

# EPCAMR



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April 2013 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Completed PA EnviroThon Background Check information and paperwork and submitted it to Lorelle Steach, PA EnviroThon Program Coordinator; EPCAMR Staff updated its Criminal Background Checks and PA Child Abuse Clearances; Cleared our purchases for the program with the PA EnviroThon who gave us the go ahead to invoice them following the purchases of the totes, baking soda, and rubber bands for the AMD Tie Dye Program on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May; Asked WPCAMR to participate in the Program and Anne Daymut, Watershed Specialist is working out her schedule to attend; Made arrangements to stay at R. John Dawes' Farm Cabin in Huntingdon, PA the evening before the event; Forwarded the directions for the AMD Tie Dye Activity to Lorelle Steach for her to print for the day of the event- <http://epcamr.org/storage/IronOxideTieDyeActivity.pdf>
- EPCAMR Staff pulled together our display materials, handouts, and videos for our "Community Organization of the Night" sponsorship by the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Railriders AAA Team, at Montage Mountain, Moosic, PA; EPCAMR was the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional non-profit featured on Opening Week of the newly formed AAA Team of the New York Yankees; Threw out the first pitch; Interviewed by the local radio station broadcasting the play-by play for the game; and had a chance to meet with Railriders Community Relations Staff that allowed us to get an on-field interview in front of several thousand baseball fans on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 that provided us with a once in a lifetime outreach and awareness opportunity
- Attended the *GIS Discovery Day* at King's College, Luzerne County, to speak with undergraduate students about the importance of GIS in our field of interest, its applications for abandoned mine land reclamation, AMD remediation, and watershed restoration; Talked with students about the value of internships and volunteering with community groups like EPCAMR
- Scheduled an Earth Fest 2013 Educational Program in with the Bear Creek Community Charter School, Luzerne County for September 13, 2013 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row at the request of their Environmental Initiatives Coordinator, Paula Longo;
- Received a North Branch Land Trust *AML Resolution* formerly adopted by their Board on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013; [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org)

- Created and designed a webpage on our EPCAMR website for our newly accepted Fishing Tackle Loaner Program in partnership with the PA Fish & Boat Commission; <http://epcamr.org/home/current-initiatives/epcamr-fishing-tackle-loaner-program-with-pfbc/>; Submitted a Work Rules acknowledgement form to the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Regional Outreach & Education Coordinator, Walt Dietz
- Target Field Trip Grants 2012-2013 are open to school districts; More than 5,000 schools received \$700 field trip grant; Target funds programs that allow students and teachers to learn in all kinds of settings. They fund field trips that connect students' classroom curriculum to out of school experiences; Found another Project Learning Tree grant as well; Forwarded to the W-B Area School District Science Coordinator Mike Corcoran
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District's County EnviroThon to serve as a Volunteer Judge and Scorer for the Soils Section of the competition at the request of Aaron Stredny, Watershed Specialist
- Submitted a self-nomination to the US EPA, National Environmental Education Advisory Council in response to the vacancy on the Council and the need for a regional non-profit environmental organization to be represented on it that has a deep connection to Environmental Education (EE); EPCAMR is heavily involved in EE and is represented on the PAEE Advisory Board, member of PAEE, PAEE Non-Formal Environmental Education Certification Working Group, PA EE Non-Formal Environmental Education Advisory Board, and is certified in Project WET, WILD, PLT, and KARE Educational Programs; EPCAMR is working with PAEE through the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) to provide the Non-Formal EE Certification Program in PA
- Worked with Mel to send out EPCAMR Volunteer Registration Forms (VRFs) to all of our interested Community Volunteers; Reviewed his initial compilation database of EPCAMR volunteers from [www.VolunteerMatch.org](http://www.VolunteerMatch.org) and checked for any edits, misspellings in names, corrections, and cross-referencing with any existing information EPCAMR may have on the volunteers
- EPCAMR created a News Post on an upcoming Marcellus Seminar for teachers and educational professionals at Mansfield University at the request of a colleague of ours, Jen Demchalk, who is a Professor at Mansfield and environmental professional in the field of AMD Remediation; Jen will be providing EPCAMR with a free copy of the toolkit for the Program once it is developed for our assistance in helping to get the word out to teachers in the region; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/marcellus-seminar-for-teachers-educational-professionals-at-mansfield-university/>
- Signed EPCAMR on to a Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) letters supporting and thanking Congressman Matt Cartwright's sponsorship of HR 1175, the Focused Reduction of Effluence and Stormwater runoff through Hyrdofracking Environmental Regulation Act (FRESHER) of 2013, which will go a long way to protect clean water in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA) had introduced legislation attempting to close a Clean Water Act loophole relating to oil and gas development as a means to decrease

