

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Submitted higher resolution photos for the EPCAMR Case Study in the Urban Environmental Education e-online book to the lead editor, *Alex Kudryavtsev*
- Received two Letters of Professional Support from *Diane Madl*-PA DCNR EE Specialist, and *Pamela McEmoyle*-7 Generations Charter School Middle School Science Teacher to attach with Executive Director's Application to PAEE for recognition and certification through their Non-Formal EE Certification Program; Forwarded the Letters and completed Application Form to *Fran Bires*, Director of the McKeeever Center
- EPCAMR offered up 30 GOT AMD? Stickers to Eagle Scout candidates that will be attending a 4-hour "Mining in Society" Merit Badge Course at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA on January 10th, run by the Boy Scouts of America
- EPCAMR Staff attended the PA AML group strategic planning meeting at Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA
- Published an article and news update about EPA's decision to announce the first national regulations to provide for the safe disposal of coal combustion residuals (coal ash) from coal-fired power plants and the ash as a solid waste and not a hazardous waste; ARIPPA benefits tremendously, even with the fly ash from the Co-Gen Plants falling under the SMCRA law; <http://www2.epa.gov/coalash/coal-ash-rule>
- *Sue Hand*, renowned artist in the Back Mountain, Wyoming Valley donated 3 iron oxide water color paintings from her Wyoming Valley Collection to EPCAMR value at nearly **\$1500**; Each of the paintings will be beautifully displayed in the EPCAMR Office for public viewing during normal business operation hours; EPCAMR has hundreds of students and visitors that come through our doors over the course of the year to inquire about abandoned mine related issues, mine water pollution problems, AMD & Art, environmental education outreach programs, technical grant writing assistance, underground and surface mine map interpretation and mapping, and to discuss historic preservation efforts throughout the Coal Region; EPCAMR will make it a point to talk about the paintings and the use of iron oxide by many regional artists that have been able to work with EPCAMR to find a way to find something positive, uplifting, and artistic about mine drainage and what used to only be considered a pollutant source; The education that we'll be able to provide to the public will be invaluable and by allowing EPCAMR to showcase her artwork along with other artist's works that we have displayed in our Office will be a wonderful example of creating art from a form of water pollution that is now considered to be a valuable artistic medium; They will serve as wonderful pieces of artwork detailing some of the more scenic and artistic renditions of a polluted landscape that somehow ironically natural and beautiful at the same time; Her artwork captured the essence of these three locations representation of our mining past majestically and will serve as exceptional examples of AMD & Art as an interdisciplinary form of art and environmental education for students and the public alike for years to come

- Worked with local Ashley artist, *Diane Czajkowski*, who created a set of Holiday Cards for EPCAMR out of two original oil paintings mixed with our three iron oxides in preparation for the Holiday Season; Posted to our site for sale; A small portion of the sale would go back to the artist and she allowed EPCAMR to retain 75% of the sale
- Contacted by *Kendall Bilbrey*, and Appalachian Transition Fellow (a program of the Highlander Research and Education Center), for the Alliance for Appalachia (AfA), to provide EPCAMR with information that Central Appalachian Coalitions are working on related to the AML Trust Fund and other social, environmental, economic, and education issues around coal, coal mining, and abandoned mines; EPCAMR provided additional links and information for the AfA and hopes to keep in contact with them; <http://theallianceforappalachia.org/>
- Completed a Resource Form requested by the Delaware Estuary Program to update EPCAMR's information in the Delaware Estuary Water Education Resource Guide directory and submitted the document along with our logo to *Melissa Bittner*, Program Specialist with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; www.delawareestuary.org

