

EPCAMR



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December 2009 Board Report

Education & Outreach

- Asked Leigh Ann to review the PA F & BC Sport fishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grant Program to see if we can put an application together for **\$5000** to work with local elementary schools, underserved and underprivileged youth in our Region; "CULTIVATING TREE TROUT PLANTINGS IN THE WYOMING VALLEY"
<http://www.fish.state.pa.us/promo/grants/sportfishing/00sportfishing.htm>
- Prepared a letter to the Principal of GNA Elementary, Dr. MaryEllen Scott, and the 4th grade teachers to discuss when we could meet after the New Year in January to look at the opportunities for the classes to participate in the AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse Comedy Skit; Explained what involvement the kids would have in creating the backdrops, set designs, aquatic insect cutouts, costumes, characters, and the skit
- Worked with Mike on completing a Dominion and Western PA Conservancy Watershed Education Mini-Grant www.paconserve.org for **\$2500** to work in Lycoming and Tioga County elementary schools to reach out to youth and inform them of EPCAMR activities in their home watersheds of Pine, Larry's, Upper Tioga, Lycoming, and Loyalsock Creeks impacted by AMDL; Received a letter of support from the Lycoming County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, Carey Entz for the project; Submitted the project on 12-17-09; **\$1000** of the grant, if awarded can be used for organizational costs; Sought Letters of Support from partnering Northern Tier Conservation Districts within the EPCAMR Region and local watershed groups for an environmental educational program on AMD
- Provided Colleen Carter of the LHVA/PA Council on the Arts quantitative numbers for their 2009 Annual Performance Measures on the number of students reached, events held, and volunteer hours worked on our AMD Chalk Talk Outreach Programs; **750** students, **20** programs, **18** teachers and **100** volunteer hours
- Since we were denied a Mini-Grant Application from the PEC for the Pocono Land & Water Conservation Initiative, Ellen Ferretti, PEC- informed us of the open PA DCNR Grant round that will be available in January 2010 to re-apply; EPCAMR felt the grant met the criteria for working on Mine Pool Mapping in the Upper Lackawanna River Watershed, which was a priority area for the grant, and asked for comments that could strengthen the proposal for the upcoming PA DCNR round; Dennis DeMara-PA DCNR informed EPCAMR that we should call him after the first of the year to discuss our application and encouraged EPCAMR to resubmit our mini-grant application during the open grant period opening in January 2010

- Exchanged web links with Michael Wardell-Executive Director for the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association, NY (<http://www.mabiosolids.org>); EPCAMR has been an associate non-voting education member for nearly a decade; Renewed our membership application form from 2010

Technical Assistance

- Worked with Mike on completing a **\$5000** Foundation for PA Watersheds Grant Application to improve the Datashed website and to work with EPCAMR Region watershed groups to begin to upload their water quality data onto the site; (www.datashed.org); Submitted the grant application to Branden Diehl at the FPW
- Bill Toffey, Effluent Synergies LLC was talking with Rick Stehouwer-PSU Researcher, who was discussing his research into high growth rate biomass/biofuel crops that would be suited for reclaimed land; Bill also met Mark Gutshall, with LandDecision, who explained he had given up working on a project in Schuylkill County that would have made use of mine lands, as he had encountered a lack of political support; Given Bill's 34 years of public service in Philadelphia, he has been looking for a useful project to undertake, and thought that building on his water, land and residuals experiences might bring him to a project that would combine nutrient and carbon management issues with the opportunity afforded to both in helping reclaim land in the eastern PA mining district; EPCAMR Executive Director provided him with insight as to how he might advance a project for alternative energy production on mine land areas; EPCAMR put him in touch with the Pocono NE RC & DC and with Scott Vandermark from PEC
- Provided Bill Nace, Wiconisco Creek Restoration Alliance volunteer, with our EIN Number for a draft application that they are preparing to the PA F & BC for the construction of a handi-cap fishing access point along the Wiconisco Creek; EPCAMR will sponsor the grant since WCRA is a member organization, underneath EPCAMR's umbrella, submission of grants on behalf of your organization is allowable, given our status; However, the funds will have to remain with EPCAMR and expended through our restricted fund account, should the grant be awarded; EPCAMR asked if they can provide us with a draft of the budget; EPCAMR would assist WCRA with finalizing the development of the budget and the grant package; A small administrative fee to administer the grant will need to be a part of the application
- Hosted a meeting with Tom Gray, Energy and Natural Resources Group Manager-Tetra Tech, who has recently opened an office in Scranton area; One of their first projects in the EPCAMR area is to help a local natural gas exploration firm, NEWFIELD, out of Tulsa, OK, develop a source of frac water; They have been discussing the potential to utilize treated mine water with DEP and were aware of our support for this type of re-use of the mine pool and AMD discharge water; This would reduce the pollution load in the regions streams; They are looking at an opportunity in the Upper Lackawanna River watershed; EPCAMR Staff utilized our Tech Assistance Center to showcase some of the RAMLIS Tool and preliminary mine pool mapping work for the Northern Fields; EPCAMR is indeed interested in becoming a partner, if we can receive compensation for doing GIS and water monitoring work related to further hydrogeological investigations and mapping of the mine pools that they are interested in Southern Wayne and Northern Lackawanna County
- Began working with the OSM National Geospatial Data Standards Team once again on developing several more standards for Title IV and Title V; Currently working on developing the **Standard Practice for Minimum Geospatial Data for a Mining Discharge Inventory and Discharge Treatment Information** significance and use section with OSM and PA DEP; Tom Galya requested that I also work on drafting the **Surface Coal Mine Permit Boundary-Pre-Law Standard** with Bruce Johnson-North Dakota before the late January Meeting of the Team;