stormwater runoff. The Clean Water Act was amended in 1987 to extend authority over the permitting of industrial stormwater, but oil and gas development was exempted; This was further expanded in the 2005 Energy Policy Act; Cong. Cartwright's legislation –the FRESHER Act of 2013 – would amend the Clean Water Act to fix the 1987 exemption; The legislation would also require a study by the Secretary of the Interior on stormwater runoff from oil and gas operations the Secretary determines may be contaminated by stormwater runoff.; With a growing number of oil and gas wells in the region, the legislation would help to lessen the impacts of stormwater and sediment to our surface waters in PA

- EPCAMR worked within Congressman Cartwright's District on many environmental projects that relate to clean water and wildlife habitat and stream improvement projects within NE and NC PA; EPCAMR sent a letter to encourage and see if Congressman Cartwright sign on to the "Dear Colleague Letter" attached upon his review to keep the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program alive and funded; EPCAMR works with our state PA Game Commission on many projects that are related to endangered species, such as the Indiana Brown Bats around abandoned mine site closures, planting warm and cool season grasses on abandoned mine sites to increase songbird habitats and wildlife on the reclaimed sites, and on other projects with the PA Fish & Boat Commission related to habitat and stream improvement projects in trout streams across NE and NC PA
- Bear Creek Community Charter School CEO, Jim Smith, provided EPCAMR with a support letter for our submission to the PA DCED EITC Program for 2013
- EPCAMR signed on to a letter regarding appropriations with the Choose Clean Water Coalition; As a reminder, the President's 2014 Budget came out on April 10 and that jumpstarted the appropriations process in Congress; Engaging in the appropriations process helps to fulfill one of the CCWC 2013 policy priorities – "promoting federal investment for Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection efforts and defending against attempts in Congress or the Administration to weaken or eliminate them"; Most of the Interior letter requests the President's Budget number for 2014; In the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program section we are asking for particular language to prevent EPA from making discretionary cuts to two important grant programs run by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF); Also, the letter is requesting a Clean Water State Revolving Fund amount that is greater than the President's budget request
- Corresponded with Mike Bedrin-PA DEP NE Regional Director about a potential environmental issue of concern in the Lackawanna River Watershed; EPCAMR was informed by Bernie McGurl, Executive Director of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) and who currently serving as President of EPCAMR that the American Rock Salt Company has acquired land along the Lackawanna River for a Rock Salt Storage & Distribution Center; EPCAMR was informed that they have applied to the Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for a permit to discharge stormwater retention ponds into the River; Stormwater generated from these facilities can contain dangerously high sodium levels which severely impacts aquatic life; We would be very interested in hearing how this company is planning on reducing the potential for the increased sodium levels that are commonly associated with rock salt; EPCAMR had respectfully requested that the PA DEP schedule a public hearing on this environmental

concern within the watershed; EPCAMR and LRCA, along with the SRBC have been working diligently and methodically to continue to move forward with addressing the AMD issues in the Lower Lackawanna River and adding an additional water quality issue to the mix could put us even further behind than what we are with addressing the AMD issues in the Lackawanna River watershed; The Lackawanna River stands to lose a lot of fish and a lot of water

## Technical Assistance

- Meeting with Ken Eden of RT Environmental Services at the Office to see if we could assist in providing him with information, resources, reports, on the Huber Breaker, Ashley
- Partnered with SRI to conduct and complete a regional ***Datashed Workshop*** hosted by the EPCAMR Staff on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013; **12** users attended the workshop
- Attended the ***QuickBooks Made Easy! for Non-Profits Training Workshop*** at RMU, Pittsburgh, PA hosted by the Bayer Center for Non-Profits, in downtown Pittsburgh
- Provided a Ms. Diane Weiss, a private landowner, located just outside and upstream of our Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project with information about our project and provided her with contact information and grant information that she may want to have Exeter Borough consider in the next round of applications for her property which is also experiencing streambank damage due to recent flooding over the years, but was not in our original scope of work because the abandoned mine land problem area was below her property and the damage was done well after we had already began working on our project; Made the call to her at the request of Senator Yudichak's Office and followed up with his office on our conversations with Ms. Weiss
- BF Environmental provided EPCAMR with a few boxes of free copies of their new booklet on private wells and drinking water quality in PA; This is an educational guide; <http://www.water-research.net/privatewellownerbooklet.htm>
- Provided assistance to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society by contacting PA DOT regarding the placement of directional signage in the right-of-way setback distance along PA DOT roads or highways to determine the placement of two signs directing people to the Huber Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley
- Informed Rusty Bennett, from the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association that EPCAMR does have some funding available for small watershed restoration projects through our ***ARIPPA Mini-Grant AML/AMR Awards Program*** open until June 30, 2013 and that we encourage them to apply; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/arippa-aml-reclamation-funding-opportunity-through-epcamr/>