Technical Assistance

- Prepared a Letter of Support at the request of *Geoff Shaw*, Executive Administrator, Earth Conservancy for their proposal to the US EPA Region III Brownfields Program for funding to reclaim the Bliss Banks
- Provided comments to *Ruth Roperti*, PAEE for the Strategic Plan draft being developed by the PA State Consortia Community of Learners; Participated in a conference call with *Ben Cohen*-Director of Evaluation for the Center for Schools and Communities to conduct an evaluation of EPCAMR's participation in the PA State Consortia as a Leadership Team Member and Community of Learners member; Contacted *Ed McCreary*-President, PAEE to give him some perspective on the PA State Consortia and the Community of Learners and how they might be able to work alongside the PAEE Regional Directors and volunteers from across the State that are not aware of what progress has been made in the last year with the EECapacity Grant from NAAEE and the US EPA; Provided Ed with a recap of the five presentations that the Executive Director made at the International NAAEE Conference in Ottawa, CA on behalf of PAEE, the PA State Consortia, and EPCAMR; Offered up EPCAMR's Office and Conference Room to host the PAEE Advisory Board, should they plan a first quarter meeting to discuss state-wide involvement with PAEE
- Provided *Mike Korb*, Environmental Manager for the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation with links to several watershed assessments and plans within the Wyoming Valley and N. Branch of the Susquehanna that addressed AMD and water supplies, including EPCAMR's Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan, PEC's N. Branch Rivers Conservation Plan, and the SRBC Mid-Basin Survey
- Prepared an In-Kind Matching Funds Letter to provide to *Jim Wetzel*, Weatherly Borough, for the Hazle Creek Growing Greener Grant to detail **\$6000** of field technical assistance, report writing, GIS Mapping, and professional services provided by the EPCAMR Staff over the course of the flow monitoring in the Black Creek Watershed
- Provided some technical assistance to *Dan Koury*, Watershed Coordinator for the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office on mine pool elevation and water quality data for both discharges, mine pools, and mine pool elevations around Glen Lyon, PA in the Southern Wyoming Valley; Water quality data from the monitoring points at the Susquehanna Coal Co. Glen Lyon Mine has changed dramatically since early 2011; The mine pool appeared to be alkaline prior to 2011 and since April 2011 the monitoring wells indicate that there is now considerable acidity; Could be indicative of a collapse somewhere in the mine or deeper mine water flows finding pathways to the discharge locations
- Raised **\$810** in four days online through the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's Facebook Page administered by EPCAMR to purchase and restore a rare Blue Coal Advertising Sign that was 10' x 4' and was found in an Antique Shop in New Hampshire; Sign was only **\$400** and the remaining funds will be used to clean it, remove some rust, possibly re-paint it through a color-match process, and showcase it
- Downloaded transducer data from the Old Forge AMD Borehole, changed the desiccant, and recorded the flow at the Duryea AMD Outfall with Mike; Meeting with Bernie to discuss projects and sign checks

- Meeting with *Joe Sapienza*, Director, at the EPCAMR Office to show him underground mine maps of the Centralia area and some of the 3D Modeling that has been partially completed for that area in EarthVision that he filmed and may be including in his full length documentary on Centralia, PA, “**America’s Lost Town**”
- Attended the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board Meeting to discuss opportunities for future grant funding

Project Coordination

- Forwarded a Survey Layout of the **Huber Miner’s Memorial Park** to McLane Associates, who are assisting EPCAMR and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society in coming up with green infrastructure implementation designs and stormwater best management practices for the 3 acre park that is being constructed on former abandoned mine lands in Ashley, PA on portions of the grounds of the former Huber Breaker Coal Corporation; Forwarded a DWG AutoCAD file from TetraTech of the original Survey Layout to McLane Associates received from *Tim Connolly*; Informed by McLane Associates that *Geoff Baumes*, who has extensive knowledge and experience with landscape design and architecture, will be working on creating some green infrastructure design elements into the **Huber Miner’s Memorial Park Project**; Met with *Paul Bechtel* and *Geoff Baumes* at the Park to conduct a walk around the 3 acres of mine lands; www.geoffbaumes.com
- Updated by Ben Lorson, from the PA F&BC on the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Restoration Project**; PA F&BC are working to finalize an MOA with PA DOT to provide funding One last thing that EPCAMR is working towards is having a meeting with PADEP and USACOE to make sure that this project satisfies mitigation expectations associated with stream impacts for the road project; Since the money is coming from PA DOT, we need to make sure that the regulatory agencies are comfortable with this project meeting the permitting expectations for the road project; At some point we may be holding a site meeting to resolve that issue in the beginning of January; Once PA F&BC have the MOA executed with PA DOT, they will be working on a draft cooperative agreement between PFBC and EPCAMR for review prior to sending for signature
- Worked with Liz and Gabby to put together the June through December 2014 Progress Report and Reimbursement for the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project**
- Forwarded the **Waterboxx Phase III Project** management agreement to ISI, Inc. and discussed next steps that will be taken by EPCAMR Staff over the next few months as we begin to publicize the project and reach out to the communities in the EPCAMR Region that we will be looking to provide the Waterboxxes; Received a \$4000 working capital advance from ISI, Inc. to start the project; Prepared an EPCAMR News Release on the project award; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/northern-anthracite-coalfields-appalachian-epcamr-collaborative-waterboxx-project-phase-iii-2-year-project-funded-for-15000/>
- Conducted several more AMD Field Tours with the Greater Nanticoke Area as a part of the **AMD & Pottery EE Grant**; **345** students took part in all of the tours; **19** parent chaperones, and **16** teachers participated in the tours; Requested that several of the teachers gather up the Pre-Test surveys from the students that will be used to determine what their existing knowledge base was prior to the program and compare it to a Post-Test survey at the end of the Program; Provided Liz and Gabby with two historical documents of important dates and times of historic mining events in history of the Southern Wyoming Valley that will be included on the DVDs for the teachers; EPCAMR Staff will follow up with Mrs. Kordek after the New Year to plan the in-classroom Pottery EE Program and follow up with the two Pottery artists from Misericordia and Wilkes University
- Received comments back from *Tom Clark*-SRBC on our **Anthracite Region Mine Mapping Technical Report** and will be incorporating them and making some edits in January 2015 and resubmitting the draft to make it final

