

EPCAMR



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April 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Travelled to Blairsville, PA to the Chestnut Ridge Resort & Conference Center to receive EPCAMR's **\$500** cash award and Watershed Mini-Grant Plaque from Dominion and the Western PA Conservancy to conduct future AMD education and outreach programs in Tioga and Lycoming Counties
- Corresponded with Dr. Diane Polachek, Director of **Project History: Northeastern PA** at Wilkes University about ways to explore and discuss a special program designed to highlight local history in our community. A 3-credit, tuition free graduate level-course is going to be offered by Wilkes University and teachers will also be able to earn Act 48 credits upon completion of the course; 12 teachers will be selected for this first year project; EPCAMR will more than likely be assisting with providing local history knowledge and interpretation of many mining points of interest of the Region
- Conducted an Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Program and AMD Tie Dye Program at the annual **Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Earth Day Festival** with over **1100** 4th thru 6th students from throughout the Wyoming Valley; 100 T-shirts were donated by W-B Riverfront Parks for EPCAMR to conduct the program and WET PAINT T-shirt company provided them to them for only \$1.88/T-shirt, a \$2 discount/T-shirt, for an in-kind donation of **\$200**
- Set up our EPCAMR Exhibit at the **Leadership W-B's SHARE FAIR** in Kingston, PA at the Kingston Armory to recruit volunteers and to conduct AMD Outreach; Received several office supply donations from the Leadership W-B Class of 2010
- Conducted an Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Program and AMD Education and Outreach Program to **14** participants who attended the Bear Creek Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration of Events
- Andy Gaskin, a videographer in Harrisburg pitched a service that he's recently launched that might help with EPCAMR's public relations activities; It's called Capital News Works, and it's an online platform that helps you share your press conferences with legislators, reporters, and other key stakeholders.

They would do 3 main things with same-day turn-around:

1. Film your press conference, and post it online on a EPCAMR-branded Video Page (which also contains your press release, Social-media tools, etc.)
2. Send out an e-newsletter announcing the press-conference video to the PA House & Senate (along with EPCAMR distribution list).
3. Supply statistics on who opened the emails, and analytics on who is viewing the video (# visitors, where in PA, etc.)

EPCAMR Executive Director told Andy that he would keep him in mind for future grant opportunities where we could possibly budget this type of PR activity into the proposal

- EPCAMR Volunteer Michelle Davies from KRAFT Foods, Dallas, donated 30 small elementary-sized green colored chalk boards for our educational programs that involved our AMD Chalk Talks
- EPCAMR signed on as a member of the **RENEW GROWING GREENER COALITION** to support an additional \$200 million for environmental program funding in PA; www.renewgrowinggreener.com

Technical Assistance

- Gregory Phillip Anderson-Brown University, Class of 2010 delivered a copy of his senior thesis (focusing on the Huber and Ashley Planes), entitled “***Black Diamonds: Ecology and Industrial Heritage in PA’s Anthracite Region***” and forecasted what type of eco-tourism and redevelopment potential lies within the Anthracite Coal Fields and what type of support is still needed for non-profits like ourselves and other local historical groups; EPCAMR will post this on our website since staff were interviewed for the thesis
- Met with Kerry Leiberknight-GTS Technologies and his co-worker who were conducting a Key Person Interview with EPCAMR Staff on recommendations and implementation projects for the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association’s planning grant for the ***Mahanoy Creek Rivers Conservation Plan***; EPCAMR Staff provided four pages of comments, suggestions, and ideas to GTS Technologies; Showcased RAMLIS to GTS Technologies
- EPCAMR Staff worked with the Weatherly Borough Planning Commission Chair-Jim Wetzel and Wildlands Conservancy’s OSM/VISTA Chris, to clear several blockages, a beaver dam, woody debris, to allow for the construction of weirs for future monitoring of AMD from the headwaters area of Hazle Creek in the Upper Lehigh River watershed on Cabot Corporation lands; Interviewed by Kent Jackson with the Hazleton Standard Speaker about our work in the Upper Lehigh
- Participated in a Conference Call with ARIPPA and WPCAMR related to the **\$20,000** Mini-Grant Program Donation Awards that EPCAMR/WPCAMR will be recommending be distributed to watershed groups throughout the state through a competitive mini-grant application process developed by both Coalitions in recognition of ARIPPAs 40 years of work in the reclamation field at their Annual Meeting in August 2010
- Participated in a webinar on the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s upcoming grant proposal deadline for providing Technical Assistance in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- EPCAMR Staff are participating as members of a coalition of ARIPPA committee folks on abandoned mine reclamation and coal ash utilization for beneficial use; Conference call will be held regularly; Worked with the National Mining Association to develop draft amendment language and talking points on a Letter that is being developed to go to legislators on the utilization of coal ash on mine land reclamation sites
- EPCAMR applied for two Summer ACCWT OSM Internship positions that will only cost **\$500** to EPCAMR that will get us \$2000/intern in return and 12 week full-time internships