## Project Coordination

- EPCAMR was awarded an **\$8,000 PA American Water Company Grant** to implement several stream restoration and trout habitat improvement projects in the Solomon Creek Watershed, Luzerne County, PA located within their service area; Provided Susan Turcmanovich, Manager-Communication & Corporate Responsibility with EPCAMR's W-9 Form and provided her with a brief summary of the project for PAWC's Press Release
- Worked on adjustments to the **SMCRA Lewis Mine Rehabilitation AMD Treatment System Project** agreement application worksheets, task and deliverable worksheets, budget forms, and goals and accomplishments forms and submitted them to our Project Officer, Mario Carello, and the PA DEP Grants Center, Harrisburg before receiving the final grant contract agreement; Coordinated with Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental, one of primary contractors in the upcoming project and Eric Rosengrant-PA DEP Moshannon DMO Inspector on obtaining the necessary water quality and quantity information for the initial submission paperwork
- Coordinated with the Hicks Creek Watershed Association, Exeter Borough, and all partners involved with the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project**; Requested that the Borough Engineer ask the Borough if they would be the applicant on the Chapter 105 Joint Permit Application as opposed to EPCAMR to eliminate the need to pay the permit fees since the municipality is exempt from the fees; The permit could be transferred to EPCAMR for a transfer fee that could be reimbursed by EPCAMR to the Borough, otherwise EPCAMR will be paying an unanticipated \$1750 in administrative filing fees that will have to come out of the Construction budget line item to cover those costs; Submitted the E & S Plan for Administrative Review to the Luzerne Conservation District; PA DEP BAMR Project Advisor Dennis Palladino sent an extension request letter down to the Grants Center for a 1 year extension and is awaiting a response
- EPCAMR was awarded 1 of 8 **Year 2 Waterboxx Research Project** Grant Awards from the Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT) for **\$2000** to continue monitoring the seedlings planted at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park and to plant an additional 40 seedlings in the coming year ahead in 2013; EPCAMR believes that our abandoned mine land site is unique and the detailed monitoring that we are continuing to conduct in addition to the information that ACCT is collecting will prove useful down the road and an additional planting of 20 more Waterboxxes along a streamside riparian corridor in the Solomon Creek watershed will prove to be valuable to the ACCT and Groassis
- EPCAMR Staff downloaded pressure transducer water quality data from the Old Forge Borehole for the **Susquehanna River Basin Commission's Mine Pool Monitoring Project** in the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valleys; Provided Tom Clark with a map of the Good Spring Mine Pools in the Southern Fields
- Meeting with Charlie Jones, First National Bank, who has a son that is becoming an Eagle Scout with *the Boy Scouts of America, Troop #154*, Kingston, PA, who partner with the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and needed a community service project to work on; EPCAMR has come up with a project that would allow his son to prepare and plant 20 of our 40 seedlings on the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park site in the Summer 2013

- LRCA Executive Director, Bernie McGurl has given EPCAMR permission to place the entire **Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Restoration and Assessment Plan** (LLR-WRAP) on our website for public release; Previously, we have had only the Executive Summary posted online; Trying to schedule a meeting with Senator John Yudichak and Lisa Baker
- EPCAMR is continuing to work with a Wet Processor, Daniel Quiroga, from Southern California to provide him with several pounds of our iron oxide for a clothing line that he's working on for small boutiques in his area that are unique and are interested in the recycled nature of our iron oxide pigment and the color line it produces with garments that he is testing

