

EPCAMR



ROBERT E. HUGHES, EPCAMR REGIONAL COORDINATOR
MONTHLY BOARD REPORT
APRIL 2006

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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Worked with EPCAMR Program Staff to complete a condensed Annual Report on EPCAMR Programs and Projects at the request of Josh Longmore-LCD District Manager
- Followed up with the Office of Surface Mining Internship Program Coordinator Mary Kay Gonzalez on EPCAMR's anticipated Summer Watershed Intern, Devon Rother's **\$1250** stipend and expense funds that will be provided to support her position beginning on May 15, 2006; Devon is a local college student and native from the Dallas area who attended LCCC and is currently attending Delaware Valley College to obtain her BS in Environmental Science; She had been an unpaid EPCAMR volunteer for several years; She has nearly 5 years Art experience with Sue Hand, local artist from the Dallas area, who will hopefully be partnering with the LCD and the EPCAMR Program once again this Summer on a unique and one-of-a-kind Anthracite Art Exhibit Project and Art Workshops using our AMD pigment for yet another positive medium; OSM has approved of her qualifications and she had been interviewed for the position in the Fall 2005 anxiously waiting for the Summer 2006 to arrive
- Completed Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Continuing Education Office paperwork received from Ina Lubin and Janet Rosenbaum to qualify as a Continuing Education Instructor for a first-time offered, Family Fun Day! Wyoming Valley AMD Watershed Tour Program set for Saturday, July 15th from 10-12 noon, entitled "Conserving Our Resources" that has been included in their 2006 PSU W-B Summer Youth Program Book at (www.wb.psu.edu/ce/)
- Submitted an EPCAMR Program News Release to the local papers on an upcoming GIS Workshop for the municipalities surrounding the City of Wilkes-Barre in the Wyoming Valley that are impacted by AMD/AML; Josh Longmore-LCD District Manager will also be attending and has a spot on the Program Agenda to promote other District Programs, Grant Opportunities, and Technical Assistance available to municipalities; City of Wilkes-Barre's Planning & Development Department is hosting the Workshop at City Hall on April 19th, 2006 from 9:30am-12:30; The Times-Leader ran a plug for the Workshop (<http://www.timesleader.com/mld/timesleader/14285385.htm>); The Citizens Voice ran one also the Sunday before the Workshop
- Created and delivered Spring Clean up Invitation postcards to invite residents and youth alike to participate and take part in one of the 2006 Great PA Cleanup Projects being coordinated by the Luzerne Conservation District and EPCAMR Program Staff on April 17th, 2006 from 9am-12noon, along a heavily littered, wooded area that runs along South Welles Street, in the Heights Section of Wilkes-Barre; A special request was made for our assistance and involvement by Sister Miriam Stadulias, from the John B. McGlynn Learning Center, located in the Wilkes-Barre Boulevard Townhomes; These same youth have been targeted for an EPCAMR and LCD supported Environmental Outdoor Education Program proposed for the Summer 2006 through the Summer 2007 through a recently submitted **\$5000** PA Fish & Boat Commission Grant and are youth who received nearly a dozen computers through our Computer Recycling Program in the Fall of 2005; **34** youth participated
- Prepared and submitted a letter to Chuck Rogers-PA DEP Waste Management informing the PA DEP NE Region of our interest in participating in the COALS Initiative in Luzerne County; 4 Sites have been pre-selected by EPCAMR