- EPCAMR Staff will be putting a bid together to perform GIS Training for OSM/VISTAs through the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable's HOPE & HARD WORK EPA grant for the Summer Practicum to be held at Concord University in Athens, WV from July 29-Aug. 1; Trainers are needed for a two-day workshop on GIS, to be held Friday July 30 and Saturday July 31; Presenters may split the course into two one-day courses, with a beginning course on Friday and an intermediate course on Saturday, to open classes up to more participants. Courses must: 1) consider watershed group/community needs, and 2) include direct practice using GIS software; Training materials will be placed on the ECRR website for public use at the end of the training

Project Coordination

- Meeting with Ryan Koch-Pocono NE RC & DC to review Area Plan projects and milestones involving EPCAMR related to AML projects, switch grass demonstration plots, land reclamation, and ARRI plantings with OSM/VISTAs in Schuylkill County; Reviewed Area Plan and made modifications to the timetables due to lack of funding to support some of the project ideas
- Worked on officially closing out the **Wiconisco Creek Rivers Conservation Plan** with PA DCNR; Terry Hough requested that EPCAMR pass a resolution at our next board meeting to finalize the project from several years ago
- Talked with Skelly & Loy about submitting the Design and E & S Plan for the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** along with the EA to the PA DEP for their administrative review before going to construction bids; EPCAMR is working with Karen Szwast to meet with 3 landowners that we will need to get to sign off on the access easement to go forward with construction; EPCAMR made phone calls to all three landowners informing them that we would like to meet with them in person and show them the final designs; EPCAMR currently is setting up those face to face meetings; Requested Narrative Progress Reports from Borton & Lawson on the H & H and the Photo Inventory Document Completion
- Submitted a Letter of Extension to Dan Koury- PA DEP District Mining Office for our **Mine Pool Mapping Project** due to the recent death of Roger Hornberger and our inability to obtain certain chapters and notes from Roger to this point to finalize several gaps in the reports that EPCAMR had been working with Roger on under contract; EPCAMR is asking for 1 year, but believes that we would be able to complete the work by the Fall 2010; Asked Dan if he'd like EPCAMR to store and display any of Roger's Reference Books and works on the Anthracite Region in our office since we have plenty of room; The USGS model and associated Open-File Report are nearly ready for review; All components of the report have been assembled; USGS wants to refine the volume estimates and do some other tweaking before transmitting the draft; Their volume estimates for the mine pools of the Western Middle Field are much larger than previously reported estimates, so they want to be sure they can justify and explain how these were determined
- Reviewed the Cooperative Research Agreement from DAVLISA Enterprises sent by Bernie for the **Gray Slope AMD Monitoring Program** with Tetra Tech and Newfield Oil & Gas

Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- Participated in our **12TH Annual AMR Conference** call with WPCAMR and other Planning Committee members to begin to set the wheels in motion for the upcoming June Conference; Submitted EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Presentation to the AMR Conference Committee; Sought out several potential speakers for the Conference
- Conducted an AMD Outreach Tour with a 6th grade student Megan Spess from Lake Noxen Elementary School who wanted to collect some iron oxide for her Science Project in school; Toured the Honey Pot discharge and returned to the EPCAMR Office with her mother Amy, and provided her with enough iron oxide to do an AMD Tie Dye workshop of her own with her classmates
- Submitted EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Presentation to the **NAAML P Conference** Presenter Committee for review and acceptance for this year's September 2010 Annual Conference in Scranton
- Registered with OSM TIPS Training Center for Mike and Robert to attend the EarthVision 2D & 3D Training in Pittsburgh in September; A limited number of participants were eligible from OSM and EPCAMR Staff are the only two non-profit representatives approved to attend due to our work with OSM and with EarthVision already on our Mine Pool Mapping Project Initiative
- Coordinated getting the presentations from the Dashed Panel members for the **Watershed Summit 2010** in State College on May 1st
- Submitted EPCAMR Presentations to Scott Fanello-OSM/VISTA for the upcoming May 10th & 11th OSM/VISTA Training in Weston, W.Va; EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager will be giving 3 presentations over the two day Training; 1 on RAMLIS and AMD Water Quality Monitoring using Google Earth or BING, the other on Providing Innovative Environmental Education Opportunities in the Appalachian Coalfields, and the last one on a spin-off of our AMD Comedy Skit utilizing our costumes and backdrops for The AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse Activity Book

