

# EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes

EPCAMR Executive Director

101 S. Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

[rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)

[www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

August 2013 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Prepared a press release on EPCAMR's ARIPPA Grant Awards for 2013 and posted to EPCAMR website and other media outlets; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-awards-4-regional-arippa-amdaml-reclamation-awards-to-improve-local-waterways-in-the-amount-of-2500/>
- Roxanne Li and Becca Lindner, EPCAMR Volunteers assisted the EPCAMR Executive Director at an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop at Shippensburg University for **20** people and children upon invitation by the Junior Speleological Society (cavers) who were holding their annual National Conference at the University and were looking for an interesting and fun activity for families
- Conducted another AMD Tie Dye Workshop for **26** youth who were attending an Environmental Day Camp hosted by The Lands at Hillside Farms, Huntsville, PA, sponsored by the PA American Water Company
- Conducted additional interviews with Kris Hendrickson, WVIA-TV for the final shots of the soon to be released AMD Video Documentary, **WaterWise**, funded by the Foundation for PA Watersheds, in the Fall of 2013 and to allow him to record video footage and shots of the EPCAMR Staff working on the 3D Mine Map Modeling that we are working on throughout the Anthracite Region; EPCAMR will be featured and has been interviewed in this two-part documentary that will be airing soon on public television across PA
- EPCAMR Executive Director, who is also a PAEE Advisory Board Member, received word from PAEE President, Ruth Roperti that a proposal that we had assisted PAEE in submitting to the NAAEE was funded to create a Pennsylvania EE Capacity State Consortium for **\$30,000**; A team of up to 6 people to participate in the EE Capacity National Training Workshop (NTW) to be held at the NAAEE conference in Baltimore, MD is being selected and PAEE has asked EPCAMR to represent the state-wide environmental interests of community watershed groups working on non-traditional environmental education outdoor field experiences; ([www.naaee.net](http://www.naaee.net))
- PAEE NonFormal EE Certification Working Group Chair, Ed McCrea sent out a memo for the group to review the two manuals—an administrative manual for PAEE to use to administer the program and a candidates' manual that includes just the material that a candidate will need to complete the certification process; A description of the Mentor Program was also included

## Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff Meeting with PA DEP BAMR, BRC Staff, and Brent Means-OSM, in Harrisburg, PA with WPCAMR Regional Coordinator-Andy McAllister to review the **Set Aside Implementation Guidelines**
- EPCAMR Staff Meeting with PA DEP BAMR Staff to pick up 2 TB Hard Drive for the **Mine Map Grant Project** scanning efforts and transportation of the large file sizes
- EPCAMR Executive Director travelled to Forkston, PA to meet with Rusty Bennett and other members of the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, Wyoming County, PA where EPCAMR provided them with a check for **\$1000** towards the **South Branch Mehoopany Creek Liming Project**, Wyoming County, Forkston Township, PA; 50 Tons of limestone sand will be applied to increase the pH levels in the stream to improve the fishery habitat and water quality in the Mehoopany Creek watershed, historically impaired by acidity
- Provided Earth Conservancy with a Letter of Support for the **Bliss Banks AML Reclamation Project** that they were submitting to PA DEP's Growing Greener Grant Round to reclaim 40 acres across from the Luzerne County Community College and nearby residential neighborhoods in the Greater Nanticoke Area, within the Nanticoke Creek Watershed; The AML site is a constant source of AMD to the Espy Run sub-watershed of Nanticoke Creek
- Worked with Ray Clarke, Chairman of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to put together the final paver order, edging, and wall caps for one of the larger community gardens on the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park AML** site in Ashley, PA; Worked with Olde Mill Impressions, out of Mechanicsburg, PA to place the order
- EPCAMR introduced Tom Clarke-SRBC to Billie Clark-OSM TIPS in Pittsburgh, PA to discuss if there is a way for SRBC to utilize or become trained in the EarthVision Software that EPCAMR utilizes to work on mine pool mapping in PA
- EPCAMR Volunteer Services Coordinator Mel Talmadge completed an exhaustive scan of thousands of pages of archival files, grant information, correspondence, receipts, minutes, reports, brochures, technical documents, and documentation (1998-2013) into our NEAT Receipts Program for the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA), at the request of Cheryl Brobst, Treasurer of the CCRA, and EPCAMR Treasurer; EPCAMR created an index file for all of the documentation and backed up the information on our server in addition to creating a CD with all of the digital files and folder structure that was created to be able to review the archived information for historical value
- Provided Anesa Owen, Trail Sustainability Coordinator for the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area contacts in the Schuylkill Valley to see if they could assist her with becoming a few guest speakers to come in and talk about geology of the watershed and water quality issues up and down the Schuylkill River
- EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed the minutes from a **Wildlands Conservancy/William Penn Upper Lehigh River Watershed** Stakeholders Meeting from July 2013 where it was decided that the William Penn Foundation has prioritized several issues that are more heavily related to land protection and water quality protection and habitat restoration efforts that are not AMD-related, may just not be the appropriate time or venue to include AMD restoration or water quality issues at this time; EPCAMR is still working with Weatherly Borough, PA DEP BAMR, Cabot Corporation, and other partners on AMD work in the Hazle Creek Watershed of the Lehigh River

