

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes-December 2006 Monthly Report
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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Attended the LCD Fundraising Committee Meeting to discuss plans for the District's 2nd Annual Fundraising Banquet slated for March 10, 2007 at the Waterfront Banquet Facility, Plains
- Preliminary Site Visit to the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project Site location in Exeter Borough with Heather Graham, LCD Resource Conservation Specialist II, Rich Moroski-Exeter Borough Council, and Mike Hewitt-LCD Watershed Outreach Coordinator to walk the entire stream length where the proposed NSCD structures are anticipated to be constructed under the newly awarded Growing Greener Grant to EPCAMR; Photos were taken and sent along to Skelly & Loy, the anticipated consultant that will be working on the project with EPCAMR and the LCD over the next two years to eliminate the severe streambank erosion problem, reduce flooding issues, and prevention of surface water from entering the underground mine pool network on the West Side of the Wyoming Valley; Contact was also made with the Jake Kernoschak, Engineer with the PA DEP General Services Administration, who designed the two flood debris basins located on Hicks Creek
- Attended the LCD Board Meeting to propose that the Conservation District house an OSM/VISTA for 2007, as they did in 2006 with Valerie Taylor; Presented them with the Goals and Objectives, as well as an outline of the Work Plan for 2007 that was submitted to the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team for approval on December 14th; Recruitment of the OSM/VISTA will take place in the first quarter of 2007, with the eventual filling of the position in April 2007, with EPCAMR as the main sponsor of the position; A **\$5,500** cost-share for the position has already been secured through several grants that will allow the position to be fully funded for the second year by EPCAMR
- Completed a 5 page letter of recommendation for Valerie Taylor, EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA and submitted it along to Antioch College, where she has applied to get into graduate school in the Fall 2007
- Provided Curt Smith and his son, EPCAMR watershed monitoring volunteers with information on weir installation for the eventual construction of a weir at the Gravity #1 Slope AMD discharge in Plymouth Township in January 2007;
<http://2006.treatminewater.com/B/materials/flowmeasurement/flowmeasurement.pdf>
- Provided 2 letters of support to EMARR, out of Hazleton, for 2 proposals that Kate Feissner, will be submitting under the PA DEP BAMR AMD-06 Proposals to address AMD Tunnel discharges in the southern part of Luzerne County; EPCAMR and the LCD have always been supporters and partners in grant proposals to address AMD in southern Luzerne County
- Worked on publicizing the upcoming 2007 PAEE Conference in Wilkes-Barre, for Environmental Educators

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Finalized PA DEP BAMR AMD-06 Grant proposal with Chris Gillis, Eco-Tech LLC. and Josh Longmore-LCD, to remediate abandoned mine drainage and recover iron oxide from the Old Forge Borehole, Lackawanna County
- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Annual Meeting, Pittston to review the Area Plan and Work Plan of the RC & DC for 2007 that includes projects that are in partnership with EPCAMR and the LCD
- Conducted an interview with the Scranton-Times for a lead story on the President's signing of the bill that will bring billions of dollars into PA for additional abandoned mine reclamation and AMD remediation
- Worked with Mike to develop a draft GIS Map of trails in Lackawanna County that run along abandoned rail corridors and through abandoned mine lands for the Duetsche Institute, PA DCNR, Keystone College, Rail Trail Council NEPA, and LRCA; The GIS Map is being incorporate into a walking/hiking/biking trails brochure
- Received a progress report and update from John Orr-Dauphin County CD on the Bear Creek Remediation Project that will be forwarded to Dave Hamilton-OSM to close out the last quarter of 2006
- Worked on a progress report and update with Mike Hewitt on the Audenreid AMD Remediation Treatment System Project and forwarded it along to Dave Hamilton-OSM to close out the last quarter of 2006
- Submitted a final request for **\$9,394** to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the remainder of the grant that was being held until all of the paperwork, final reports, and final accounting documents were received and reviewed by Mark Lundgren, our Project Officer, for the Municipal Outreach Assistance GIS Grant that was received last year