- Worked with Karen Szwast-2006 Wyoming Valley RiverFest Coordinator for the PEC NE Office on getting the Plymouth Township Canal Park location secured for the June 17, 2006 Canoe Trip and Exhibits along the banks of the Susquehanna River; EPCAMR Program and LCD will set up exhibits and have outdoor environmental education activities for adults and youth alike as we have in years past in partnership with the Plymouth Township Planning Commission and Plymouth Township Local Governmental Officials
- Talked with Andrew Tush-SRA International Inc.-who is working as a consultant for CAN DO, Inc., on the Cranberry Creek Corridor Restoration Development Project, located in Hazelton; Talked with Nicole Clarke, SRA International Inc. about some opportunities to link EPCAMR with the Cranberry Creek Redevelopment Project; As part of the federal support to the project, SRA International are being funded by the Appalachian Region Commission in Washington, DC to develop a funding and technical assistance plan for the Cranberry Creek project that will identify the combination of federal, state, and private funding programs that could be used in redeveloping and reclaiming the site; Briefly talked about EPCAMR's potential involvement in the future of the project, including non-traditional community development, reclamation grants, and OSM/VISTA options; See Fact Sheet attached to Board Report
- Confirmed May 30th as a date to conduct an AMD watershed field tour with 55 5th grade elementary students of the Wyoming Valley and portions of the lower Toby's Creek Watershed with Angela Bestwick-Elementary School Teacher in the Dallas Area School District
- Worked on securing some potential overnight accommodations for the Appalachian Coal Country National Watershed Team members that will be coming to Northeastern PA in June 2006 for a 4 day Training; EPCAMR Program and the Luzerne Conservation District will be playing host to 25 OSM/VISTAs from a tri-state area for the week because of our work in Northeastern PA
- EPCAMR Program Staff assisted the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition members, PA DEP NE Region, Plains Township, Laflin Borough, and the PEC NE Office co-coordinate and participate in the 2006 Streamside AML Cleanup on Gardner's Creek for Earth Day on April 22, 2006 in the pouring down rain
- Continued to participate in the planning discussions for the 2007 PAEE Conference that will be at the Ramada Inn, W-B
- Conducted an AMD Watershed Tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley in partnership with PA DCNR's Community Connections Annual Program with 8 school districts from the Wyoming Valley; Nearly 55 students participated in the tour
- Attended the Luzerne County Commissioner's Meeting and the Luzerne Conservation District Board Meeting to seek a resolution in support of the AML Reauthorization
- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted the City of Wilkes-Barre NFWF GIS Workshop along with the Luzerne Conservation District Manager present to promote all District Programs
- Luzerne Conservation District Staff and EPCAMR Program Staff conducted a roadside cleanup on a tributary to Harvey's Creek that runs parallel to Smiths Pond Road in Jackson Township and picked up nearly 30 tires and 15 bags of trash
- EPCAMR Program Environmental Education Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator met with the Principal and 6 teachers from the Hanover Area Elementary School District to review the upcoming "Digging Up the Wyoming Valley" Fossil Environmental Education Program at the Luzerne Conservation District scheduled for the 16 & 23 of May; 150 2nd grade students will be tromping around the District Grounds in the coming month utilizing the Fossil Box and District Nature Trail for the first time this year
- Completed and submitted a **\$2500** grant to the Penguins/United Way to provide additional materials and expenses that will compliment the PA Fish & Boat Commission Grant to conduct the AMD Watershed Tours/Fishing and NPS Outdoor Education Experience to nearly 250 low-income housing youth in the Wyoming Valley
- Assisted with the Luzerne Conservation District's Annual Enviro-Thon Competition at Moon Lake Park, Plymouth Township and conducted an Outreach Presentation to 6 advisors who are teachers within the Luzerne County School Districts

- Prepared a Letter of Support and Acknowledgement for Luzerne County's application to PA DEP to look at an AMD Remediation Strategy for the Solomon's Creek Boreholes in South Wilkes-Barre and requested that the Luzerne Conservation District's EPCAMR Program be involved as the project moves forward

WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2006

- Tallied the results of a recently conducted poll our 2006 AMR Conference Planning Committee which resulted in a 3 way tie for a Keynote Environmental Speaker, a Musician(s)/Band for an evening show, and a Networking Session the evening before the 2006 Back to Basics AMR Conference scheduled for August 24-26th, 2006 at the Atherton Hotel, State College, PA; A 2 way tie for an AMD Tie Dye Workshop and support for distributing AMD iron oxide recycled chalk to participants as a welcome "token memory" and as way to remind our audience of the potential uses for the iron oxide coming from PA AMD were also considered the most likely draws to the Conference, aside from the Program Content, Speakers, and Presentations
- EPCAMR Program Staff will be participating once again in the Schuylkill County Bear Creek Festival on May 21st, 2006 from 9am-2pm at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds and Shadle Environmental Education Center, Summit Station, PA; An AMD Tie Dye T-shirt Workshop & Exhibit to make shirts and sell the EPCAMR "Got AMD? Tie Dyes to assist us in our Outreach efforts will be conducted; The EPCAMR Chalk Block and pieces of iron oxide chalk will also be on display designed with the help of our EE Intern Pam Kattner over the Winter, in conjunction with an area Vo-Tech Machine Shop Class; A chalk board will even be set up so that we can play EPCAMR's version of "Watershed Hangman" with the kids using words that relate only to AMD or Watershed Restoration and Abandoned Mine Reclamation; The Schuylkill County Conservation District will be purchasing T-shirts for the event while the EPCAMR Program Staff will supply the iron oxide, the materials, totes, plastic baggies, clothes pins and hangars, and of course, the staffing needing to conduct the workshop; We'll have some of our AMD Avengers Activity/Coloring books for sale as well
- The EPCAMR Program Staff made a GIS Presentation, along with Josh First-member of the PA AML Campaign, to the Clinton County Commissioner's and the Clinton County GIS Mapping Department Director-Jim Watson, on the EPCAMR/LCD AMLIS GIS Mapping Tool and thanked them for passing the AML Trust Fund Reauthorization Resolution; EPCAMR Program Staff were interviewed for a news article in the Lock Haven Express
- Renewed EPCAMR's free membership as an Associate Member non-profit organization FOR 2006 with the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA); Sent along an inquiry to Diane Garvey, Garvey Resources, Inc. and Dr. Bill Toffey, with the Philadelphia Water Department about working on developing a Biosolids Education Curriculum to be distributed to schools in the EPCAMR Region; The EPCAMR Program Staff have not heard much about the development of such a curriculum from the industry and was wondering if we could be supportive in assisting with the development and distribution of such a curriculum in partnership with some of the folks in MABA; The EPCAMR Program Staff are constantly trying to get school students and teachers out to the reclamation and Biosolids application sites in places like Schuylkill County, but we don't have any teaching aides that aren't technical reports or research papers
- Discussed with Bruce Golden-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator about the possibilities and willingness of the EPCAMR Program to add any additional geographic layers and database files to the EPCAMR/LCD Server system
- Researched some potential keynote speakers for the 2006 Back to Basics AMR Conference in August 2006;
 - Barbara Freese-COAL: A Human History
 - Christine Goldbeck-Editor- www.MineCountry.com ; www.christinegoldbeck.com ; My Coal Country: People Defining Their Place
 - Jeff Goodell, Author, "Big Coal: The Dirty Secret behind America's Energy Future"; He's a contributing editor at Rolling Stone and a frequent contributor to the New York Times Magazine; He is the author of the New York Times bestseller Our Story: 77 Hours That Tested Our Friendship and Our Faith, based on the terrifying hours nine Quecreek miners spent trapped underground; he appeared on Oprah to talk with the miners about their experience.
 - Mark Brodzik-Documentarian- www.anthracitemovie.com ; *HARD COAL: Last of the Bootleg Miners*
 - Chris Dellaemea, Beckley, W.Va.; www.coalcampusa.com
 - Harvard Ayers, Editor, An Appalachian Tragedy: *Air Pollution and Tree Death in the Eastern Forests of North America*; www.appvoices.org
- Annual Evaluation Meetings were conducted by Josh Longmore and EPCAMR Regional Coordinator of both myself and of the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator

WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2006

- Provided additional comments and revisions to Valerie and Anne Daymut's Workshop Survey Questions to provide further clarification on topics to include for the 2006 AMR Back to Basics Conference
- EPCAMR Program was informed that we would receive 2 complimentary DVD editions of "Water" An Endangered Resource" documentary from WPSU's Jerry Sawyer-Editor and Cinematographer who worked with the EPCAMR Program Staff in 2005 to see various AMD sights, AML features, AMD treatment systems, and to conduct an interview on how we can move forward in PA on reclaiming additional mine lands and restoring streams impacted by AMD
- Rob Lavelle and EPCAMR Regional Coordinator met with Bernie McGurl-LRCA Executive Director to acquire GIS data for Old Forge Borough as well as the Lackawanna River and St. John's Creek Watersheds; Discussed recent partnership extension to the Old Forge Borough and their Old Forge Borough Planning Commission to work on future Stream Restoration Projects and other AML-related efforts in their municipality thanks to the outcomes of the NFWF GIS Workshop back in March 2006; Developed a potential projects list and recommendations for Old Forge Borough for discussions at a future meeting in May 2006; Field Meeting with Joe Fero-Emergency Management Director for Old Forge Borough who took us on a tour of the Ripple Street section of Old Forge south of the Old Forge Borehole
- Rob Lavelle and EPCAMR Regional Coordinator conducted a AML GIS Presentation to nearly 30 high school students from the Mountain View High School, Susquehanna County; Focused in on the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed and on the abandoned bluestone quarries in Susquehanna County

WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2006

- Attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting in Bloomsburg
- Commented on the production of the PA RC &DC's Annual Report and who the document should be directed to and why

THROUGH APRIL 30, 2006

- Talked with Jim Davis, Davis Trophy to design a plaque that the EPCAMR Program and Luzerne Conservation District will present to the West Side Tech Machine Shop Class of 2006 for their innovative design of the EPCAMR Chalk Block that will now allow us to use the iron oxide for yet another recoverable and recyclable product, chalk; The plaque will be awarded to the students and their teacher Mr. Galanda at an upcoming West Side Tech School Board Meeting in May
- Prepared a Letter of Support at the request of Brian Hill-President of PEC, for PEC's proposal to the PA Department of Agriculture to continue with Phase II of a project that will utilize chicken manure compost as a soil amendment on abandoned mine lands in the Southern Coal Fields