

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2011 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff attended the Philanthropy Forum and a MRAB Mtg., hosted an AMR Conference Call, participated in a Earth Day event at Nesbit Park and a conference call with Weatherly Borough and PA DEP BAMR reps. and an ARRI tree planting.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 23 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Continued to write Part 3 and aided Exec. Dir. with the Mine Pool Mapping Report for the western middle and southern fields, worked on Mine Pools in the Wyoming Valley
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps account.

Education and Outreach:

- Update AMR Conference Program Booklet to add a backbone schedule to the www.treatminewater.com website. Received several presentation abstracts, combined them into a document and sent them to the conference planning committee for approval. Created AMR Conference Draft Budget based on Genetti Catering Contract and other expected expenses and based it on a sliding scale according to the number of attendees. Started with 125 attendees. Compiled minutes from the last AMR Conference Call in prep for another call.
- Posted a press release based on the recent grant from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to www.epcamr.org. Promoted LRCA's RiverFest 2011 with an article. Posted a press release for the Solomons Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan \$6000 grant EPCAMR was awarded by the Coldwater Heritage Partnership. Also prepared and posted a news release for the newly released USGS Mine Pool water balance model for the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- EPCAMR staff attended the Philanthropy Forum at the Woodlands Inn and Resort to gain some insight on how to gain philanthropic support for our programs. Learned man tips and tricks including how to maintain a positive online presence and promotion of a positive image the organization.
- EPCAMR staff brainstormed an agenda for the Tree Trout AMD and Macro ID Outdoor Environmental Education Program in partnership with Wilkes-Barre Area, PA Fish & Boat Commission and PPL for 150 Kistler Elementary's 5th grade students in the Solomons Creek Watershed and a few others heavily impacted by AMD in the Wyoming Valley. This agenda will be adapted for at least 2 other upcoming student field trips including Dan Flood Elementary and a NJ Homeschoolers group.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the Earth Day event at Nesbit Park. School bus after school bus dropped off students who visited over a dozen booths aside from EPCAMR's Macro Mayhem

activity. Students learned about macroinvertebrates and created their own to take home or hang in a nearby tree.

- EPCAMR staff hosted an AMR Conference Call with other conference planning committee members. Discussed the many improvements and additions to www.treatminewater.com and reviewed the draft budget for approval.
- EPCAMR staff attended a Mining Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) meeting at the PA DEP Headquarters in Harrisburg to update and notify members of the upcoming AMR Conference, EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Dinner and Mine Pool Mapping progress.
- Traveled to Schuylkill County with EPCAMR VISTA to participate in an Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) tree planting on mine lands hosted by Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA).

Technical Assistance:

- Transferred the rest of the Roger Hornberger's Mine Pool Mapping (MPM) "Map Book" to the Z Drive and started to find images for figures in the MPM Report. Contacted Jim Andrews, Pottsville DMO, to see if he had a few maps that weren't in the map book collection. The maps were sent promptly by Deep Mine Safety. Printed 10 C-series maps for the Western Middle Field and 20 I-series maps for the Southern Field to aide in report writing.
- EPCAMR staff attended a meeting at the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office with Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) President and PA DEP BAMR staff to discuss what needs to be done to create a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan for the Catawissa Creek.
- Aided Robert in gathering and citing sources for MPM report, based on Roger Hornberger's index card box and other mining related reports. Handed over Chapter 4 Methods for inclusion in the report.
- Received barrier pillar, historic mine pools and flow direction lines shapefile updates based on the Bureau of Mines Maps from Shawn Jones (former EPCAMR Intern), Keystone College student involved in a Capstone Research Project. Sent Knox Mine Disaster Layer, boreholes, Susquehanna River coverage, limit of coal, and geobasins shapefiles. Sent updated borehole monitoring excel spreadsheet based on newly collected data.
- Spoke with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, about the proposed GFCC permit changes and the impact on the mining and co generation industry as it relates to the removal of waste coal. The new laws will make waste pile reclamation of less than 10 thousand tons cost prohibitive. Provided Anne with statistics from the AMLIS to show waste coal piles still left in the WPCAMR Region and in PA Statewide.
- EPCAMR staff provided AHA VISTAs, Mike Bloom and Jacklin Steege, with Water Quality Monitoring Training certification and conducted a sampling event at the Espy Run Treatment System currently under construction.
- Continued to research Google Apps Shared Contacts Directory service and installed a trial version of this premium service from Setup Made Easy. The full version ranges from \$50 to \$400 depending on feature availability. It would be helpful to create a directory of EPCAMR contacts for all our e-mail users to use and update within our gmail interface. Currently EPCAMR staff have to combine our contact lists, merge duplicates, sort through out dated information and redistribute, a very time consuming process. Notified that EPCAMR was granted non-profit status and is eligible for a Google Apps Education Account. Applied for that account level which may take a month for the approval notification.
- Traveled around Scranton to complete a monthly round of testing the water level in 14 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. The levels of a majority of the boreholes were approximately 10 feet higher than last month's readings. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes. New Lackawanna County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, Cheryl Nolan, aided in the process.