Community Cleanups

- Worked on **Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant** Reimbursement and Progress Report; Completed paperwork for submission for reimbursement
- EPCAMR registered our Plymouth Twp. Illegal Tire Pile cleanup on the PA DEP website for the Great American Cleanup of PA event; The application has been processed and approved; Our ID Number for the event is 2638; Conducted a community cleanup in Plymouth Township along the Susquehanna River, with **6** volunteers and removed over **671** illegally dumped tires, in **4** hours, from along the floodplain of the river and along the #1 Slope, Grand Tunnel AMD discharge in the Wyoming Valley
- Worked at the Avondale AML Site with the W-B CTC Horticultural Class to prep the site for plantings in the next few weeks; Worked two Thursdays in a row with nearly **13** students each week to spread topsoil from Hanover Nursery, Plymouth Township, at the location of the Avondale Mine Site community gardens project; The local landscaper for the Nursery is assisting us with the proper native plants and species that will grow and flourish at the site and has prepared a landscape design for the project with us
- Completed a Press Release with Leigh Ann, documenting the outcomes and success of our Penn Ave AML Cleanup, Wilkes-Barre; **26** volunteers on two Saturday morning cleanups (3/20 & 3/27), EPCAMR

has cleaned up a **5.78** acre area along Pennsylvania Ave. and High Street in Wilkes-Barre. In this area we collected and disposed of more than **6.72** tons of municipal solid wastes (plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags, shopping carts, TV's, air conditioners, children's toys and strollers, mattresses, furniture, bicycles, etc.). This garbage alone filled a 40 cubic yard roll-off dumpster higher than the brim. Wilkes-Barre City offered assistance by taking almost another **ton** of recyclable waste (steel woven cables, and various metal objects) to a scrap yard, and **44** tires to a recycler.

- Requested budget adjustments from the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management to the ***Illegal Dump Cleanup*** grant to cover unanticipated costs with the cleanups

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Applied for and was approved by ***Verizon's Velocity Fundraising Program*** that allows EPCAMR to receive a donation of anywhere from \$10-\$25 to EPCAMR when new product orders are taken or requested within the Verizon Service Area of PA
- Applied to KRAFT Foods Donation Program for Non-Profits called ***Delicious Doers Earn Dollars***; For every 50 hours of community service performed by a KRAFT employee, EPCAMR is eligible to receive a **\$500** grant per person who participates in EPCAMR volunteer activities, cleanups, programs, or services
- Worked on EPCAMR Reconciliations, Program Budget Report, and Project Budget Reports in preparation for next month's Quarterly Board Meeting on May 20th
- Worked on the March 2010 319 Progress Report and Reimbursement during the last week of March; Worked on EPCAMR Board Report
- Meeting with Bernie to sign checks and to discuss ***Old Forge Borehole Project*** update
- Worked on the April 2010 Progress Report and Reimbursement during the first week of April
- Completed EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA Narrative and VAD for submission to be considered for a position this Summer; The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission is going to be providing EPCAMR with **\$2000/year** for 3 years to support our future OSM/VISTAs; It is up to EPCAMR to come up with the extra **\$3500/year** to maintain the positions
- Provided our CPA with a copy of EPCAMR's 2009 Annual Report
<http://www.orangewaternetwork.org/storage/staff/EPCAMR2009ProgReview.pdf>
- Submitted an application to ***1% For the Planet***, a non-profit organization that helps other environmental non-profits match up with other green businesses that might want to contribute 1% of their profits to sponsor organizations like EPCAMR; Our application was approved and we are actively trying to match ourselves up with potential donor businesses; This may allow EPCAMR to become more diversified in its funding base and allow for more unrestricted funds to be available to our organization
- Submitted a nomination to Elizabeth McKinney- Wildlands Conservancy for their ***2010 Friend of the Lehigh River*** annual award highlighting EPCAMR's partnership projects and collaborations with the Wildlands Conservancy over the last 13 years
- Prepared and submitted a written statement to the Chair of the Pocono NE RC & DC Board about my wish to step down as a voting member of the Board as not to have any conflict of interest with EPCAMR now that new membership policies have been put in place by the Pocono NE RC & DC;

EPCAMR Staff and the organization is still going to maintain our active partnership with the organization, but will not becoming a dues paying member to them with voting rights on projects

- Provided Mike with edited and updated versions of our Strategic Planning Draft documents and worksheets to be provided to all EPCAMR Board Members for the next quarterly board meeting for them to assist us with updating our outdated Strategic Plan; EPCAMR Executive Director will be meeting with John Swick, a business mentor and professional planner from **SCORE**, to see how he can help us update our Strategic Plan, and possibly help us to develop a Business Plan, and Marketing Plan for EPCAMR. EPCAMR Executive Director will try and get him to come to our summer Strategic Planning meeting that has yet to be planned; SCORE is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the formation, growth, and success of small business. It partners with the Small Business Administration (SSBA) and we are going to work with the Wilkes-Barre Chapter at NO COST; <http://www.wbscore.org/>
- Barnes & Noble requested that EPCAMR apply to become a member of their Discounted Purchasing Program for Non-Profits; EPCAMR Executive Director completed the application and will await our acceptance into the program
- Paul Lohin-Schuylkill Conservation District Chair and EPCAMR Board member provided EPCAMR with a draft Letter of Support for enacting a Severance Tax on the Gas Drilling for the Marcellus Shale in PA; EPCAMR to take action on this shortly



Students sampling at the Lackawanna River's Old Forge AMD Borehole during the Community Connections to our Watershed Program coordinated by PA DCNR