

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
EPCAMR Executive Director
101 S. Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org
www.orangewaternetwork.org

August 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Coordinated with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator about EPCAMR's planned trip to Clearfield County, PA to work with WPCAMR and PA DCNR on our "The Formation of AMD" Video; Filmed the first cut of the film along with several of EPCAMR's AMD Avengers and Pollution Posse characters in the field
- Provided an AMD Tour with two PA DEP Environmental Education Program Interns, Audra Kerschner and Josh Bloom, of several Schuylkill County AMD discharges and the grand opening of the Silver Creek AMD Treatment System in New Philadelphia with our partner, the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, and Paul Lohin-EPCAMR Board Member
- Set up an OSM/VISTA Community Service Project with Wilkes University and their Resident Assistant's to help EPCAMR create additional macro-invertebrate templates "Macro Mayhem" for Fall programming in the schools for Wren Dugan, our OSM/VISTA volunteer who started working with EPCAMR on August 24, 2010
- Prepared a Press Release announcing that the EPCAMR Executive Director has been chosen as 1 of 40 environmental professionals state-wide out of 100 nominations to receive the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's first ever 40 Under 40 Environmental Award on PEC's 40 Anniversary
- Conducted an AMD Education/Outreach Program with **15** youth at the Carbon County Environmental Education Center's Annual Nature Camp sponsored by the Carbon Conservation District at Hickory Run State Park
- Joy Tetlak-Adelstein-Northeastern PA Outreach Coordinator-Citizens for PA's Future (PennFuture) requested that the EPCAMR Executive Director speak for 10 minutes on the importance of Growing Greener to our organization and those that work in our Coalition; EPCAMR would also like to discuss the importance of understanding our underground hydrogeology of the Coal Region before we decide to drop wells all over the place; EPCAMR could share some thoughtful insight on our underground mine pool mapping initiative that we are undertaking currently to highlight the importance and potential re-use and resource recovery of abandoned mine drainage; EPCAMR is in support of the severance tax not only going to those groups mentioned below that you support, but we have a dedicated interest in where some of these funds should go under the Environmental Stewardship Fund in partnership with our Conservation Districts; EPCAMR funding for our organization is also vital to continue the reclamation of abandoned mine lands, remediation of streams and rivers impacted by AMD, and to further the economic redevelopment potential of the reuse of underground abandoned mine pools throughout PA; EPCAMR is in the process of working

with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission on completing an Anthracite Region AMD Strategy that will be addressing mine discharges and the potential underground mine pool storage capacities for future low flow augmentation and industrial reuse by economic developers and industries that might be in need of water; EPCAMR has been working in AMD for 15 years and have been providing support to local community groups, Conservation Districts, municipalities, and other regional non-profits that need technical assistance on AMD issues, reclamation issues, environmental education, and watershed restoration and improvement projects; The event is slated for September 10th from 8 AM – 10 AM at the Radisson on Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA; (https://secure2.convio.net/penn/site/SPageServer?JServSessionIdr004=oqr8lamcx5.app214a&pagename=Events_Splash)

- Hosted an international photographer, Miguel Angel de la Cueva (Mexico) from the International Conservation League of Photographers (www.ilcp.com) as a part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Rapid Assessment Visual Expedition (RAVE); See the attached article link (<http://www.ilcp.com/index.php?cid=284>); The Chesapeake Bay RAVE is a collaborative effort to highlight the importance of this legislation through photographs, video, and stories from across the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed; EPCAMR was showcasing AMD impacts throughout the watershed (<http://delacuevailcpravejournal.wordpress.com/2010/08/15/raving-newport-township-nanticoke-old-forge-and-wilkes-barre/>); (http://www.timesleader.com/news/Picturing_what_can_be_08-13-2010.html) (http://www.youtube.com/v/M0BS9ZzoTkA?fs=1&hl=en_US&hd=1)
- EPCAMR was invited by Patrick Kennedy-Schuylkill Headwaters Association OSM/VISTA to be a part of their first annual environmental film festival on November 4 in Pottsville; The Schuylkill Headwaters Association is hosting the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival; The event will be held at the Pottsville Sovereign Majestic Theater and doors will open at 5:30 pm, with films beginning at 6 pm. The Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival is the largest environmental film festival in the United States. It brings together award-winning environmental and outdoor adventure films designed to inspire and motivate you to go out and make a difference in your community and around the world. The chosen films will highlight environmental concerns and provide solutions, reaching people through beautiful imagery of the sweeping landscapes of the world, and ultimately inspiring local individuals to get involved in conserving the wild and scenic places close to home

Technical Assistance

- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for July 2010
- Monitoring borehole water elevations with PA DEP BAMR and LRCA throughout the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex that flows underground towards the Old Forge AMD Borehole
- Allowed the Prairie Rivers Network in Illinois to utilize EPCAMR's monitoring guidebook for stream monitoring and habitat assessment (<http://prairierivers.org/>)
- Confirmed EPCAMR's staff attendance at the OSM TIPS Earth Vision 2D & 3D Modeling Training in Pittsburg in September to OSM Staff
- Provided Dale Freudenberg-Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission and Anthracite Heritage Alliance Coordinator with a copy of EPCAMR Volunteer Activities Description

(VAD) and 2010-2011 Narrative Work Plan; The D & L will be financially supported our OSM/VISTA with a **\$2000** cost-share

- Chaired the PA RC & DC's Annual Business Plan meeting by Conference Call
- Informed Wren Dugan, our OSM/VISTA Volunteer that EPCAMR needs to find some local artists who would be willing to develop the same type of business and financial relationship with EPCAMR that Clean Creek Products have done in Western PA; EPCAMR has some local contacts with some local art leagues that she can follow up on and some potters as well; (<http://www.cleancreek.org>)