- Internet and phones were down for a day. Contacted the cable company to investigate the problem. Internet has been a little slower since the “fix”.
- Attempted to aide Jessica Wolfe, Harvard grad student, with parcel data for northeastern PA. Since parcel information is recorded at the county level, I sent her links to all of the freely accessible county data online. There are a few counties, Luzerne and Lackawanna especially, that do not freely share their parcel data. These counties are the ones that have most of the AML problems and opportunities for geothermal and other green energy solutions. She is now taking a different approach to her research project by explaining many of the hurdles that she has experienced in getting a “green” energy project going in this region. Historically Pennsylvania is difficult to work with on a local government level because of the many municipal divisions and a county government that is often limited.
- Copied on an e-mail from Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) on an Oneida/Sheppton sampling event that they were trying to tie to a project on www.datashed.org. Attempted to see if it was from Oneida #1, #3 or the Audenreid, all which are close to the towns of Oneida and Sheppton. Todd Wood, PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office, responded that it was actually a sample taken from some ponds on a BAMR reclamation site.
- Installed Adobe Acrobat 9.0 Professional on the Program Manager’s computer to edit PDF files.
- Planned out a borehole sampling route for the Wyoming Valley Boreholes using Google Maps. Contacted David Williams, PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office, about clogged boreholes and how to open them back up. One borehole was not able to be found using the GPS unit and David showed us where to find it in the field. EPCAMR staff then continued to sample the water levels in the remainder of the 23 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley over the next 2 days.
- EPCAMR staff joined a conference call to discuss the next steps in the Hazle Creek AMD Monitoring plan with representatives from Weatherly Borough, and PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office.
- Processed and merged I-series 753 A-D and 838 A-J traced by Shawn Jones, Keystone College student. Once the files were prepared through the scripting process, they were imported into earthVision to create a minimum tension grid and then 50 foot contours. Due to some error instituted by tracing the maps in ArcGIS, the data had to be adjusted 500 feet down. Sent the contours back to Shawn so he could begin drawing updated mine pools in the Wyoming Valley based off average borehole elevations. Met with Shawn to approve the new mine pool coverage and help troubleshoot some questions about mine pool connections.
- About ½ the way through the month, the rotating Cincopa Photo Gallery on the www.epcamr.org homepage stopped working and reported that it exceeded its monthly quota. This was due to adding more photos to the rotating gallery last month. EPCAMR signed up for a professional account with Cincopa at \$80/year, which increased out bandwidth capacity. This premium service will be made available to all EPCAMR Non-profit webhosting service members.
- Updated the ARIPPA Reclamation Grant forms, created 2 PDFs and sent them to ARIPPA and WPCAMR staff for approval. Once approval is gained, the grant will be posted to www.amrclearinghouse.org and www.epcamr.org.
- EPCAMR staff met with Kent Fuller, Pagnotti Enterprises, to pick up Highland #5 maps and cross sections to begin drawing mine pools in the Eastern Middle Field.
- Installed earthVision 8 and patches to bring the program up to the most current version currently being distributed by the Office of Surface Mining(OSM) Technical Innovation and Professional Service(TIPS) program
- Contacted support to find out how to add check/money order payment on the EPCAMR Online Store. Ended up having to edit the wording to provide those who wish to pay with check with additional instructions.
- Added a Registration page to www.treatminewater.com. Began adding items to the EPCAMR store, linking them to this page and writing detailed instructions explaining the registration process and attendance options. Added a link to Eckley Miners Village as a Surrounding Attraction on the Tours page.