

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program April 2008 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Produced 4 maps, and 2 field data gathering tools for EPCAMR partners
- Continued to work on RAMLIS version 8.0
- Aided several groups in the region (including EPCAMR) with Growing Greener proposals
- Presented at a Community Connections Watershed Forum the Shamokin Area Stakeholders Mtg., attended the EPCAMR 2nd Qtr. Board Mtg., conducted a 1 day field investigation and 1 interactive EE event
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- Presented with EPCAMR VISTA at Lackawanna State Park's Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum at the Old Forge Borehole. Chris Gillis, Eco Tech LLC also presented his ideas for treatment of the borehole.
- Posted AMR Program Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent them to 319 Program. Posted the Mine Pool Mapping 1st Quarter 2008 Report to the "Talking Timbers" section of the homepage. Also purchase the program Easy PHP Calendar for the EPCAMR homepage and began to integrate it into the website. Added EPCAMR meetings and special events to the calendar.
- Sent 2008 Membership Renewals along with a reminder for the upcoming board meeting to the EPCAMR Board of Trustees and Associate Members.
- Searched for a strategic planning facilitator via the web. Found that the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL), whom we applied to under a grant but were not accepted, was the best possible source as strategic planning facilitators. Spoke with ICL staff to start the process of acquiring their services. After a conference call with them, we learned of a grant through the William Penn Foundation that would match EPCAMR's contribution. EPCAMR staff also received a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds toward the effort.
- Provided minutes and watershed reports for and took minutes at the 2nd Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting at the Columbia County Conservation District.
- EPCAMR Staff participated in the Luzerne County Envirothon by grading tests and monitoring students at the stations.
- EPCAMR Staff participated in an Earth Day Festival at Wilkes-Barre's Riverfront Parks and conducted two separate educational programs to students from throughout Luzerne County; an AMD Tie-Dye Quilt activity and an AMD themed tile mosaic art piece representing the Wyoming Valley from an aerial perspective.

- Printed the Hicks Creek Wetlands Delineation Report, and then created a final PDF for electronic storage and reproduction.

Technical Assistance:

- EPCAMR staff met with PA DEP BAMR in Wilkes-Barre to talk about the feasibility of putting in for a grant to treat the Susquehanna #7 Discharge in Nanticoke, PA.
- Attempted to research the source of the Knox Mining Disaster layer to form metadata for the file. The layer was sent to me via McCormick and Taylor as a part of the Luzerne / Lackawanna Bi County Comprehensive Plan. Found a report on the Mining Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) website recalling the disaster, but nothing from the “Anthracite Institute”.
- Prepared for and presented at a meeting of Shamokin Area stakeholders and residents as called by Congressman Carney. The focus was on the SMCRA Reauthorization and how residents would like to see this money spent.
- Created a coverage map for the Anthracite Heritage & Watershed Partnership (AH&WP) VISTA area for the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT). Also drew suggested boundaries for the Upper Lehigh Watershed VISTA and submitted them to Dale Freudenberger, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D & L NHC). EPCAMR Staff also met with Dale to assist him with preparing a Growing Greener Grant to support AH&WP.
- Updated the location of the Shamokin Creek Site 48 Treatment System on the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) database via a form to Dave Hamilton.
- Worked on an update to the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) version 8 GIS tool.
- Conducted field sampling with EPCAMR VISTA at the Grand Tunnel Plainsville Borehole and Susquehanna #7 discharges. Took chemical parameters and flow at each site to calculate loadings.
- Created a tool to store data collected in the field, called “Pocket_Chem” and another to calculate loadings, called “Calc_Flow,” on the HP iPAQ Handheld GPS Unit.
- Upgraded the handheld GPS Unit’s BIOS and WiFi settings to better connect to desktop computers when transferring field data.
- Transferred files from the old external GIS drive connected to the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) server as the “Z Drive” to the new 500 GB external drive which also houses the OSM Mine Map Folios.
- Began looking at the new OSM mine map folios to see what they contained and what help they may be with the mine pool mapping project.
- Encountered problems after upgrading to ArcGIS Desktop 9.2 service pack 5 on both my laptop and desktop computers. This caused 2 problems for which I had to contact ESRI’s technical support. Neither of the problems were able to be resolved after several hours. Currently I have downgraded back to service pack 4 and the problems have not been reoccurring. ESRI’s support staff firmly believes that it was not a problem with the service pack 5 upgrade, but a coincidence.
- EPCAMR Staff attended a field meeting with SRBC Staff and Bob Hedin of Hedin Environmental to investigate the Susquehanna #7 discharge for a possible AMD Treatment design project under this round of Growing Greener.
- EPCAMR Staff met with Mike Korb, PA DEP BAMR, to discuss recruiting alternatives and possibilities for upcoming OSM VISTAs, particularly for the Jeddo / Nescopeck Creek Watershed position.
- Signed up to download newly completed LIDAR GIS Data from DCNR’s PA Map program. Began to acquire #44002530, #44002520, #44002510 and #45002510 (the northeastern portion of Luzerne County) to map 2 ft contours and breaklines to aide in placement of the prototype unit for the Old Forge Borehole Project.

- EPCAMR Staff walked the property with Chris Gillis-Eco-Tech, LLC and Victoria Popple, landowner of property along the Lackawanna River near the Old Forge Borehole. This landowner is willing to become a partner in the eventual treatment of the Old Forge Borehole.
- Aided LCD Staff with computer trades, software upgrades and network maintenance as new staff were introduced into the office.
- Created a 3.5' by 6' detailed map of Shamokin Creek at the request of the Northumberland County Conservation District Board. The map located AMLIS inventory sites, their federal priorities, AMD discharge points, non-point source impacted streams and AMD Treatment systems overlain on a color aerial photo. The map also contained a table of AMD discharges ranked by the US Geologic Survey which listed both the common name of the discharge and the Operation SCARLIFT number along with some general chemical and physical characteristics.