## Project Coordination

- Meeting with PA DEP BAMR Staff, Brian Jones-newly hired Civil Engineer, Kim Snyder, and Bernie Walko, & Central Office Staff, including our Project Manager, Jim Charowsky, in Wilkes-Barre, PA on how to proceed with the **Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Grant** for the Anthracite Region; Priority is on creating scanned image files at 400 dpi of all PA DEP BAMR Northern Field Maps, with those on the first floor of their Office Building on shelves 143-88 having the highest priority due to the risk of flooding and then the maps up on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Field Investigation and Preliminary Field Assessment of the **Lewis Mine Rehabilitation AMD Treatment System** at the Guten Mine Drift location in Cherry Township, in Sullivan County, PA with the Moshannon District Mining Office Mine Inspector-Eric Rosengrant, Neil Wolfe and Bob Hedin, from Hedin Environmental; EPCAMR Staff conducted water quality monitoring at the discharge location, out of the AMD Treatment system, just before the confluence with Birch Creek, and upstream and downstream on Birch Creek; Invited members of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA) to the site, however they were not able to attend
- EPCAMR Executive Director brought on Paul P. Dunay, III as a GIS Technician to assist with ge-referencing, scanning, cataloguing, and digitizing mine maps for the Wyoming Valley and anticipates that he'll be working on our recently funded **Mine Map Grant**; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-brings-on-paul-p-dunay-iii-gis-technician-to-assist-with-3-year-342143-pa-mine-subsidence-insurance-mine-map-grant/>
- Submitted Progress Reports and Reimbursements for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel AML Design and Construction Project** to our PA DEP Project Officer, Dennis Palladino
- Discussed with Tom Clark-SRBC and Bernie McGurl-LRCA about securing funding for a future effort to study the **Duryea AMD Outfall** discharge at the outfall to see if Campbell's Run and Red Run's tributaries contribute to the flow spikes; Will need to install a staff gauge and stilling well at the Duryea AMD Outfall, the installation of 4 pressure transducers (the two tributaries, the Duryea Swamps, and the Duryea AMD Outfall), measurement of flows, build flow rating curves, download data, and create a report; EPCAMR has a potential intern for this work; Estimated to be a **\$12,000** project
- Assisted Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist with completing a mid-term report for the **Nockley's Stream Restoration Non-Point Source Demonstration Area Project** to PACD

## Conference Coordination

- Final Conference Call to wrap up loose ends prior to the convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PA AMR Conference on August 8-10<sup>th</sup>; Provided an updated final scholarship list to the Ramada Inn Conference Center; Completed the Watershed Heroes Poster board for the Conference
- Coordinated the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PA AMR Conference in State College, PA from the 8-10<sup>th</sup>, 2013; Presentations are up on the website at [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) using SlideShare; Article recapping the Conference is on the EPCAMR Website (<http://epcamr.org/home/2013/the-15th-anniversary-pa-amr-conference-deemed-a-huge-success/>) and had been shared with many other media outlets including the PA Digest and WPCAMR's Abandoned Mine Posts

