

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
EPCAMR Executive Director
101 S. Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org
www.orangewaternetwork.org

April 2011 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Promoted our Mine Pool Mapping Project in partnership with the SRBC to the Anthracite History Yahoo Listserv that reaches many people who are interested in EPCAMR's line of work; Forwarded to them our press release
- Attended the Earth Day Event at the Wilkes-Barre RiverFront Parks, Nesbitt Park and conducted a Macro-Mayhem Identification and Tree Trout Education Program for over 1100 students for nearly 6 hours; Students identified macros and then proceeded to view them in preserved vials that EPCAMR has and then went on to create their own bugs that were hung on trees along the Susquehanna River for the day
- Promoted LRCA's RiverFest 2011 on our website
- Submitted EPCAMR's Earth Day presenter contract to the Bear Creek Nature Camp for our May 1st AMD Tie Dye & Education and Outreach Program
- Created a press release for the Solomons Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan \$6000 grant EPCAMR was awarded by PA Council of Trout Unlimited, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA DCNR, and the Foundation for PA Watersheds
- Tom Parke, an educator with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is working on a program called the *Susquehanna Watershed Education Program* based out of CBF's Pennsylvania office in Harrisburg; This Summer, they are putting together a teacher course called the '**Susquehanna Confluence**'; As part of the week long study, they'd like to see an impaired AMD stream and some restoration that is going on as well, sometime in July 2011 and sought EPCAMR's assistance
- Jed Lezak, a History Department Chair, from Towanda High School in Bradford County is interested in getting up close for a tour of the Breaker by either EPCAMR or HBPS members
- Provided Diane Best, from the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29 a cost estimate upon her request, of time for the EPCAMR Staff to conduct an 8 hr program for teachers in Schuylkill County on AMD under an EPA Grant that they are considering submitting
- Prepped for the Tree Trout AMD and Macro ID Outdoor Environmental Education Program in partnership with Wilkes-Barre Area, PA Fish & Boat Commission, PPL, ACCT, and Kistler Elementary's entire 5th grade, over 150 students in the Solomons Creek Watershed and a few others heavily impacted by AMD; Provided everyone of our partners with an invitation to attend the field days and also a comprehensive agenda of activities for both days

- Provided Matt Hughes, newspaper correspondent for the Times-Leader our press release on the Mine Pool Mapping Project in the hopes that he might want to do a cover story on our efforts; EPCAMR Executive Director has set up two very important meetings with Senator John Blake (Lackawanna County) and Senator John Yudichak (Luzerne County) to inform them of our Mine Pool Mapping efforts and will be requesting assistance with publicity and outreach to our local municipalities
- Attended the MRAB Meeting in Harrisburg as the appointed alternate voting member to update the Advisory Board on our upcoming Conference, Dinner, and work on the mine pool mapping efforts throughout Eastern PA

Technical Assistance

- Received EarthVision 8.1 update installation information from OSM TIPS and passed it along to Mike for proper installation
- Corresponded with Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Borough to give him some technical insight as to the results of our collective water quality sampling in the Hazle Creek Watershed over the last year and what recommendations should be done next to get the areas in a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan that will be accepted by PA DEP BAMR for future funding considerations; Worked with Jim to get in touch with Amy Wolfe-Eastern PA Trout Unlimited Abandoned Mine Land Program Director to apply for some additional biological monitoring technical assistance for Hazle Creek through Weatherly Borough and our partners; Completed the Trout Unlimited AMD free Technical Assistance Grant with Jim and submitted it to Amy for consideration
- Forwarded to Mike information to send to our regional watershed groups information from GuideStar on the IRS's intent to revoke non-profit statuses of groups that aren't in compliance with their reporting if they haven't filed in the last 3 years
- Provided technical assistance to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society by assisting with the preparation of a signage planning grant to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, Inc. for the Huber Miners' Memorial Park, Ashley
- Provided some technical assistance to Borton-Lawson Engineering on a Bridge Replacement Project along Breaker Road, Buttonwood area, Hanover Twp. on alternative disposal methods of iron oxide and waste culm from around the old bridge that is being replaced in that area along Solomons Creek
- Provided SRBC's Dave Heicher, Chair for the SRBC Water Quality Advisory Committee that EPCAMR sits on, with an idea for a future project proposal together with EPCAMR; One of them being a more in-depth study of the surface water impoundments that are related to abandoned mine lands (in essence, water filled stripping pits) that have the potential to become storage water reservoirs for the SRBC during low flow augmentation if we can find out the chemistry and volumes of the pits and if there are any outlet potential to receiving stream; Tom Clarke and EPCAMR have discussed this idea several months ago but are very focused on the Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy at this time

