

EPCAMR 2011 1st Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – February 17th

EPCAMR Office / Earth Conservancy Building, Ashley, PA

- 6:00PM **Call to Order:** Bernie McGurl, Al Mabus, Cheryl Brobst, Bruno Najaka, M. Irvil Kear, Paul Lohin, Mary Wagner, Jeff McNelly, Tim Ference, Christine Haldeman, Pete Haentjens, Tom Clark, Robert Hughes, Michael Hewitt & Wren Dugan Bernie
- Minutes from Last Mgt. (Nov. 18th):** Moved to accept & approve (*Irvil, Mary & All*) Cheryl
- Treasurer's Report**
- Moved to file Checking & PA Invest Account Balances for audit (*Tim, Mary & All*) Cheryl
- AMR Program Reports** (See highlights at the end of this Document) Staff
- Committee Reports** (Personnel, Budget, Strategic Planning & Dinner/Fundraiser)
- Dinner/Fundraiser – outcome of meeting: August 4th at Genetti's Inn, Hazleton. Sit-down Dinner will be in \$20-28 price range, Cash bar at 5:30 with "toast" from Breaker Brewing, Miners Lunch Pails incorporated into center pieces (not to be taken home). Will ask Dave Hess to MC. Respective Comm. Chairs
 - Budget – will work on FY2011-2012 budget with EPCAMR staff by annual mtg.
 - Strategic Planning – to write up plan from notes
 - Personnel – to review Secretary/Clerical Position Job duties
- Old Business**
- Moved to Choose Dave Hess as MC for Dinner Fundraiser Bernie
- New Business**
- Moved to approve a **No Cost** Part Time Secretary/Clerical position from Employment & Retention Network (EARN) (*Paul, Irvil & All*) Bernie
 - Moved to approve Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Application (*Mary, Irvil & All*)
 - Moved to approve Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy Mine Pool Mapping for the Northern and Southern Coal Fields Contract with SRBC (*Paul, Bruno & All*)
 - Motion to approve an agreement with Jeddo-Highland Coal Company to prepare a Hydro-geological Report on the Jeddo Highland #5 Mine Pool with the caveat that we seek legal advice on the contract especially pertaining to ownership of public vs. private data (*Mary, Irvil & All – Paul Abstains*)
 - Discussion on EPCAMR preparing QHU plans, specifically for the Catawissa Creek Watershed. In general, the board agreed that it is something EPCAMR staff have the capabilities to do, but it is above and beyond the regular base funding scope of work. Therefore EPCAMR staff may act as contractors to perform the service. Ed
 - Discussion on EPCAMR preparing AMD/AML statistics broken down by US Congressional Districts (19 in PA). EPCAMR prepared these statistics by PA House and Senate Districts, but there is a need for an upcoming campaign. Statistics based on 2010 numbers for Congressman Holden's District were completed which took 4 hours. Will take approximately 36-72 hours to complete this task, which not something EPCAMR Staff can give up due to current workload. Without funding, this task cannot be considered a priority. EPCAMR will seek out a GIS student / intern to complete this work. Jeff suggested combining the numbers from senate districts if the boundaries line up properly.

Correspondence and Information

- New DRAFT Website design by BRF Designs Inc. Mike
- New EPCAMR Store and tie to Pay Pal (online orders)
- Thank You from Joe Pizarchik for supporting the OSM/VISTA teams Robert
- Terra Cycle Program: Recycling and “Upcycling” the formerly Un-recyclable Mike

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **Eastern Coal Region Roundtable State of the Region Meeting:** Pipestem State Park, WV - March 21-23, 2011 Robert
- **EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser:** Genetti’s Inn in Hazleton - August 4, 2011 5:30 – 9:00 www.epcamr.org
- **PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference:** Genetti’s Inn in Hazleton - August 4-6, 2011 www.treatminewater.com
- **ARIPPA Award:** Application will be available soon (early summer), currently in development by EPCAMR and WPCAMR staff

Watershed Reports

All

8:30PM **Next Meeting:** *Tentatively* May 19th @ 5:30pm and Adjournment

AMR Program Staff 3rd Quarter Highlights (November 2010 – January 2011)