## Conference Coordination

- Participated in the April 2013 PA AMR Conference Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming 15th Anniversary State-wide Conference in State College; Confirmed Jon Moyer as a speaker on the topic of utilizing Hydrogen Peroxide for AMD Treatment; Received another abstract submission from Collin Lennox and Malcolm Crittenden, with Ecolands, LLC, on "Iron and Manganese Reclamation using BioHaven® Wetland Reactors, Results from 2012" and forwarded it to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee for review and acceptance; PACD submitted an abstract to be presented by Robert Maiden-Executive Director and Terry Fisher-PENNVEST Program Application Developer on "PACD's Technical Assistance to Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups on AMD Projects & Future Funding Opportunities through PENNVEST"; Forwarded Tom Clark's Abstract to review the "Interactive Web-based AMD Data Portal" to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; Contacted the Civil Engineering Lodge at PSU to work out Pre-Conference details; Sought a former presenter, Matt Hughes, Staff Correspondent, from a local paper company, to present again on "Media Relations and the Importance of Developing Them to Support your Cause"; Discussed having a topic on Poison Ivy/Oak at the Conference; Worked with Glenn Florence, PA DEP to arrange our ACH Vendor ID and SAP # electronic payment for the **\$5000** towards the PA AMR Conference Gold Level Sponsorship by the PA DEP; PACD is also sponsoring the Conference at the Bronze Level at **\$1000** (**\$500** in in-kind PR services); SRBC is also going to sponsor the Pre-Conference Workshop at **\$500**
- A photographer-Peter Stern walked into EPCAMR's door who is an aviator by hobby who has flown the Coal Region photographing PA Coal from the Air using aerial photography and has a presentation to go along with it; He is very interested in presenting at the State-wide AMR Conference after we had talked to him; <http://www.psartwork.net/peter-stern-aerial-photography>; [http://www.tai.edu/uploads/assets/230810\\_112109\\_SternEssay.pdf](http://www.tai.edu/uploads/assets/230810_112109_SternEssay.pdf) (Talk about a great personal story that is uplifting....here's one); and [http://www.misericordia.edu/misericordia\\_pg\\_sub.cfm?sub\\_page\\_id=4347&subcat\\_id=108](http://www.misericordia.edu/misericordia_pg_sub.cfm?sub_page_id=4347&subcat_id=108)
- EPCAMR Staff promoted with a press release on our website and FaceBook on the **ACT! PA Watershed Conference** and then attended the Conference with the Foundation for PA Watersheds on April 6<sup>th</sup> in State College, PA at the Nittany Lion Inn; EPCAMR set up our projectors and laptops to loan to the Committee to keep the costs of the Conference down; Sat in on several presentations

- Provided Chester Kulesa, Anthracite Heritage Museum, with EPCAMR's title of the talk that will be given at the Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Anthracite Heritage Conference entitled, "3D Modeling and Mapping of the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields and the Underground Mine Pools beneath the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys", Robert E. Hughes, Executive Director-Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)" from 11:15-12:00pm; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/anthracite-heritage-museum-presents-the-3rd-anthracite-heritage-conference/>

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Completed the March EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- EPCAMR Staff met with Cheryl Brobst, EPCAMR Treasurer to continue to review financial information, budgets, EPCAMR's grant tracking Excel Worksheets, and QuickBooks Upgrade 2013, which Staff is teaching itself at the moment; Proposed recommending to the Finance Committee producing our financial reports in alternative ways for the upcoming Board Meetings; Cheryl requested that EPCAMR assist the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) by scanning past historical documents, meeting minutes, notes, financial records to a digital format with the assistance of our Community Service Volunteers
- EPCAMR received our PA Sales Tax Exemption approval and renewal after previously submitted the rather lengthy paperwork to the PA Dept. of Revenue; Renewal is good thru 2018
- Worked on QuickBooks 2013 Reconciliations and creating new sub-accounts, classes, vendors, and database management information for EPCAMR
- Signed up as a Community Partner Non-Profit Organization of the South Valley Chamber of Commerce, located in Nanticoke, PA
- Received our tax exemption card number from one of our vendors, Barnes & Noble.com; EPCAMR Executive Director will be working with assigning a volunteer to assist us with obtaining tax exempt cards and numbers from all of our historical vendors that are in our QuickBooks Vendor database as a new Volunteer Administrative Job
- Met with George Kauffman, Executive Director, for the Pocono NE Resource Conservation & Development Council to reconnect with the regional organization and see if there were ways that we can once again partner together on projects; Discussed C-SAW TAG and suggested that the Pocono NE RC& DC promote the C-SAW at our upcoming State-wide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation in August; Offered them a free Exhibitor registration spot
- Renewed EPCAMR's registration for the U.S. federal government's System for Award Management(SAM)
- Forwarded Blue Cross of NEPA's Benefits Bulletin Spring 2013 Newsletter to Mike
- Signed up for Grovo, a free web-based video training lessons website on all types of social media; <http://www.grovo.com/>