- Coordinated and attended a meeting in Wilkes-Barre with Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association President and PA DEP BAMR, along with Mike and the Executive Director to discuss what needs to be done to get the Catawissa Creek qualified for a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan; EPCAMR Staff to prepare a quote for professional services to CCRA to complete the work necessary to get the Catawissa Creek a QHUP

Project Coordination

- Worked with Jim Post, the Purchasing Director from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to order Cabela's waders and the laminating pouches for our Environmental Education Program with Kistler and Dan Flood Elementary; Had Bill Frantz, who is making the Macro Mayhem Banners for the teachers send his invoice to Mike Corcoran at the W-B Area School District
- Discussed setting up a meeting with Kent Fuller-Pagnotti Enterprises to obtain several of the mining related maps needed to work on the Jeddo-Highlands #5 Hydrogeological Investigation Report
- Working with Janice Leiby, Horticulture Teacher from the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Tech Center to put together dates for her students to come to the Huber property owned by the HBPS to scrape and paint the fence and also to clean up trash and remove small woody shrubs and saplings from along the fence line in May; Working on getting price quotes for paint and primer with Ray Clarke-HBPS
- Updated Branden Diehl-Foundation for PA Watersheds on our Mine Pool Mapping Project and informed him that we have received additional funding from the SRBC to continue to do the work, so we in effect, retracted our Letter of Intent for this past round of funding from the Foundation to give others an opportunity to submit
- Informed by our Project Officer for the Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design and Construction Project that we can request an extension until June 30, 2012; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a letter of extension and provided an update on the project and an explanation for why some aspects of the project are moving slower than anticipated related to permit issues and submitted it to Dennis Palladino, who forwarded it to the Grants Center in Harrisburg
- Provided Mike with the PA DEP BAMR Quarterly Reclamation Reports Update from the MRAB for him to update RAMLIS
- Working with Kyle Robinson, Owner/Printer, ECO SHIRT SHOP-Earth Friendly Screen Printing out of Virginia, who is interested in buying our iron oxide and creating AMD Tie Dyes that he will market and sell for us and provide us with a share of his profits; Directed him to our EPCAMR Store in order for him to purchase some of our iron oxide for testing of his shirt lines
- Conducted water quality and biological sampling on Espy Run
- Conducted the monthly Lackawanna Watershed Borehole Monitoring with Mike
- Went along on a AML Shaft inspection with Davey Williamson-PA DEP BAMR who was willing to show us some other borehole monitoring locations in the Southern Wyoming Valley

