

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2010 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Conducted a RAMLIS Investigation and continued distribution of RAMLIS version 10; Georeferenced 3 maps and updated 2 layers and metadata for 5 layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Program
- Submitted and received a grant and reviewed grant proposals for a member organization grant
- EPCAMR staff attended the Annual EPCAMR Board Mtg. and Strategic Planning Session, ARIPPA Awards Luncheon; Participated the JMRC Conference call, and a video shoot for the AMD Formation Video/Book, hosted an AMD site tour, a tie-dye workshop & a borehole sampling work day.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, and EPCAMR's Facebook Fan Page

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call to discuss and approve the 2010 JMRC Conference Scholarships. All applicants (except 2 from West Virginia) were deemed eligible and WPCAMR cut checks for ½ of their registration and hotel costs. The total scholarship amount awarded was \$2,722.50.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of July, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Traveled to Scranton to meet with Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) Executive Director to sign checks and catch up on the Mine Pool Monitoring effort afoot in the Lackawanna Basin.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Clearfield County to participate in the filming of the Formation of AMD video that is being co-produced by EPCAMR and WPCAMR.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Hickory Run State Park to conduct a Environmental Education event and Tie Dye Workshop at the Carbon County Environmental Education Camp. Met 2 interns from the PA DEP Environmental Education Center in the Rachael Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg who signed up to help.
- EPCAMR staff conducted an AMD tour with International Photographer, Miguel Ángel de la Cueva. Miguel is from Mexico and with a group called the International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP). He conducted a "RAVE" or Rapid Assessment Visual Expedition. The iLCP has done RAVEs throughout the world - each with a very specific environmental mission - or crisis - for which their photos are used to help find a solution.
- Stopped by the Huber Breaker BBQ Fundraiser and took a few photos of the event.
- EPCAMR reviewed the ARIPPA Grant Proposals with Todd Wood, PA DEP BAMR, as a 3rd party and selected awardees. Once selected the \$10,000 was divvied up among the recipients based on merit of the proposal and Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA Executive Director was notified.
- Took some time to clean up and organize files that have been piling up on my desk over the busy summer months.

- Prepared meeting minutes from the last EPCAMR board meeting and updated the EPCAMR Board Meeting web page to make links to the documents available for the upcoming meeting.
- EPCAMR staff attended the EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting and Strategic Planning Session held at the Nescopeck State Park Musto Environmental Education Center. Strategic planning session was graciously facilitated by a Wyoming County Penn State Extension staff member.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call hosted by LRCA Executive Director about monitoring of the flow at the Old Forge Borehole with Keith Hicks from Teledyne. A representative from PA Tectonics was also on the call.
- Welcomed Wren Dugan as the new Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) OSM/VISTA volunteer serving at the EPCAMR office. Set up a workstation for her and an e-mail account. Created business cards and helped her with paperwork during her first week.
- Prepared a presentation with Anne Daymut from WPCAMR and attended the ARIPPA Awards Luncheon. WPCAMR and EPCAMR staff made presentations to the ARIPPA Technical Symposium attendees about grants that were made available to groups in each region. ARIPPA Members presented \$20,000 to EPCAMR and WPCAMR as a part of their 20th anniversary.
- EPCAMR staff sat in on the wrap-up Joint Mining Reclamation Conference Call. OSM staff members from the Pittsburg office reviewed comments back from the participants to see what suggestions could be made for the next conference. EPCAMR staff reported about our legwork to find a venue for the 2011 conference.
- Updated the Legacy of Past Mining Practices in the Historical Significance Category as well as the Historical and Preservation web links on www.orangewaternet.org with more up-to-date pages and information.

Technical Assistance:

- Updated the legend for the RAMLIS GIS CD Tool. The new legend reflects the icons that have changed for version 10. The legend takes up a full letter sized page and can be printed from a PDF to accompany maps that are printed from the tool.
- Transferred pictures of recent field excursions taken on my mobile phone through bluetooth to the Program Manager Laptop. Some of these photos were then uploaded to EPCAMR's Facebook page.
- Produced a CD of images from the Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Initiative to send along with the final report to the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management.
- Aided the Crooked Creek Watershed VISTA, Barry Gibb, with some GIS questions. He had been referred to me by Scott Fanello, Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) VISTA Leader.
- Conducted a RAMLIS investigation for Pagnotti Enterprises to determine the priority of a culm pile, silt basin and associated features near a stream. There is a potential this feature could cause severe sediment pollution to the stream.
- EPCAMR office was experiencing some malfunctions with the network equipment which was preventing access to the network and internet. Ended up having to replace the failing network router with a newer model. The original router was just over a year old and past its warranty.
- Compiled a CD of GIS files related to the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative for Chuck Cravotta from the USGS office in New Cumberland, PA and a project partner. Chuck requested the mine pool data to use in at least 2 initiatives in the southern anthracite field. This data is still in draft format and will not be released to the public until a peer review has taken place.
- Traveled around Scranton to finish testing the water level in several boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with DEP and LRCA staff. The field GPS setup with ArcPAD worked like a charm and led us directly to the boreholes (within feet) when we were close. Several boreholes were paved over, but may need to be dug up if we need to gather water levels. DEP staff had a legacy map of the boreholes that they used to plan a route. Found 2 more

boreholes, in the Pancoast and Greenwood Colliery, that was not in the GIS layer. Will update this layer and send off to Kim Snyder, PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office.

- Worked on creating a diapiir to aide in gridding the Sharp Mountain side of the Buck Mountain Vein contour in earthVision. The grid is created by tracing and manipulating data from the cross sections in the USGS I-Series investigations for the Southern Anthracite Coal field. The complex folding and over 90 degree pitches of the geology in the region are creating errors in earthVision gridding program. The diapiir, however, also has a twist in the middle and enhances the error when used. EPCAMR staff will be going to an earthVison training in September and will hopefully get this question answered.
- Updated the “Cross Sections to 3D Contours in earthVision” instructions to omit relabeling attributes from “SectionID” to “ZoneID” and “ContourID” to “LineID”. These are special names in earthVision and actually tell the 3D Viewer to display them differently. This may also impede proper gridding of the data in the Work Flow Manager.
- EPCAMR staff put finishing touches on the EPCAMR 2010-2011 Operating Budget in preparation for the Annual Board Meeting. Finalized the previous year’s budget to carry over any deficit or profit and keep excel format for consistency. The day-to-day finances are tracked in QuickBooks, but this excel format helps us track individual grant spending and acts as a check and balance.
- Continued to digitize the Mammoth Vein Contours in the Panther Valley from 2nd Geologic Survey Maps MS1, MS2 & MS3 as a part of the Mine Pool Mapping Program.
- Updated the EPCAMR Membership List with new memberships and renewals. Also updated the EPCAMR assets list with newly purchased equipment.
- Received the final budget from the Joint Mining Reclamation Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Added to this spreadsheet to figure out what funds are available and carry over for the 2011 conference.
- Submitted a grant to Host Gator to have them take over the hosting of our website for free for a year. Heard a response the next day as they approved our request (\$120 value). Began the ball rolling with the transfer from www.orangewaternet.org to www.epcamr.org. Both sites will be viable as the EPCAMR Homepage when the transfer is finished.
- Updated the billable rates for EPCAMR staff in Quick Books to split the rates into a non-profit rate and for-profit rates for the year 2010 as suggested by the EPCAMR board at the last board meeting.