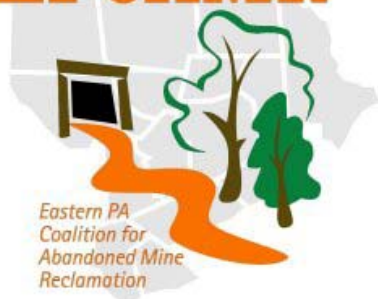


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation April 2006 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- EPCAMR Staff conducted a watershed tour, a GIS workshop, a PA AMLIS GIS presentation and 2 cleanups
- Submitted a grant, produced 2 watershed maps and conducted a water sampling training
- Continued to update www.orangewaternetwork.org
- Attended the Hicks Creek Watershed Meeting, Audenried Technical Committee Meeting, the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting, and the Luzerne County Envirothon

April 1st – 8th

- Prepared EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator (WOC) March monthly board report.
- Caught up on work items for the Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Conference Planning committee, including selection of the Atherton Hotel as the meeting location.
- Replied to an e-mail from Ed Wytovich, EPCAMR President who was contacted by the new American Rivers Representative for Pennsylvania, Sara Dueling. Provided Sara with a lot of simplified background information on AMD and AML Issues as she was orienting herself to it for the first time.
- Evaluation of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program WOC position by Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Manager and AML Program Regional Coordinator.
- EPCAMR staff coordinated an AMD/AML tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley with Diane Madl, Nescopeck State Park and about 55 school students from Luzerne County School Districts (LIU 18).
- Followed up on a Call from Dave Ross, UGI, to go over the Hunlock Creek Co-Gen Study. The results showed that there are about 200 Million Tons of culm available within a 30 Mile Radius of the proposed power station, not including culm produced by the active industry. He mentioned that this amount would keep a co-generation plant busy for a long time.
- EPCAMR Program Staff traveled to Lock Haven to present the PA AMLIS GIS Database to the Clinton County Commissioners and gain their support for the AML Trust Fund Reauthorization. A reporter was in attendance from the Lock Haven Express to cover the event.
- Met with Hicks Creek Watershed Association (HCWA) members and LCD Staff to talk over the Hicks Creek Growing Greener Grant budget and close it out.
- Trained EPCAMR VISTA and EPCAMR Intern on how to test an AMD Stream using a modified Watershed Snapshot Curriculum. The tests included chemical, physical and biological parameters as well as stream habitat and corridor evaluation. Produced certificates to signify that they completed the Mine Drainage Field Monitoring and Stream Assessment Training.

April 9th – 15th

- Posted all EPCAMR Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org then sent a reminder to EPCAMR Board Members about these uploads and upcoming quarterly meeting. Also updated the West Branch Symposium Page and added articles to the NewsFlash.
- Looked over and edited workshop descriptions for the AMD Conference proposed by EPCAMR VISTA and AMD Conference Planning Committee Member, Ann Dymut before they were placed on a poll and voted on by the entire group.
- Forwarded a “Call for Action” Watershed Funding Issues packet from former DEP Secretary Dave Hess to all EPCAMR Region Watershed Groups and Conservation Districts
- Updated the EPCAMR Region Watershed Group List in both Excel and Outlook with the list from PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) Website and address changes that had been collected in the past year.
- Prepared a CD of the PA AMLIS GIS Database Version 6 and sent it to Jim Watson, Clinton County GIS Department. He in turn provided EPCAMR with county parcel data, aerial photos and a road layers for Clinton County.
- Received a report from Luzerne County which contained flow and chemical water data for AMD Discharges to Solomon’s Creek. Used this information in AMD Treat to predict the cost and configurations of both passive and active treatment of the mine drains.
- Finished up employee self evaluation and met with LCD District Manager
- Began writing a grant for the Anthracite AMD Publication to the Fund for Wild Nature. Gathered new quotes to publish the book from several local publishers.
- Aided EPCAMR Staff as they tie dyed more Got AMD T-shirts and took pictures of the event to post on the website.
- Attended the Audenreid Treatment System Technical Steering Committee meeting to discuss tweaks to the treatment system to improve water quality to the Catawissa Creek. The Schuylkill Conservation District will be submitting a 319 grant to fund these improvements.

April 16th – 22nd

- Began to update the EPCAMR Board of Trustees list as the 2006 Membership Renewals began rolling in from conservation districts and watershed groups.
- Prepared the Agenda, the Watershed Reports, the staff highlights for the EPCAMR Board Meeting and posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org. Sent a meeting reminder to the EPCAMR Board about the upcoming board meeting.
- Printed a Nescopeck Creek Watershed Map for Diane Madl, DCNR Nescopeck State Park, for her Community Connections Program. EPCAMR has been a part of this program for the past 3 years.
- Printed a Hicks Creek Watershed Map for Karen Szwest, Hicks Creek Watershed Association.
- Helped EPCAMR GIS Technician with printing problems related to a very complex stormwater and AML map for Old Forge Borough.
- EPCAMR Staff held a GIS Workshop at the Wilkes-Barre City Municipal Building.
- Updated the GIS Database with several new layers from PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), PA Game Commission, U. S. Geologic Survey (USGS) which were all housed on PASDA.
- EPCAMR Staff attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting in Bloomsburg.
- Submitted the grant for the Anthracite AMD Publication to the Fund for Wild Nature.
- Participated in the Smith’s Pond Road Cleanup with the Rest of the staff at the LCD Office for Earth Day.
- Served as a team leader for one of the teams at the Gardner Creek Cleanup, this years Wyoming Valley Watershed Association sponsored cleanup.

April 23rd – 30th

- Updated the List of Layers in the GIS Database which is now up to ~34 GB of data. Posted this list on the GIS Page on www.orangewaternetnetwork.org.
- Sent EPCAMR Regional Watershed Awareness Month Activities gleaned from the watershed reports to Dave Hess, Former DEP Secretary and now Editor of the Pa Environmental Digest.
- EPCAMR Program Staff traveled to State College to tour the Atherton Hotel and determine whether it will accommodate the 2006 Statewide AMD Conference.
- EPCAMR Staff aided the LCD Staff at the Luzerne County Envirothon.
- Explored the possibility of adding a sub domain of www.ccra.orangewaternetnetwork.org to www.orangewaternetnetwork.org to host the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association Website. It is possible, but due to space limitations on our web server it may not be the best solution to their web hosting dilemma. Suggested several cost effective alternatives to the group.
- Gathered some background for and began to plan an AMD/AML Watershed Tour around the Hazleton Area for Diane Madl of DCNR Nescopeck State Park and Hazleton Area High School gifted classes.