Conference Coordination

- Wren, our OSM/VISTA was able to work with Jacklin Steege, OSM/VISTA with Eckley Miners Village to get a discount for Conference attendees who might want to take in some anthracite history of the Coal Region if they come in early on Thursday or want to stop on their way out of town on Saturday afternoon; www.eckleyminersvillagemuseum.com
- Received a Datashed Workshop Abstract from Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc. that will be a part of the Conference
- Informed the Conference Tour Planning Committee that EPCAMR will be approaching James Pagnotti to obtain permission to officially access the Jeddo Mine Tunnel AMD site; EPCAMR will provide Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. with our landowner access request form
- The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, Inc. is going to be donated the lunch pails, buckets, and Davey Lamps for our centerpieces at this year's Inaugural EPCAMR Dinner
- Clean Creek Products is working on developing a fired clay fish magnet recycled out of iron oxide or manganese oxide for our 15th Anniversary Event
- SRBC provided a **\$1000** donation towards the printing costs of 13th Annual Conference
- Asked Peggy Outon, is she had any Registration Program Booklet(s) from the Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management at Robert Morris University that we could put out for our Conference Attendees this year and was informed that they are not ready to print yet for the upcoming Fall Semester Classes
- Received a request for information from SlopeGrowth, a company in Colorado, who specializes in Erosion & Sedimentation Control and has worked on abandoned mine reclamation projects that would like to possibly attend our 13th Annual PA AMR Conference
- Worked with Kate Totinio, Kurt Bauman, and Branden Diehl to work out their Grant Workshop Presentations and Workshops for the 13th Annual PA AMR Conference
- Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR submitted an abstract for the Conference on the Proposed Historical Conowingo Tunnel that would have taken all of our AMD directly to the Chesapeake Bay for either treatment or discharge
- Conducted an PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to move the agenda along and get everyone up to speed on the Conference and to review our Budget
- Jenna Fehr-OSM/VISTA-Volunteerism Coordinator, submitted an abstract for the Conference on *Effective Strategies for Engaging Rural Volunteers in AML Reclamation*
- Julia Mercer, Technical Specialist-Environmental Markets, Carmeuse Lime & Stone submitted an abstract for a technical study to promote the efficient use of calcium reagents for the AMR industry rather than a "commercial" from a supplier

- Sandra McSurdy, Physical Scientist-Strategic Center for Natural Gas & Oil-US Dept. of Energy – NETL submitted an abstract on *Utilizing Acid Mine Drainage for Marcellus Shale Activities in Pennsylvania*
- Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited Eastern PA Abandoned Mine Program also submitted an abstract to promote the free AMD Technical Assistance Grant they offer across the State
- EPCAMR Executive Director was able to talk with OSM Director Joe Pizarchik, who has officially confirmed that he will be a luncheon speaker at our Conference on August 5th , 2011
- Attended the Brownfields 2011 Conference in Philadelphia with Jackie Dickman, Earth Conservancy, and eventually ended up on a discussion roundtable panel about mine scarred lands following her presentation; Visited the Exhibit Area at the PA Convention Center to make some contacts and to network for a few hours with exhibitors and consultants

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks; Meeting with Tim Ference to sign checks while Bernie was on vacation
- Completed a survey from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce about how we feel about our benefits of our membership with the W-B COC and submitted them along to Ruth Corcoran, an Ambassador of the Chamber and leading business woman and friend of mine
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for March 2011; Reviewed Mike and Wren's monthly Board Reports
- Continued working on the development of EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary and 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser Event brochure with EPCAMR Staff
- Mike and the EPCAMR Executive Director attended THE CONFERENCE...an annual Non-Profit Conference Workshop at the Woodlands Inn, Wilkes-Barre to split up and attend as many presentations as we could on seeking more opportunities for other types of funding, marketing, networking, and website and social media enhancements to promote our cause
- Obtained a quote from Frontier Fast..an internet/telephone company that was at THE CONFERENCE Workshop and found it to be more expensive than what we are currently getting from our current carrier
- EPCAMR Staff in partnership with WPCAMR have once again partnered up with ARIPPA to each receive \$5000 for grants to be distributed to groups in the EPCAMR/WPCAMR Region that are supportive of ARIPPA's work and are currently working on AMD/AML type projects across the State; The application process for 2011 has been completed and is posted on both websites; Followed up with last year's grant awardees to make sure that they have fulfilled their reporting requirements if they want to be eligible for consideration this year
- Submitted EPCAMR's General Liability Insurance and Membership Fee to POWR for 2011-2012