

EPCAMR



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

rhughes@epcamr.org
www.orangewaternetwork.org

December 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Renovated and constructed an Iron Oxide Resource Recovery Work Station and Processing Center in the Supply Area of the Earth Conservancy Building with their permission
- Meeting with Mike Corcoran-Wilkes-Barre Area School District Science Coordinator to continue to work on the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant; Completed a **\$7500** PA DEP Environmental Education Grant and submitted it by the deadline on December 15, 2010; Met with Dan Flood Elementary & Kistler Elementary 5th grade Teachers who will be participating in the "Tree Trout Macro ID & AMD" outdoor environmental education program in the Spring 2011
- Worked with Ray Clarke, Huber Breaker Preservation Society to complete a **\$1500** grant application for the Live Well, Luzerne County Healthy Community Connections grant that will allow for proper signage, historic interpretation, and safe visitor access from the Ashley community and surrounding areas to the site through improved connectivity via the streets and roadways that lead directly to the Huber Breaker and the future Miner's Memorial Park; Set up an EPCAMR free e-mail account for Ray Clarke since he is a member of EPCAMR
- Worked on and completed a Dominion & Western PA Conservancy Grant for **\$2000** to conduct a Macro-Mayhem AMD Water Monitoring & Identification Program in Tioga and Lycoming Counties with 5 5th grade school districts impacted by AMD in partnership with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association and the Lycoming & Tioga County Conservation Districts
- Put together the supplies and materials order from the **PA F & BC Aquatic Resources ID Grant** for Cabelas, HACH, and Acorn Naturalist; Discussed with Staff about obtaining our PA Fishing Licenses and Permits that will be necessary for us to sample in the streams in 2011 with the students as a requirement of the grant
- Updated EPCAMR's information on the **ChesapeakeStat** Web Directory of watershed groups
- Sent around some information to our partners on the legal Federal definition of "navigable water" <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Navigable+Waters>; EPCAMR was providing some input into the discussion on the WV Keeley 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision (<http://wvgazette.com/News/201011081101>) since mine discharges from non-point sources of pollution are not streams or rivers, although some of the flow volumes that emanate from some of them can make tributary streams pale in comparison, we find it very difficult to pinpoint a organization or even a current landowner as the only person responsible for treating a discharge whether it be voluntarily through a watershed organization or through forced compliance of

landowner when mine water that comes out of one location can originate in some very complex hydrogeology connected underground mine pool complexes that can extend for miles and have square mile drainage underground that are mind-boggling

- EPCAMR received all of the materials from the Marywood University graduate students that provided free technical graphic design assistance to EPCAMR to complete an ad campaign to assist us with our education and outreach efforts
- Provided Colleen Carter, Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority Marketing Director with an estimated number of visitors (5000) to our programs this year, the number of volunteers donated hours of service (9000) to our programs and projects, and the number of environmental education programs (45) that we've offered in 2010

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff performed AMD Water Sampling, Biological Sampling, Flow Monitoring, and Visual Habitat Assessment work in the field on Espy Run, a tributary to the Nanticoke Creek, for the Earth Conservancy to establish a baseline watershed assessment of the tributary prior to the completion of an expanded AMD Treatment wetland system being constructed where an AMD discharge is impacting the stream prior to flowing into Nanticoke Creek; Completed monitoring forms
- Completed a **\$6000** Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant for the Solomon Creek Watershed to conduct a preliminary assessment of the 18.1 square mile AMD impacted watershed with a focus on its tributaries that are on the Impaired Waters List and some tributaries that actually have native trout species that are living in isolation; Received several letters of support for the project from the Earth Conservancy, Appalachian Coal Country Team, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Pennsylvania Environmental Council NE Office, and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
- A new version of **AMD Treat v4.1c** is on OSM's website <http://amd.osmre.gov/>
- Worked on and completed a **\$150,000** proposal to the Delaware Estuary Project to continue to map the mine pools for the Upper Lehigh and Delaware River through their website
- Participated on the PA DEP 319 Resource Extraction Workgroup Conference Call; Provided much of the material for the agenda, led by Donna Carnahan-PA DEP Section 319 Program; EPA Region III would like the Annual report to concentrate more on the watershed implementation plans and not so much on the narrative addressing the goals and objectives in the Nonpoint Source Management Plan; Mike will be filling out the Excel Spreadsheet to update the EPA on our progress and provide it to Donna by mid January 2011
- Invoiced Schuylkill Headwaters Association for the webhosting service that EPCAMR will be providing for their organization
- Reviewed and made final edits to the new Huber Breaker Preservation Society brochure created by the EPCAMR Staff

- Meghan Gershey, an engineering student at Wilkes University will be assisting EPCAMR with researching design specifications for the solar kiln that we would like to construct in the Spring 2011 to dry our iron oxide; EPCAMR could really use someone to research online and provide us with several options on how to build it without using electricity, and hopefully it could run off a solar fan. EPCAMR has two specifications for wood kilns in our possession right now, but we need more drawings to give me a better idea of how to make one; She will conduct the research and ask around in her Engineering Department to come up with a conceptual design that we might want to use in the end
- The Marcellus Shale Data Tracker can be found at www.Fracktracker.org. It has been very helpful to some groups; EPCAMR has been receiving many calls from the gas industry on mine discharges and available water; EPCAMR Staff are having constant meetings with members of the industry to educate them on the history of the area so they understand the attitudes and value of the residents and the economic and environmental consequences and opportunities to utilize abandoned mine water as a resource
- Provided the Pennsylvania Environmental Council with a Letter of Support for their USDA grant request for the Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program and addressed it Thomas Williams, State Director , PA Rural Development Water & Environmental Programs; EPCAMR prepared the letter to express our support for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's grant; The purpose of the proposed project is to remove illegally dumped trash, scrap metal and tires from the environment and to educate local community residents on the negative environmental and economic impacts of illegal dumping on their communities. PEC will conduct multiple community illegal dump site cleanups in Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. PEC will work with stakeholders to organize and coordinate all the activities for each identified cleanup and then conduct the cleanups with volunteers or contractors. Additionally, PEC will educate the community regarding illegal dumping via an educational presentations, press releases, press conferences and most importantly, via the invaluable hands on experience of our volunteers. The proposed project will result in the cleanup of illegal dumpsites and the removal of several hundred tons of illegal dumped trash, scrap metal and tires from the environment. The proposed project will also result in the education of numerous volunteers, students and local municipal officials regarding the negative impacts of illegal dumping on their communities.

