

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR was awarded \$8K grant from PA American Water Co. for Stream Habitat Restoration
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call, SWB Railriders Community Organization of the Night Promotional Event, the ACT Conference, a GIS Discovery Day at Kings College and attended an Audenreid Treatment System Technical Meeting at the **Schuylkill Conservation District**.
- Created a Standard Operating Procedure for accounting tasks in QuickBooks.
- Downloaded transducer data for the OFB discharge and created a basemap to process cross section data for **Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool Model**.
- Reviewed a QHUP candidate restoration plan for **Weatherly Borough**, then provided technical assistance to **Shamokin Creek Restoration Association** and **Susquehanna River Basin Commission**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.treatminewater.com and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Aided EPCAMR Volunteer Coordinator by fixing volunteer registration fill-in form. The current form now allows submittal by PDF instead of XML. This allows for ease of use when the form is filled out and sent back.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a Scranton Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Community Organization of the Night promotional event and “fundraiser” at PNC Field in Lackawanna County. Setup a display on a very windy night, and greeted ballpark fans as they entered the stadium. The immediate rush was a bit chaotic and only a few stragglers came to get a brochure, stickers, and why our intern was parading around in a fish outfit. Robert threw out the “first pitch” with many other community group leaders and was interviewed on the inter-stadium broadcast. All-in-all the event was not all it was cracked up to be.
- EPCAMR staff attended the ACT Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, hosted by the Foundation for PA Watersheds. There were several tracks with presentations on how to nonprofits can effect change and promote their ideals. Picked up several pointers on board policies that can help the group feel more confident in taking a stance on issues and how online presence (i.e. website and social media) can help legitimize a group from a publicity and marketing standpoint.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com to include links to past conferences and discovered a problem in the EPCAMR Store at www.epcamr.org/store where incorrect the shopping cart was displaying 2 iron oxide packets for anything selected for purchase. This needs to be fixed immediately since the PA AMR Conference Committee decided to opened online registration, which is routed through the EPCAMR Store. Contacted Bill Frantz, BRF Designs, who initially

set up the store. He replied that we would need to purchase an update of the ShopperPress application through www.premiumpress.com.

- 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 prepared monthly reimbursement paperwork to send along as well.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference Call in preparation for the 2013 PA AMR Conference which will be hosted by the PA AMR Conference Committee at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College from August 8-10, 2013. Worked on 2013.treatminewater.com to add information to pages based on discussion by the committee.
- Sent a board meeting reminder to the EPCAMR Board and Associates via MailChimp to ascertain attendance and ask for potential agenda items. Provided the previous board meeting minutes and a draft agenda. Also sent off a request for the EPCAMR Personnel and Budget Committees to meet on behalf of the EPCAMR Treasurer to ascertain the best day for a joint meeting. The meeting was eventually tabled for a later time.
- Received word from PA American Water Company that EPCAMR was awarded the grant we recently submitted to the tune of \$8K for Stream Habitat Restoration in the Solomon Creek Watershed.
- EPCAMR staff participated in GIS Discovery Day at Kings College. Several local colleges were represented as well as the Census Bureau and other agencies that use GIS data. Student posters were presented and several speakers discussed the benefits of using GIS in every type of discipline.
- Added a Stream Reassessment button back to the www.epcamr.org homepage to balance out the page and add the link back to the page after it was removed to run another promotion.

Technical Assistance:

- EPCAMR staff made more edits to the post award paperwork for the Lewis Mine Treatment System Rehabilitation Growing Greener Grant and sent it off to the project manager for approval. This grant round post award paperwork seemed to be more difficult to complete or it could be extra requirements placed on the project due to the use of bond forfeiture money. [Lewis GG]
- Continued to input invoices and receive payments for transactions in QuickBooks in order to fix the 2012-2013 accounting records so they will produce reports properly. Cleaned up Accounts Receivable (37 Transactions) to show which invoices are truly outstanding. Re-reconciled bank statements to find any discrepancies and adjust accordingly. Nothing was touched before 2012 since the 990s were already submitted to the IRS.
- Created a Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) to guide staff in future QuickBooks transactions to ensure that things are being done consistently and at regular intervals. The SOP also shows what is needed from our payroll company and how it is entered. In the future the SOP can help delegate which tasks should be done by which staff and possibly a bookkeeper.
- Spoke with Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), about Good Spring mines and followed up with mine pool boundaries and S.H. Ash estimated volumes. The information was needed to support a claim about possible water withdrawal from the mine pool related to a proposed power plant. [SRBC]
- Provided feedback to Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Boro Planning Commission, related to his recently proposed Hazle Creek Restoration Plan. The plan is being written to submit as a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) to the PA DEP.
- Traveled to the Lackawanna River Watershed to download OFB transducer data and meet with EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl. [SRBC]

- EPCAMR staff hosted and participated in the Datashed.org training. About a dozen attended the training ranging from watershed volunteers, to watershed specialists, to local university and DEP representatives. Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc., led the training while EPCAMR staff setup computers for live demos and troubleshooting for attendees.
- Tested the QuickBooks Accounting SOP with Executive Director in preparation for a visit from the EPCAMR Board Treasurer.
- Reorganized and formatted the Northern Field Borehole Data Spreadsheet and added data collected by SRBC intern, Shawn Jones. The borehole names were saved as text instead of numbers and therefore were sorted improperly. Also, identified data gaps caused by nomenclature of boreholes which were named different but should have been the same. The hydrographs will need to be updated after these formatting changes. [SRBC]
- Responded to Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) plea for help at the Quaker Run Stream Loss site and reviewed Scarlift Site 42 Carbon Run Treatment System expansion proposal.
- Created a Lower Lackawanna basemap for the 68 cross sections being drawn by EPCAMR Intern. The process would be relatively simple if the ArcGIS Geoprocessing Toolbar was working properly. As a result of the faulty toolbar the georeferencing of the OSM Mine Map Folios was a grueling task and required a full computer restart about every hour. The task took several days. ESRI has fixed the problem, but is waiting to release the fix in a service pack update. The problem was discovered and fixed in January, It is now April.
- Reviewed Credit Card fees with the help of Prodigy Pay, a company that continues to call with promises that they can lower the fees that credit card companies charge. Currently we use PayPal to route credit card transactions at a rate of approximately 2.5%. Before the review, Prodigy Pay guaranteed that if they could not meet or lower the percentage, they would pay \$200 for our trouble. After the review they determined that we do not do enough “sales” in volume to qualify for a rate lower than 2.6% and we would have to pay a \$400 setup fee. This “shopping around” was an effort in futility and we never saw the \$200.
- Created a 319 Program Reimbursement template invoice in QuickBooks that can be easily replicated for monthly reimbursements.
- Participated in a meeting to deal with the technical aspects of the Audenreid Treatment System. The meeting was held by the Schuylkill Conservation District to figure out a strategy to fix the problems that have arose as a result of forcing too much water through the system to run the micro hydro turbines. A long term and short term plan was developed and representatives from the PA DEP were there to provide engineering assistance and insight on grant sources.
- Fulfilled an iron oxide pigment order for PA American Water.
- Formulated a theory that if the surface map of an OSM Folio was georeferenced those coordinates could be transferred to the layers below. This would work, in theory, if you copied the World File (TFW), named it the same filename of the coal vein map and only if the image was exactly the same size and shape of the surface map (not always the case). This does not work, because the World File only contains one of the three properties: Coordinate System, Projection and Transformation. Possibly the other properties are in another file. (i.e. AUX). More research needed and a more stable version of ArcGIS. This would be a real time saver for the Mine Mapping Grant.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.