Project Coordination

- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for July 2010
- Participated in a conference call with Bernie McGurl-LRCA and an interested consulting firm that had a sonar device that may be capable of assisting our partnership with monitoring the flow of the **Old Forge Borehole**
- Informed Skelly & Loy that Highland Manor Care property owner signed-off on the **Hicks Creek AML NSCD Project**, who is the largest of the landowners adjacent to the Creek; We have two more that we are working on; We received an official word on our requested extension beyond the June 30, 2010 deadline through June 30, 2011; We have significantly slowed down the work until heard from PA DEP. The design has not gone to the Luzerne Conservation District for review yet, until we get the other two landowners to sign off; EPCAMR has paid out to Borton & Lawson all of their contracted amount for their completed work
- Ian Palmer provided EPCAMR with an update on the research and water monitoring data gathering that he has completed for the Eastern branch of the Schuylkill River for the **Mine Pool Mapping Project**
- Completed a Future Plans Form, Part B Sponsor Performance Evaluation Form for Shawn Jones, our OSM Summer Watershed Intern and submitted it to ACCWT; Requested information on the availability of additional funds for another Summer/Fall 2010 Summer Intern position
- EPCAMR Board approved funding the following 3 organizations with funds towards their projects in the Region under the ARIPPA donation of **\$10,000** to each of the Coalitions to develop a small grant program; EPCAMR Staff held a technical review committee with Todd Wood-PA DEP BAMR to review the grant proposals; EPCAMR Staff attended the Awards luncheon, sponsored by ARIPPA in Harrisburg on August 25, 2010 to announce the award winners and had a chance to speak with Congressman Tim Holden to provide him with an update on our projects in the Region; EPCAMR will serve as a pass through granting organization once ARIPPA provides the Coalitions with the donation:

Earth Conservancy: \$460; Replacement and redesign of two large interpretive signs along the Mocanaqua Loop Trail, Mocanaqua and Conyngham Township, Luzerne County, for recreational enthusiasts who are now becoming healthier and more informed on the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and local history through the re-utilization of abandoned haul roads as nature trails

Schuylkill Headwaters Association: \$4770; Construction of a rip rap reconstructed stream channel in the Heckscherville Valley, to restore the Glendower sediment pond Breach, in the West Branch of the Schuylkill River, Foster Township, Schuylkill County, and redirect contact with coal sediments and fines that have been entering the watershed

Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery, Incorporated: \$4770; Construction of a raw water intake structure to provide a reliable and continuous raw water flow of abandoned mine drainage from the Audenreid Mine Tunnel, located at the headwaters of the Catawissa Creek watershed, Sheppton Borough, Schuylkill County, to a series of micro-hydro turbines to produce electricity that will allow the treatment system to pass through up to 9,000 gpm of acid mine water into the limestone based treatment system

Conference Coordination

- Provided biographies for Mike Hewitt and the EPCAMR Executive Director to PA DEP BAMR for the upcoming NAAML P Conference at the request of Eric Cavazza; Trying to obtain information as to whether or not Mike and the Executive Director can just present at the Conference and not pay the steep registration fee for the day; Waiting to hear back from PA DEP BAMR

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's new checking account with QuickBooks
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for July 2010
- Karen Bracey-Wyoming County PSU Extension Office offered to assist EPCAMR with our Strategic Planning Update; Provided her with our worksheets from BOARDSOURCE that were to be completed by EPCAMR Board members before our August 19th Annual Meeting; Karen facilitated two separated work groups of Board Members at our meeting at Nescopeck State Park and was able to get us started in the right direction towards developing some new funding sources, partnerships, and marketing our services that we provide now practically for free; A fee for service schedule has been developed for both the non-profit, public sector, schools, and private sector industry to help EPCAMR secure additional unrestricted funds to keep the EPCAMR staff fully operational and the, educational activities, technical services, and grant administration programs that it supports throughout the Region
- Completed the ACCWT Fall Registration Forms for the EPCAMR Staff to attend with Wren Dugan in Twin Falls, WV in October 2010
- Informed Summer Spencer at Corporation for National Community & Service (CNCS) EPCAMR's frustrations with what is lacking in the Strategic Plan and informed her that I would be following up with a letter from EPCAMR; I shared with her some of the deficiencies that I have read about that are NOT in the draft plan and some of the needs of our coal field communities, particularly in Northeastern PA, but also throughout Appalachia as a whole, as a partner with ACCWT; EPCAMR also stressed the importance of the OSM/VISTA's to our communities and regional non-profit to execute and conduct the outreach necessary to reach our rural youth and impoverished communities; Prepared and submitted 3 letters to the CNCS to support our needs in the Appalachian Region and to support the ACCWT OSM/VISTA Program

- Requested and received an updated copy of the most current Foundation List from the Non-Profit Community & Assistance Center from Kate Feissner-NEPA Alliance to be able to have Wren go through and weed out any potential grant funders for EPCAMR's organizational development
- EPCAMR Board Meeting was held on August 19th; Majority of the time was spent on a facilitated Strategic Planning Update workshop led by Karen Bracey-Wyoming County PSU Extension Office; EPCAMR will be planning for our 15th Anniversary in 2011 with banquet fundraiser/dinner that will coincide with our annual AMR Conference that will be held in Hazleton, PA



Robert explaining the use of cattails in the natural remediation process of removing iron from AMD discharges and water filled stripping pits in Newport Center, Newport Township, Luzerne County, PA