

EPCAMR



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February 2007 Monthly Report

Luzerne County Highlights

- Conducted an interview with Diane Czajkowski, a freelance writer for the West Sider Magazine in the Wyoming Valley for an article that will appear in an upcoming Winter/Spring Issue that will focus on an autobiographical essay on my experiences in Coal Country growing up, entitled, "Coal Oriented"
- AML Program Manager was requested and invited to be a keynote speaker in April 2007, during Earth Day Week, at Luzerne County Community College, by the Environmental Science Club, and Professor Brooke Yeager, who are sponsoring the lecture series; Talk will be on the AML COALS Cleanup Program that we're involved with and will end with an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop that all can participate in outside the Conference Room on the grounds of the College
- Attended the mandatory Growing Greener Grants Training Workshop, Wilkes-Barre and served as a technical assistance provider to grantees in attendance that needed to coordinate with EPCAMR or were looking to submit another grant in the next ground round
- Coordinated a meeting with EMARR and the Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton, to provide technical assistance and plan for future outreach efforts with the School District that will help them introduce ArcView GIS, AML, AMD, and environmental resource mapping of illegal dump sites around their schools through a PA DEP Environmental Education Grant for **\$20,000** that was awarded in the Fall 2006; EPCAMR and EMARR helped the School District develop the grant proposal that funded
- Began phone calling and meeting with property owners along Hicks Creek in Exeter, PA to set up meeting times with them to gain access to their properties for a future design/construction project that will incorporate natural stream channel design structures into the watershed to reduce sediment erosion, flooding, and stabilize some stream banks in the area;
- Coordinated with PAEE Steering Committee on continual planning efforts to convene the 2007 PAEE State-wide Conference that will be held in downtown Wilkes-Barre
- Attended a coordinating meeting conducted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council NE Office in Exeter, PA to review and provide comments on the draft Rivers Conservation Plan and Recommendations for the Wyoming Valley Watershed RCP, Luzerne County
- Several District Staff, including myself, attended the first of four Leadership Training Programs, "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow", held at the Monroe County Conservation District, facilitated by the Penn-State Cooperative Extension that is geared specifically for staff and managers of Conservation Districts in the Pocono NE Region
- Coordinated with Curt Smith and his son Matt, who are EPCAMR volunteer monitors that are gathering water quality data for the Avondale/Grand Tunnel Slope #1 AMD discharge and will soon be installing a weir for monitoring the flow from the discharge
- Passed along a copy of the PA State Budget to Josh for review

- Informed Ken Anderson, a volunteer who assisted EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District in coordinating a COALS Cleanup on the soon to be AML Property of the Hope Church, that their two NO DUMPING Signs were delivered and that I would be holding them in the office until the Spring, unless they wanted to pick them up sooner
- Developed a new partnership with the Mountain Trailblazer District 430 Boy Scouts Troop, Wanamie who are interested in conducting a COALS Cleanup along Turtle Creek, Conyngham Twp., Luzerne County on property owned by the Earth Conservancy that is in a PGC Game Cooperative; Coordinated with Jackie Dickman from the EC to obtain permission to at least nominate the site at the next COALS Meeting on March 1, 2007 at the Conservation District Office