- Provided Eugene Richards- American Mushroom Institute/Community Awareness Committee with a link to Datashed so that he could retrieve water quality data for Site 15 in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; He's interested in finding out as to whether or not the AMD Treatment System is going to need additional mushroom compost over the next few years as a part of the Operation and Maintenance of the system
- Janeen Murray-DriWater, Inc. requested technical assistance in letting her know the procedure to introduce an environmental product to our network for abandoned mine projects; DriWater, Inc. manufactures an all natural, non-polymer time-release watering product; It is an ideal irrigation alternative for use in successfully establishing native plant material where permanent irrigation is not available; DriWater has been successfully used for:
 - Reforestation
 - Erosion control
 - Watershed restoration
 - Mine reclamation
- Requested that she send some literature and a sample of the product to our office in Northeastern PA; We have a conference coming up next year in Pittsburg that you might be interested in exhibiting at and/or becoming a sponsor of to reach our targeted audience; We've not heard of this product before, so we'd be very interested in its applications for abandoned mine reclamation projects and where you have utilized it for revegetation of mine spoils; Perhaps in the near future we would work on a grant application to demonstrate its potential in PA
- Attended the Pocono Land & Water Conservation Initiative Roundtable Meeting, Stroudsburg, PA as a selected regional technical assistance service provider to the overall Planning Committee
- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Meeting in Pittston, PA; Provided requested information to the Pocono NE RC & DC Forestry Committee Chair Lenny Grover, on the American Chestnut Foundation and the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative; Suggested that the Pocono NE RC & DC should sign on to the Statement of Mutual Intent (SMI) and become a partner thru the Forestry Committee or as a recommendation from the Forestry Committee; Districts can too! EPCAMR has been signed on for years
 - <http://www.acf.org/>
 - http://www.acf.org/pdfs/pr/MOU_OSM102108.pdf
 - <http://arri.osmre.gov/>

Project Coordination

- Coordinated the meeting of the Anthracite Living History Group to be held at the Plymouth Historical Society Building, Plymouth, PA on 12-9-09 t 7PM to meet with a pro-bono Attorney to file their Non-Profit paperwork to the IRS and to elect their charter Board of Directors
- Completed November and December Monthly Board Report for the **PA DEP Section 319 Program** and submitted the November and December Reimbursement
- Worked with Mike to complete and submit an Invoice to the PEC NE Office for our GIS Mapping time, travel, and work on the **Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan**

- Completed the online e-Grant Award Agreement for our 2009-2010 Project Stream Partners Grant of **\$1408** from the PA Council on the Arts (PCA) and the Scranton Area Foundation (SAF) and submitted it to Pam Smith, Grants and Fiscal Assistant for the PCA and submitted a hard copy to Cathy Fitzpatrick at the SAF
- Paul Schwartz, Executive Director of the SRBC and Tom Clark-AMD Coordinator have requested that the EPCAMR Staff come down to Harrisburg and make a presentation on the Mine Pool Mapping Project with the PA DEP BAMR, DMO, and USGS to see how it can compliment some work being considered by the SRBC for an Anthracite Region AMD Remediation/ Strategy/Plan similar to the W. Branch AMD Remediation Strategy/Plan
- Talked with Mike Dunn-OSM and informed him that Mike and I would work on a story for TIPS that is an update to all of the work that we've completed on our **Mine Pool Mapping Project** with the PA DEP and USGS for the Western and Southern Coalfields to help him out in making a case for the much needed funding for trainings and to keep the licenses coming for Earth Vision
- Attended a Technical Committee Meeting of the **Mine Pool Mapping Project** partners at the Pottsville District Mining Office on 12-11-09 to review where we are in the process of completing our workloads and tasks before the June 30, 2010 close-out of the grant; Reviewed EPCAMR's Mine Pool data and USGS's MOD-FLOW Modeling of the Western Middle Coalfields; Worked with Mike on completing the 3rd & 4th Quarter 2009 Mine Pool Mapping Progress Reports and Reimbursements and submitted them before the Christmas Holidays
- Informed Roger Hornberger that EPCAMR will be amending the contracts for him, Ian Palmer, and the DCCD at our January 14th Board Meeting and will discuss monetary contract amendments at that time once EPCAMR staff have figured out how much remaining funding in the **Mine Pool Mapping Project** grant it will need to complete the project through June 30, 2010; Reviewed the USGS Table of Contents for their soon to be completed Water Resources Report as a part of our Project and made corrections; Worked on combining and completing two quarterly reimbursements into one for the **Mine Pool Mapping Project** (July 31 thru December 31, 2009)