## Conference Coordination

- Attended the ARIPPA Annual Convention in Harrisburg, PA with WPCAMR to receive the **\$2500** donation for the Grant Awards for 2013 from the Trade Association at their luncheon and made a presentation on the grantees that were chosen; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/alternative-energy-plants-grant-45000-toward-improvement-remediation-of-abandoned-mine-lands-aml-and-acid-mine-drainage-amd/>
- Follow up Post-Conference call with the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee members to evaluate the Pre-Conference Workshop, the main Conference, the services provided by the Ramada Inn Conference Center, and to begin thinking about the 2014 PA AMR Conference that will be coordinated in conjunction with ARIPPA; Provided the Committee with a Summary of the Conference Evaluations; Frank J. Pasquerella Center, Johnstown, PA is interested in hosting the 2015 Conference
- SRBC waived EPCAMR's registration to participate in the October 7<sup>th</sup> **Water Science Forum**

## Community Volunteer Coordination

- Picked up trees from Midway Gardens for the beautification project on the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park AML site in Ashley; An Eagle Scout Project, led by Charlie Jones, coordinated the planting of the 4 large native trees on the site; Charlie also had his volunteer crew of 9 Boy Scouts construct the 4 Waterboxxes following proper training and instruction given to them all by the EPCAMR Executive Director on Saturday morning, 8-3-2013
- EPCAMR Executive Director works with a "virtual volunteer", Jill Mayo, from Plainview, NY to conduct grey literature research for EPCAMR; Prepared a news release on Jill and her background and offer to assist from afar; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/virtual-volunteer-jill-mayo-from-plainview-ny-doing-wonders-for-epcamr-as-a-grey-literature-researcher-from-home/>
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared another news release on the Father-Son combination and quality time spent with his oldest son, Dawson Hughes, who has been an EPCAMR Volunteer and Certified Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer since he was 10 years old; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/father-son-combination-and-quality-time-enjoyed-by-epcamr-executive-director-and-oldest-son-dawson-hughes/>
- Meeting with Pastor Zheto at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Wilkes-Barre, who is allowing us to plant two Waterboxxes along the edge of the Church parking lot near the Child Care Center at the rear of the property where we are currently working on several stream restoration efforts on Nockley's Tributary to the Solomon Creek
- EPCAMR had some interest from Daniel Paglia, who goes to Wyoming Seminary School, Forty-Forty, PA who is interested in future volunteer opportunities
- Shauna Fultz, an interested Canvas Artist, would like to volunteer with EPCAMR to create our backdrops for the AMD Avengers vs. Pollution Posse Environmental Education Skit to be used in elementary education programs; EPCAMR will be following up with her following the PA AMR Conference in August
- Celeste Kratz, has some interest in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; She was referred to our partner, the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to assist with planting trees, garden beds, and flowers at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park site in Ashley, PA

## Community Volunteer Coordination

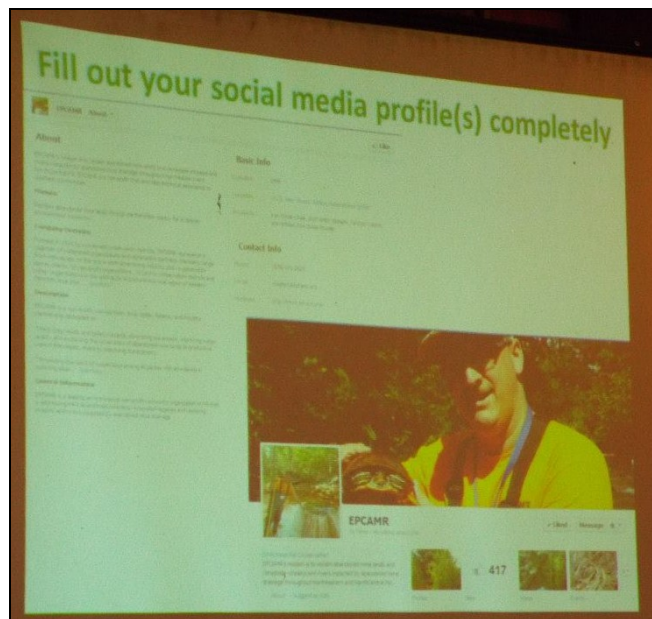
- Billy Wellock and Richard Winkler, two other interested EPCAMR Community Service Volunteers, are interested in working on litter and stream cleanups with the EPCAMR Staff; Invited him to our Nockley's Tributary Cleanup in August
- Tabitha and Guinevere Whittington, EPCAMR Volunteers from Florida, who are a mother-daughter duo have been collecting fossils and rocks that they will be sending to EPCAMR