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff prepared a Professional Services Scope of Work, Budget, and Narrative for Mr. Kent Fuller and Mr. James Pagnotti, from Pagnotti Enterprises on some possible mine pool mapping work in the Hazleton area, Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. is interested in having EPCAMR perform; EPCAMR Staff submitted the complete application prior to the Holidays to Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc.
- Provided an EPCAMR lap top on loan to Ian Palmer to finish up his data entry of water quality results gathered from the Surface Mine Permits located at the Pottsville District Mining Office for the Mine Pool Mapping Project; The 24,953 water quality data monitoring points will prove useful to our efforts; Performed a review of the USGS groundwater modeling study and found a couple of things that we passed along to you Chuck Cravotta in case they wanted to make the changes given our comments:

1. The Vulcan MCU calculations do not match in Tables 4 and 6. In Table 4, when you add up the area of the Vulcan MCU you get 4.67. In Table 6, they have the area listed at only 3.23
2. The Scott MCU calculations also do not match in Tables 4 and 6. In Table 4, when you add up the area of the Scott MCU you get 11.33. In Table 6, they have the area listed at 13.47
3. In Table 10, we didn't understand how the model computes 0 cfs discharge flows out of the Centralia, Potts and Tunnel, Scott, and the Big Mountain MCUs. Those model results made us wonder about the validity of the model or that it was just an error

Conference Coordination

- EPCAMR reported on the plans for the 2011 PA Conference on AMR; It is going to be held in the eastern part of the state in Hazelton August 4,5 and 6th. Since it is the Coalition's 15th year anniversary the thought was to have something special Thursday evening to recognize the event; The bulk of the conference will then follow on Friday and Saturday. EPCAMR got a good deal on the facilities. Tours may be planned. The planning committee will be contacted soon after the holidays
- Became a partner in the 2011 Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Reading, PA as we have done for over a decade, to assist in publicity, promotion, and outreach of the one day event geared towards our watershed partners working in the Upper Schuylkill River watersheds; Joined our other partners who are already committed to the event: Bucks County Planning Commission, Cadastral Consulting, Center in the Park Senior Environment Corps, Friends of Mingo Creek, Hay Creek Watershed Association, Hopewell Big Woods Partnership, A.D. Marble & Co., Montgomery County Community College, Octoraro Native Plant Nursery, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Philadelphia Water Department, Reading Area Community College, Schuylkill Action Network, Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, Stell Environmental Enterprises, Stroud Water Research Center, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Write Beat.

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Worked with Mike to develop a menu of Funding Alternatives to complete the Mine Pool Mapping for the entire Anthracite Coal Region that we can then distribute to interested funders in 2011; Provided a copy of the Funding Options to Tom Clark-SRBC as an update so that he could pass it along to Paul Swartz and others within SRBC for review and consideration; SRBC is compiling historical water quality data from the anthracite region; 700 sites with over 12,000 water quality sampling events have been compiled by SRBC; A GIS layer has been developed to be able to take a broad look analysis of the water quality of the streams and mine pools in the anthracite region. SRBC has also collaborated with EPCAMR so that all water quality will be on new update of EPCAMR's RAMLIS CD Tool for Community Groups. SRBC is also assisting EPCAMR to find funding to continue the mapping of the pools and surface water. This will help SRBC trying to pinpoint mine pools that could be used for low flow conditions
- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks; Meeting with Cheryl Brobst in Berwick, PA to sign checks; Placed the updated mileage policy from the State with our Personnel Policy
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for November 2010; Reviewed Mike and Wren's monthly Board Reports

- Continued to work on an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) application through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development to become an approved Educational Improvement Organization with PA that could allow us to receive funding to support our environmental education programs throughout the schools that we serve in NE & NorthCentral PA
- OSM has informed EPCAMR that we will be receiving a free version of the ArcGIS v10 software bundle due to our participation and membership with the OSM TIPS National GeoSpatial Data Standards Team sometime after the New Year
- Provided a sample letter of support for the President's FY 2011 request for the programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service to the ACCWT ListServe that EPCA MR just sent to our Congressmen and State Senators; Congressman Paul Kanjorski, Senator Bob Casey, and Senator Arlen Specter. We definitely need additional funds to keep the OSM/VISTA program alive and we need to reduce the amount of the cost share to the sponsoring organizations who are always continuing to find and hope to secure additional funding just to keep our own full-time staff in order to support the OSM/VISTAs as a sponsoring organization; Future funding needs to help to reduce our costs across the board; EPCAMR is committed to continuing to sponsor OSM/VISTAs as long as we can continue to secure the funding to keep both our organization and the programs that the support on our behalf



EPCAMR's newest Iron Oxide Chalk Box Design