Executive Director and General Staff Highlights

- Followed up and commented on the "The Keeley Decision." The outcome could require that anyone who installs and/or operates an AMD treatment system (passive or active) and creates a point source discharge to obtain a NPDES permit. On January 9, 2009, the federal court in Clarksburg, WV ruled in the case of WV Highlands Conservancy and WV Rivers Coalition vs. Randy Huffman.
- EPCAMR staff continued to work with university students from Marywood to complete Ad Campaign posters and from Wilkes to design a solar kiln to dry AMD.
- Connected a volunteer sampler with a group in need of some monthly AMD sampling in the Weatherly Area.
- EPCAMR staff continued to assist a Harvard graduate student, Jessica Wolf, on her thesis project tying renewable energy to abandoned mine sites.
- Completed an ACCT AmeriCorps National Program Application that will place members in direct service positions with community/watershed improvement organizations (Separate from the VISTA program). Participated in a phone survey on the OSM/VISTA ACCWT Program.
- Prepared 3 Letters of Invitation to local area school districts to participate in EPCAMR's "Tree Trout & AMD" Aquatic Resources Outdoor Education Program funded by the PA FBC. Applied for a collectors permit. Developed materials and a schedule for the program in late Spring.
- Coordinated a roadside cleanup effort on Dundee Road, Hanover Twp., between the Nanticoke Creek and the Dundee AMD outfall with 4 Wilkes University student volunteers.
- Began working on an EITC Application through the PA DCED to become an approved Educational Improvement Organization. Funding varies, but could be enough for a part time staff member. Developed a partnership with EDSI to receive a part-time clerical/administrative position at no cost to EPCAMR.
- Renewed paperwork to stay affiliated with the United Way for volunteers and provided a recent grad, Pascalle Banaszek of Bear Creek with some community service volunteer hours.
- Constructed an Iron Oxide Resource Recovery Work Station and Processing Center in the Supply Area of the Earth Conservancy Building.
- EPCAMR staff submitted 4 grant proposals for \$167K total, aided 2 partner groups write grants for \$9K total and 5 letters of support for a partners. Prepared 3 professional service quotes for EPCAMR partners. Spoke with 1 industry rep about potential for mine water reuse. Received word that 1 anonymous donation was approved for \$10K and 3 partner grants were approved with EPCAMR as a subcontractor for \$14K total.
- EPCAMR staff attended and setup at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, an EPCAMR Board Meeting, an Anthracite Remediation Strategy meeting, NPS Liaison Committee Resource Extraction Sub-Committee conference call, and hosted a Huber Breaker tour and a Renewable Energy on AML Mtg..

Robert Hughes

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

Program Manager's Highlights

- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes, 2 in-stream sites, 1 discharge & 1 treatment system.
- Distributed 3 RAMLIS CDs, Completed 1 set of AML statistics for a US Congressional District. Revised 15 maps for an EPCAMR partner and tested hardware for the OSM TIPS Pgm.
- Working with former EPCAMR Intern, Shawn Jones, on a Capstone Research project with Keystone College to monitor and map mine pools in the Wyoming Valley.
- Manipulated 1 dataset, checked 1 dataset for consistency, created 1 set of structure contours and continued to write Part 3 of the report for the Mine Pool Mapping Pgm.
- Updated www.orangewaternetnetwork.org, www.epcamr.org and EPCAMR facebook page. Previewed the [new EPCAMR website](#) being built by BRF Designs. Registered 2 domains for an EPCAMR members requesting webhosting service.

Michael Hewitt

OSM/VISTA Watershed Community Development Coordinator' Highlights:

- Compiled contact information list of Luzerne Intermediate Unit Science Coordinators.
- Trained in biological organism (macro-invertebrate) stream monitoring at Espy Run.
- Updated www.huberbreaker.org to include a new order form. Learned to use Cincopa account to organize, copyright protect and host photos. Completed new brochure for the HBPS.
- Approached and secured Breaker Brewing Co. from Plains as an adult beverage sponsor for 15th Anniversary Fundraising dinner.
- Attended webinar given by ALLARM, participated in AmeriCorps VISTA MLK Day Event at Wilkes-Barre Blvd. Townhomes, a FON Mtg., a HBPS Mtg. & a Delaware Estuary Science Environmental Summit.

Wren Dugan