EPCAMR Region Highlights

- Meeting in Dauphin County at the Upper Dauphin Middle School with EPCAMR President Ed Wytovich to sign checks related to EPCAMR business
- Submitted an opinion article on the recent AML Reauthorization Act that was passed to the *PA Digest* on the potential benefits both environmentally and economically that PA can gain from utilizing the additional influx of Federal dollars on priority abandoned mine lands that are ripe for redevelopment, recreation, tourism, housing redevelopment and industrial brownfields redevelopment
- Conducted a phone interview with Elaine Chaney, of the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) to give her an idea of the make-up and constituency of the EPCAMR Organization in preparation for her facilitation of an upcoming Organizational Capacity Building Workshop that she'll be running; Signed an agreement from ICL and forwarded it back to Elaine that in essence was telling us that the Workshop that is going to be conducted in March is valued at over **\$2000** provided by the William Penn Foundation and that she was hopeful that we would get a great turnout from the EPCAMR Board at the Workshop
- Corresponded with EPCAMR Board and extended an invitation to all of them to attend a March 2007 Organizational Capacity Building Workshop sponsored by William Penn Foundation and facilitated by the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL)
- Invited by the Office of Surface Mining's GeoSpatial Data Task Force that is developing some National Standards for Surface Coal Mining, Underground Mining, and Abandoned Mine GIS data layers to attend the ESRI User Conference from June 18-22, 2007, San Diego, CA, all expenses paid because of my recent membership and contributions provided to the Task Force National Team
- Conducted a monthly AMR Conference call with the 2007 AMR Conference Planning Committee to discuss topics and content for the upcoming annual meeting; 2007 AMR Conference will be held at the Ramada Inn, State College on July 20, 21, 2007
- Mike and I hosted a meeting with Bill Holland, Lancaster, PA who is a partner in a consulting firm that has a new water treatment technology that is prevalently used in the Mid-west and in the Southwest that treats water high in salts; The firm is called ESP and they are interested in making a trip from NM and Southern CA back to Northeastern PA to visit sites that are AMD impacted to ascertain the devices applicability; The AML Program Staff conducted a small tour of a few AMD impacted sites in the Wyoming Valley and sent Bill off with a few samples of mine drainage that was going to be shipped to NM for lab analyses and use in bench scale testing by the company before they come out East; Conducted a phone conference call with two other members of ESP
- AML Program Staff coordinated a meeting with PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, USGS, and Evergreen Environmental to go over the revised scope of work, budget, tasks, milestones, and deliverables for the recently awarded **\$150,000** Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Mine Pool Mapping Assessment Growing Greener Grant
- AML Program Staff was invited to the American Mushroom Institute's monthly meeting in Avondale, PA in Chester County, to give a talk on how their product might be used on abandoned mine reclamation projects and in AMD

Treatment Systems; Several mushroom growers and Conservation District representatives from Chester and Armstrong Counties were present and were pleased with our GIS Presentation on AML and with our discussions on the possible uses of the material beneficially on AML sites; Discussions were about transportation, hauling of the material, grant opportunities, market development, competition with Biosolids, interaction with the active coal industry (PCA, and PAC) related to their interest in the material and need

- AML Program Staff attended a meeting at the State Capitol with Governor Rendell and Secretary McGinty, first to thank them for their leadership role they took on the AML Reauthorization, and secondly for allowing members of the PA AML Campaign to provide the PA DEP and the legislature with the appropriate analyses and facts on the direct impacts and opportunities for reclamation and remediation across PA with the new influx of Federal dollars over the next 12 years; Governor Rendell and Secretary McGinty were supportive of our role in helping to facilitate and guide upcoming roundtable meetings with the public on the analyses of the new influx of funds and how best to prioritize and spend those dollars on reclamation, AMD remediation, economic redevelopment, establishment of trust funds, operation and maintenance of existing and future passive treatments systems, and overall grant administration
- Received a phone call from Tom Clark, former Watershed Specialist from Indiana County Conservation District, who is now the AMD Coordinator for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and wants to be involved in EPCAMR, WPCAMR activities throughout the region
- ORION Magazine has hyperlinked the news article on EPCAMR at <http://www.orionmagazine.org/pages/om/07-1om/OGN.html>
- Reviewed a concept paper from the Office of Surface Mining on the Coal Remining Incentive Concepts to implement new Section 415 of SMCRA Title IV
- Requested a draft copy of the newly printed "Nature Interrupted" AMD Environmental Education Curriculum from St. Vincent College in order for the AML Program Staff to begin to use it with teachers in the EPCAMR Region for the Spring/Summer/Fall of 2007
- Forwarded GIS Maps of Schuylkill County Priority 1 & 2 AML Sites to Paul Lohin, EPCAMR Board Member and Schuylkill Conservation District Chair
- Worked with John Orr-Dauphin CCD to update him on the progress made in regards to the potential use of compost material from JP Mascaro around the treatment ponds, if we can obtain topsoil as a blend to be able to layer enough material to get good growth around both of the basins that are in need of vegetation and a soil base due to the amount of rock material present on site and within the basins; Skelly & Loy are supportive of the technical merit of its use and just wanted to be sure that the PA Game Commission would be amenable to applying the Class A Compost; Talked with Scott Bills at the PA Game Commission and he was supportive as well and was going to get back to EPCAMR after talking with some other PGC Managers
- Provided an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt to Chari Towne-Schuylkill Riverkeepers as a door prize for the upcoming Schuylkill River Congress on March 3, 2007



Construction of the Upper Settling Basin and diversion of AMD from the Lykens Water Level Tunnel, Dauphin County