

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program December 2008 Progress Report

Michael A. Hewitt, *Watershed Outreach Coordinator*

Luzerne Conservation District
485 Smith Pond Rd., Shavertown, PA 18708
(p) 570-674-3414 (f) 570-674-7989

hardcoal@epcamr.org
www.OrangeWaterNetwork.org

Highlights:

- Updated 1 GIS and 1 online database; produced 1 and georeferenced 8 OSM folio mine maps
- EPCAMR Staff submitted 2 grants totaling \$50K
- Presented at the Northumberland Co. AML Mtg and met with partners of the Old Forge Borehole Project.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the Month of November, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Aided the Columbia County Conservations District staff who were asked the nebulous “how much does it cost to fix a mining impacted watershed” question by a Lock Haven University student. The student was researching the Catawissa Creek Watershed. Used RAMLIS, the PA DEP BAMR Historical Reclamation Database and the Catawissa Creek Watershed Implementation Plan to come up with figures around \$32Million total to restore land and water.
- Produced a tabloid sized map of the Nescopeck Watershed for the Friends of the Nescopeck showing 3D relief, mine discharges, mine tunnels, mine pools, municipalities, roads, AMD polluted and unpolluted streams. This map will be in an informational newspaper article in the spring/summer.
- Presented at a Northumberland County AML meeting called by Congressman Chris Carney’s Office to talk about the future of SMCRA funding in the county. Updated the attendees on the mine pool mapping effort in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field of which a big chunk lies in Northumberland County.
- Sent out a meeting reminder to the EPCAMR board of trustees for the 1st Quarter 2009 meeting.
- Posted articles and updated calendar items on www.orangewaternetwork.org.
- Imported the Friends of the Nescopeck Website into the NetObjects Fusion Elements program to aide their VISTA, Kat Krulack, in taking over the maintenance of the website. Burned a CD of the local files and sent it via snail mail.
- Sent a success story to the TIPS website in the form of the EPCAMR’s recent ArcNews Article. The Technical Innovation and Processional Services (TIPS) is a program of the OSM and provides technology and software to aide in abandoned mine reclamation.

Technical Assistance:

- Downloaded and installed the FLOWS Toolbox for ArcGIS Desktop to calculate Strahler Stream Orders on AMD impacted streams on the Integrated List. This classification, which was present in the original 303d list, aides in the display of streams on maps.
- Discussed providing a map of the Susquehanna Warrior Trail to the Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council with the PA Environmental Council Northeast Office as a part of a PA DOT grant the received for trail improvements. EPCAMR will be compensated for gathering several GPS locations along the trail and formatting the maps to SWTC specifications.
- Submitted grant to the EPA for \$25,000 to support the 2009 and 2010 PA Statewide AMR Conferences.
- Filled out paperwork updating statistics on the Oneida# 1 Treatment System and submitted it to Eric Cavazza, PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office.
- Spoke with Mine Dunn, OSM Pittsburg Field Office, about the mine pool mapping project since the completion of work in the western middle anthracite field and what to do with the limited amount of data available in the southern anthracite fields. Also received a file showing mined vs. un-mined areas in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field. This new layer surprisingly shows that a vast majority of coal remains un-mined, however the source data is from the early 1970's.
- Aided Robert with the budget for a PA DEP Waste Management Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant for \$25,000.
- Georeferenced OSM folios N-1CC 00-04, N-1C 00+09 and N-1D 00+12 mine maps in the area of West Nanticoke. Then drew the approximate drainage area for the Grant Tunnel #1 Discharge based on elevations and structure within the mine. Provided this info to Hedin Environmental who will be designing a passive treatment system for the discharge.
- Aided Carly as she took samples of discharges in the Wyoming Valley as a part of the OSM VISTA quarterly monitoring program. Uploaded the results from the Honey Pot Discharge, the Grand Tunnel Discharge, and the Plainsville Borehole to www.datashed.org.
- Added the Oneida #1 and Aylesworth Creek Treatment System sampling data to www.datashed.org. Uploaded background info and pictures of the Lackawanna River Watershed, the North Branch of the Susquehanna River Watershed, Lausanne Tunnel Treatment System, Audenried Treatment System and Espy Run Treatments System. Also submitted bug fix requests to aide in the development of the web tool.
- Added mine pool layers to the Luzerne Environmental Resources map document on the Luzerne Conservation District server. The LCD Erosion and Sediment Control Department had a need to know the locations of areas that are not recommended for infiltration BMPs because of underlying mine pools.
- Began writing blurbs on each layer associated with the Mine Pool Mapping project to develop a set of methods and references for the final report.
- Met with partners of the Old Forge Borehole project and a representative from the Sustainable Energy Fund to talk about funding scenarious for the full scale project.
- Spoke with Jim Andrews(PA DEP Pottsville DMO) and Todd Wood (PA DEP BAMR) about "Plan B" for WPCAMR's FACTS Program. They would be willing to help collect the samples from the treatment systems in the Spring and Summer 2009. Jim also said that the option is still there to use the DEP testing facility in Harrisburg. He said they have the capacity to test for the parameters needed and they already have a courier service in place that pick up at their offices in Pottsville and Wilkes-Barre.