sites, with 50 volunteers participating and the Avondale Mine Disaster and along the abandoned Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western RR grade in Plymouth Township; Removed nearly 60 tires and 1.5 Ton of debris from the sites with over 30 community volunteers participating
- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted 2 Education & Outreach Watershed Tours: PA DCNR's Community Connections, Watershed Forum Program, throughout the Wyoming Valley with 8 teachers from 8 school districts in Luzerne County, and 40 students and 24 Hazleton-area home schoolers and nearly a dozen parents to the Audenreid AMD Remediation Site and the Green Mountain Tunnel
- Completed an ASAP Enrollment Process for EPCAMR with the Office of Surface Mining to migrate into their new mandatory online accounting and electronic file transfer payment system for all of their grants
- Prepared 3 letters of support for grants that were submitted by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) [1] and the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region (EMARR) [2]
- Submitted a PA DEP BAMR AMD-06 Grant proposal with Chris Gillis, Eco-Tech LLC. to produce a bench scale innovative treatment system remediate abandoned mine drainage and recover iron oxide from the Old Forge Borehole, Lackawanna County
- EPCAMR received 3 Growing Greener Grant Awards: Hicks Creek Stream Restoration, Mine Pool GIS for the Southern and Western Middle Anthracite Region and the AMR Program Support (LCD).

Robert Hughes,

Full Monthly Reports for all staff are available online for your review

Watershed Outreach Coordinator's (WOC) Highlights

- Started a Surface Water Infiltration Points GIS Database which covers most of the Eastern Middle and Northern Anthracite Coal Fields. Continued to add Mine Pools to the EPCAMR Mine Pool GIS Layer including the Lackawanna Valley and Bernice Mine Basin in Sullivan County.
- Completed the Nescopeck Creek Watershed Restoration Assessment Plan which shows site specific information and maps for each AML Site and overall statistics for the watershed. Copies are available through Friends of the Nescopeck. Began a similar report for Solomon Creek, Luzerne County.
- EPCAMR Staff developed an estimated budget for 2 partnership EPA Grant Proposals submitted by the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable (ECRR) and Trout Unlimited (TU) that would allow our Program to assist with conducting additional PASSING GO Organizational Development and Capacity Building Workshops for community groups
- Printed 3 GIS Maps for schools, municipalities and partnering groups. Updated the PA AMD AML GIS CD, now called RAMLIS, to v.6.3 with 2004 Color Infrared Aerial photos, 2005 Color Aerial Photos and Political boundaries for all of PA live from PASDA.

Michael Hewitt