- Worked with Gabby, Mike, and Liz to develop, write, and budget for the submission of the **Mill Creek Coldwater Conservation Planning Grant** with a focus on the Laurel Run sub-watershed in the Wyoming Valley; Prepared a draft Letter of Support and sent it out to all municipalities in the watershed and any other regional supporters that we could obtain prior to the submission of the grant at the end of the month; EC, PEC, PennFuture, LRCA, Bear Creek Charter School, 3 Springs Water Company, were all contacted and several letters of support were sent back to EPCAMR, including the City of Wilkes-Barre, BCCS, LRCA, EC, and one will be forthcoming from PennFuture; Completed and submitted the **\$5000** grant

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; "Reclaiming Our Communities" is the theme for the 2015 conference; Discussed potential topics for presentations, format of the conference, pre-conference tour, golf fundraiser, and website development once the theme is selected; Golf and Conference Rooms Contract review from the Ramada was reviewed on the November conference call; Worked on the language for the Film Festival submission form and provided significant comments; MSI Presentation by EPCAMR is going to be submitted for consideration by Kelsey, Dave, and Samantha; Mike is going to submit a 3D Mine Mapping Presentation; Finished up the Intro for the Program for the Conference; Anne Daymut-WPCAMR Watershed Specialist will be putting the Intro Narrative into a Abandoned Mine Post article as a Guest Writer; Secured a donation of some fishing stix for the Silent Auction from Triple Crown Outdoors, Glen Lyon, PA; <http://triplecrownoutdoors.com/fishin-stix/>
- Participated in the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) Civic Ecology Workshop Conference Call with *Dr. Marianne Elizabeth Krasny*, Civic Ecology Lab, Cornell University to receive background information on the upcoming 3-Day Workshop in Annapolis, MD

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Scott Hizny*, Harvey's Lake, PA, *Karen Van Why*, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and *Mark Jenkins*, Philadelphia, PA are interested in becoming volunteer photographers with EPCAMR; Encouraged them to fill out our online Volunteer Form
- *Giovanni Mazzola*, Drums, PA, *John Naessig*, Moscow, PA, and *Adrienne Vanish*, Trucksville, PA are interested in becoming volunteers with EPCAMR and have signed up through our online Volunteer Form
- *Regina Cahill*, Honesdale, PA is interested in the volunteer photographer position with EPCAMR; She has a background in the film and television industry; She does photography as a hobby and has taken a few classes; Encouraged her to fill out our online Volunteer Form
- Met with *Christopher Beeman*, SVP Business Development & Co-Founder of GiveGab to discuss transitioning over our volunteer opportunities from VolunteerMatch to GiveGab; The platform is built out to have a really robust volunteer management/communication, social sharing, a mobile app, customizable branding, and now fundraising capabilities all built into one platform; They are excited to showcase the newest addition for donations which ranges from merely accepting donations through GiveGab, to running full-fledged fundraising campaigns through GiveGab. Most importantly, it is cost effective as they don't charge any upfront fees, only the processing fees associated with donations, which we allow the donor to cover and over 80% cover those fees; GiveGab is willing to assist us with transferring over the information when our interns come on board and with helping us set up online fundraisers
- *Vita Cella*, Harding, PA is interested in providing Clerical Support as a volunteer with EPCAMR when necessary; Encouraged her to fill out our online Volunteer Form and that we would be in touch with her in the Spring 2015
- *Hayley Greenwood*, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Senior majoring in Mass Communications and Marketing at King's College, is interested in becoming a Marketing & Graphics Designer volunteer with EPCAMR; Encouraged her to fill out our online Volunteer Form and that I would get back in touch with her in the Winter 2015

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed and submitted a Final Evaluation for Misericordia University Senior Peter Falvey's Internship
- Interviewed *Jessica Johnson*, Nanticoke, who is a Senior in Environmental Studies at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA for a Winter Internship as a Watershed Outreach Specialist from March 2015-May 2015
- Interviewed *Amanda Hamstra*, West Pittston, PA, who is also a Senior in Environmental Studies at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA for a Winter Internship as a Watershed Outreach Specialist from March 2015-May 2015
- Scheduled an interview for *Haley Giannone*, Bloomsburg, PA, who is a Senior in Geography and Planning at Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA for the middle of January 2015 for a Summer Watershed Outreach Specialist Internship from May 2015-August 2015
- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts and made some edits in QuickBooks to the Accounts and Categories of Expenses
- Worked with Mike to develop a list of Open Invoices to provide to the EPCAMR Board as an update from QuickBooks
- Set up an AmazonSmile Account for EPCAMR so that people who shop on Amazon.com can have a portion of their sales go directly to EPCAMR



Robert leading a tour of Greater Nanticoke Elementary 5th graders to the Honey Pot AMD discharge in Nanticoke, PA



Robert showing the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary 4th graders multiple uses for iron oxide that is recovered from AMD Treatment Systems in the Wyoming Valley