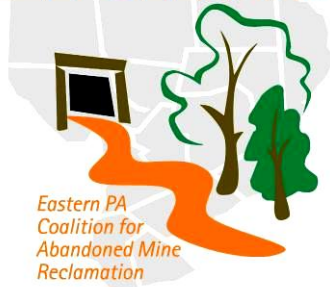


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation April 2010 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Updated 2 layers and continued writing Part 3 of the report for the Mine Pool Mapping Project; Updated 1 contact database.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a Mahanoy Creek RCP Key Person Interview & an AMD Tie Dye Workshop; hosted 1 cleanup and 3 work days on 2 AML sites.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR Staff traveled to the Chestnut Ridge Resort & Conference Center Blairsville, PA to receive a \$500 award and plaque from Dominion and the Western PA Conservancy. The Watershed Mini-Grant was given to EPCAMR to conduct AMD education and outreach programs in Tioga and Lycoming Counties.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of March, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program. Posted PA DEP BAMR Reclamation Database updates to the board meeting page.
- Updated the 2010 EPCAMR Membership Form to reference "preferred services," a change that will be suggested to the board for adoption. The preferred services refer to webhosting minimal charges that could be assessed to groups that would like to have EPCAMR host their website. These changes will be posted once approved. Made changes to the meeting dates on the current online form to reflect the changes made at the board from the last meeting.
- Updated the EPCAMR Watershed Organization List with new watershed group contact information from Carey Entz, Lycoming Conservation District.
- Participated in an AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to catch EPCAMR staff up on the planning effort for the 2010 Joint Mining Reclamation Conference. WPCAMR staff had mainly been representing the AMR Conference Planning Committee on these calls until more information was available about the actual Science, Community and Reclamation (SCR) Track. EPCAMR staff quickly took on tasks such as contacting several organizations for presentations and submitting a letter of request for convening funds to the Foundation for PA Watersheds. Forwarded the 2007-2009 Exhibitor List to WPCAMR to invite these exhibitors to the upcoming conference. Also forwarded the 2009 Conference Evaluation sheets to aide in the development of SCR Track evaluations.
- Prepared the EPCAMR Board Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting and prepared a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting. Realized that the meeting was in May instead of April and changed the dates on the EPCAMR Calendar.
- Provided EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee with edited and updated versions of our Strategic Planning Draft documents and worksheets for the next quarterly board meeting. This will hopefully get the ball rolling to assist us with updating our outdated Strategic Plan.

- EPCAMR staff worked two Thursdays in a row at the Avondale AML Site with the W-B CTC Horticultural Class to prep the site for plantings in the next few weeks. Spread topsoil from Hanover Nursery and planned out where to place plants to soften the hard landscape.
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Program and AMD Tie Dye Program, one of 15 booths at the annual Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Earth Day Festival at least 1000 students from Luzerne County visited.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a community cleanup in Plymouth Township along the future Susquehanna Warrior Trail, with 6 volunteers and removed over 600 illegally dumped tires, in 4 hours, from along the floodplain of the river and along the Grand Tunnel #1 Slope AMD discharge.
- Contacted representatives from Mahanoy Creek, Swatara Creek, Schrader Creek and Babb Creek watershed groups to encourage them to start using Datashed.org to record their sampling data and keep track of the function of their AMD Treatment Systems. A representative from Babb Creek Watershed Association said that they upload their data to the POWR Database, which is no longer functioning since the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) was dissolved and given over to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

Technical Assistance:

- Aided WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator, Anne Daymut, as she created a request for proposals document for the ARIPPA 20th Anniversary \$20K Grant. At least 2 grants will be made statewide, one in the east and one in the west. EPCAMR and WPCAMR will help manage the funds and follow up with awardees. Made changes to allow not only watershed groups to apply, but other non-profits including conservation districts. Also ensured that the application was easy and concise by creating a fill-in form which will later be posted to the web.
- EPCAMR Staff met with Kerry Leiberknight and his co-worker from GTS Technologies who are writing Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association's Mahanoy Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. EPCAMR Staff provided four pages of comments, suggestions, and ideas related to the "Key Person Interview" process. Demoed the RAMLIS GIS Tool and Mine Pool Mapping layers to show how they could be used in the action planning process.
- Rescanned Technical Paper 727 from an original copy found in the Earth Conservancy Office. The original contained all the maps and figures that were missing in the scan from the Pottsville District Mining Office.
- EPCAMR staff took care of a little spring cleaning. Cleaned and installed blinds in the EPCAMR office windows. Initially, EPCAMR staff planned on making blinds from fabric tie dyed in iron oxide, but fabric that would accept the tie dye and be resistant to damage from the sun was too expensive. Took the original green blinds and hung them up to block out the relentless afternoon sun. Replaced a ceiling tile that was damaged by water dripping off the roof. There are still only a few spots where this happens during heavy downpours.
- EPCAMR Staff worked on the Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant Reimbursement and Progress Report to submit the paperwork to the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management.
- Researched a desktop application that would better integrate Gmail into Windows and act more like Microsoft Outlook. After trying several programs, found Google Talk, a program which shows e-mails waiting to be viewed, redirects "mail to" links and allows EPCAMR staff to chat with each other while in Gmail.
- EPCAMR Staff worked with the Weatherly Borough Planning Commission Chair, Jim Wetzel and Wildlands Conservancy's OSM/VISTA to better define and channelize mine drainage flowing from 2 AMD discharges to Hazle Creek in an effort to make them easier to monitor the flow and chemistry. Cleared a beaver dam from beneath a railroad bridge to lower the mine drainage ponded behind it on Cabot Corporation lands by approximately 6 feet.
- Created a sampling data database that matches the parameters in Datashed.org to stream line the data upload process through the intelligent data upload tool. Individual watershed groups may still use their databases, but may find this database easier to use while Stream Restoration

Incorporated (SRI) staff develops a data upload form. Created a “Datashed Future” document and PowerPoint presentation to outline a wish list of changes to the website based on communications with potential and current users from watershed groups.

- Adjusted the EPCAMR Annual Budget to create a new table show the Current Balances in each budget category reflecting the current status of draw downs and reimbursements to different grants as they happen. Reversed changes to the Annual Operating Budget to record the overall budget for the year.
- Gathered financial and non-profit documentation required for the 1% for the Planet Program, which matches non-profit organizations with corporate sponsors who wish to donate to green initiatives.
- Continued to write Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report, meticulously comparing the S. H. Ash reports of the Western Middle Field with current GIS and other information known about the status of mine pools in the region and reporting the changes. Used Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessments (CHIAs) from Jim Andrews, Pottsville District Mining Office to explain mine water flow situations in the Tunnel Ridge, Boston Run and St. Nicholas Collieries. Requested Deep Mine Safety maps 690 (Draper) and 1512 (Gilberton) to find connections in mine workings from north dip to south dip. Work is completed up to the Lawrence Colliery in the Mahanoy Basin.
- Adjusted the barrier pillar and mine pool layers in the region to match positions in maps and reports mentioned above based on a review of underground mine maps. Calculated mine pool areas with an ArcGIS plugin. Added these values to Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report.
- As a “plan B”, contacted Skip Pack, Dynamic Graphic Incorporated (DGI), to find a way to create a diaper/intrusion in earthVision in an attempt to correct overturned beds along the Sharp Mountain in the Southern Anthracite Field. This issue has proven to be a giant impediment to progress in mapping the lowest mineable vein contours, a step that is needed to produce updated mine pool extents in the region.
- Attempted to deliver Hicks Creek Project Plans to Len Brown, Seniors Management Inc, via e-mail. SMI is one of the property owners associated with the project and their engineers requested hard copies of the plans. Contacted Mike Lower, our engineer, to send a copy. Also sent a hard copy of the Landowner Agreement Form, which was promptly filled out and sent back with SMI’s blessing on the project.
- Mentored Gwen Johnson, Foundation for PA Watersheds, as she was gearing up for the 2010 Watershed Summit. Answered questions and made suggestions as she was taking care of last minute things for the conference.
- Contacted Field Environmental Instruments to see if they had equipment that would withstand the forces associated with monitoring flow at the Old Forge Borehole. They put me in contact with Grayline Instruments, who described a device that measures flow using Doppler. The device can measure flow on the outside of a metal pipe or, with another plug in, can measure flow in a pipe. Forwarded this information to Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, and Todd Wood, PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR).
- Worked with Alana Roberts, Lackawanna County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, to help her monitor flow on the Lackawanna River. Allowed her to borrow EPCAMR’s velocity impeller meter and sent her a spreadsheet in excel that automatically calculates flow from the velocity, depth and with calculations taken in the field. Contacted JDC Inc., the company that manufactures the 2 meters that EPCAMR own. Requested 2 new impellers to replace cracked plastic holder that attaches to the rod.
- Assisted the Earth Conservancy again with recovering a computer that crashed because the video card failed. The Windows XP operating system could be repaired this time and nothing had to be reinstalled.
- Collaborated with staff from Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) to create a presentation about Datashed.org which will be co-presented at the 2010 Watershed Summit.