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Updated Financial Reports in QuickBooks 2013 for Non-Profits in advance of the EPCAMR Board Meeting; Defined new reporting structure and layout and design for Board Meetings
- EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting held at the EPCAMR Office on 8-15-2013
- Interviewed Pete Falvey, Misericordia University, for a potential Public Relations Internship, however, he lived in the Poconos, and decided not to take the position
- Worked on completing the July EPCAMR 319 Board Report and Program Reimbursement
- Forwarded our Accountant's Copy of EPCAMR's 2012 Financials for completion of our 990s to be submitted to the IRS
- Received word from Ed Zinser-Sullivan County Conservation District representative to the EPCAMR Board that he will no longer be able to serve to a change in his family circumstances; Also received word that Pual Lohin from the Schuylkill County Conservation District was retiring from the Schuylkill Conservation District, Schuylkill Headwaters, and has officially resigned from the EPCAMR Board
- Provided EPCAMR Staff with FSLA Health Care Form Notifications related to the new Affordable Health Care Act that will affect EPCAMR and Staff Plans
- Interviewed David Svab, Laflin, PA for an EPCAMR Summer/Fall Watershed Outreach Intern position, who accepted the position as an unpaid intern, however, EPCAMR has a small source of funding that will provide him with a stipend for most of his hours worked during his time the organization; David and his father, Bernie Svab, had previously been EPCAMR Community Service Volunteers, that have assisted us with past stream cleanups and other restoration projects in the region; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a news release on his acceptance of the position to work with EPCAMR; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/david-svab-recent-graduate-from-penn-states-environmental-engineering-program-from-plains-pa-joins-epcamr-as-a-late-summerfall-watershed-outreach-intern/>
- Interviewed Todd Stires, Lake Scranton, PA who is looking for a Fall 2013/Summer 2014 Internship with EPCAMR, who has to coordinate with his advisor at Penn-State since he lives in the State College area; He may have an opportunity to work on the project that EPCAMR has outlined with LRCA and SRBC for the ***Duryea Outfall Hydrology and Mine Pool Monitoring Project***, if funded by that time

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Discussed with Bernie McGurl, EPCAMR President a request that John Oelbracht, Resident Manager for the Olympus Services (Westwood Energy Services, LLC) Co-Gen Plant in the Tremont Area of the Southern Anthracite Fields, has asked of EPCAMR; Joel discussed his request at the ARIPPA Convention in Harrisburg; He is interested in setting up a Fall 2013 Meeting with Congressman Matt Cartwright or his Legislative Staff to introduce to them the importance of the work that the Co-Gen Plants are having on mining and reclamation in the Southern Anthracite Coal Fields; Joel would like to have representation at the meeting with him from EPCAMR down the road to showcase some of the good environmental projects and partnerships that we've worked on together to reinforce the importance of this industry's contribution to abandoned mine land reclamation in our region direct dealing with his office; Joel is likely going to meet with the EPCAMR Staff in the future to discuss future collaborative opportunities on looking at mine pools around the Good Spring, Jolliet, Tremont area and it sounds as if he may be willing to share some mine maps with us that we currently don't have in our collection; We may be able to do some work for them



Shots of a screen shot from the Pre-Conference Workshop on Social Media (top); PA AMR Conference Committee Members presenting Bruce Leavitt with the 2013 MayFly Award (left); PA AMR Conference Magnets made from coal ash, iron oxide, and a regional clay from Luzerne County, PA by Skip Sensbach, a local artist from Misericordia University (bottom)