Conferences and Trainings

- Informed Chari Towne-Schuylkill River Keeper, that EPCAMR would partner with them to help publicize the 2010 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress as we have done for nearly a decade on our website and FACEBOOK fan site
- Followed up with Andy-WPCAMR about planning efforts for the 2010 AMR Conference to get an update; Sent information on DriWater to Andy for inclusion in Conference correspondence when it comes to sponsors or exhibitors
- Suggested that Mike sit in on the Conference Call for the 2010 Watershed Summit being led by the Foundation for PA Watersheds while the Executive Director attended the Pocono NE RC & CD Meeting
- Ordered a 6' Round Conference Table for EPCAMR Office Meetings with clients and the public as a part of our Technical Assistance Center

Communications

- Forwarded update information for our FREECONFERENCECALL Account to Mike to review; The conference call dial-in and playback features have changed; www.freeconferencecall.com

- Informed via an e-mail in the WPCAMR Abandoned Mine Posts that Bruce Golden-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator will be retiring at the end of December 2009 and his position will be posted
- EPCAMR Staff moved the EPCAMR Board Meeting back one week to the 14th of January after realizing the conflict with the State Conservation Commission Meeting/ PACD Joint Annual Meeting, where many of our EPCAMR Board members also attend; Obtained a quorum to move the meeting and a quorum for attendance at the 1st Quarter Board Meeting
- Put Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Coordinator on the EPCAMR Board Agenda in January to discuss the Anthracite Region AMD Strategy; Worked with Tom Clark-AMD Coordinator for the SRBC to seek a location in the Hazleton Area for an Anthracite Remediation Strategy Public Meeting

Community Cleanups

- Interviewed and hired Leigh Ann Kemmerer as a part-time intern, with the title of Illegal Dump Site Specialist to assist EPCAMR with continued planning on the Spring and Summer 2010 cleanups; See Press Release on the EPCAMR website about her background and previous work with EPCAMR, Luzerne Conservation District, and most recently, the SRBC
- Informed that our **USDA LIVING TO SERVE** partnership grant submission to the State-wide FFA with the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech was awarded in the amount of **\$4000** for supplies, materials, and equipment to assist us with the Avondale AML Beautification Project, Plymouth Township, PA
- Provided Leigh Ann with weblinks to the Discovery Channel website related to Dirty Jobs to see if we can prepare an application that might get Mike Rowe out to work with us on AMD impacted streams while performing our stream cleanups and harvesting of the iron oxide for EPCAMR's resource recovery efforts; <http://community.discovery.com/eve/ubb.x/a/frm/f/8251971108> and [www. Mikeroweworks.com](http://www.Mikeroweworks.com)
- Informed another prospective intern, Rick Jayne, a Kutztown University student that lives in Hunlock's Creek, PA, that I would consider interviewing him for a volunteer internship over the Winter 2009 thru the first quarter 2010 while he is on break once he provides EPCAMR with a resume
- Re-submitted a previously submitted reimbursement , narrative, matching explanation, and explanation of activities, to the Bureau of Waste Management for work performed under the Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant Program ; Reviewed and slightly revised the updated "EPCAMR Permission to Enter Form to Conduct Illegal Dump Cleanups or Stream Cleanups" form with intern Leigh Ann Kemmerer; Requested that Leigh Ann get a quote on a FlashCAM night vision, web-enabled, camera from QSTAR Technology (<http://www.qstartech.com/>) for deterring vandalism, illegal dumping, graffiti tagging, and other dumps spots ; \$5000 for the wireless system was quoted



FlashCAM 880K Solar-powered Wireless Camera System to prevent illegal dumping