

# EPCAMR



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

[rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)  
[www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org)

## February 2010 Progress Report

### Education & Outreach

- Submitted corrections to EPCAMR's PA Fish & Boat Commission Aquatic Resources Education Grant
- Posted information on EPCAMR FaceBook related to PA DCNR's Eco-Camp to assist them with recruiting and publicity
- Submitted an application for a 3 minute video production/30 second television commercial giveaway to Video Innovations ([www.videoinnovations.com](http://www.videoinnovations.com)) valued at **\$1200**; Winner will be announced sometime in March 2010
- Forwarded information to Andy Wallace, Legislative Director for Senator Specter's Office in Washington DC on a FY2011 Priority Project of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR); Also informed several other staffers and Legislative Aides in the EPCAMR Region of our project (Congressman Kanjorski, Congressman Carney, Congressman Holden, and Senator Casey); Paul Schwartz, Executive Director has been meeting in the last few weeks with various Congressmen and the two Senator's Offices during his legislative visits to inform them of the projects and to gain their support; EPCAMR has been making calls locally to the District Offices because of an inability to travel to Washington DC, given my staff's limited travel budget to educate the staffers on the Mine Pool Mapping and Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy; Carney's Office suggested contacting some of the gas drilling companies (three were provided) to build a public-private partnership to move the project forward even further than it is
- Ernie Keller-Lackawanna County Conservation District Manager gave a push for AMD treatment and frac water supply to the Congressman's aides and Senators at the Lackawanna County meeting in early February; The County Commissioners looked interested; Congressman Carney's aide had the opinion that the gas drilling companies are independent and looking only for savings and ease of work; He doubts that any will be interested in a big uniform effort for development of supplies unless it satisfies the costs and ease of work
- Requested by Ruth Roperti-PAEE to assist with the publicizing of the annual PAEE conference is in eastern PA in March 2010; It will be held the 11th – 13th at Normandy Farm in Blue Bell outside of Philadelphia; All the information is at [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net)

- Received a copy of ARIPPA's newly revised brochure and requested copies of it for distribution to our watershed groups in the Region and Conservation Districts
- Interviewed by Pratik Shroff, a senior at Penn State University who is writing an article about the Avondale Mine Disaster for his Technical Writing class which will be published in the Pennsylvania Center for the Book
- Karen Gower- Bear Creek Camp, Environmental Programs Manager invited EPCAMR to participate in an Educational Program on Sunday, April 25th at the Bear Creek Camp , where it will be hosting its annual Earth Day event; The mission of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation is of particular interest in this area of Pennsylvania, and we accepted joining us for this event; EPCAMR will conduct an AMD Chalk Talk Program on how we harvest, recycle, and reuse iron oxide from AMD impacted streams
- Invited one of our former interns, Rayne Brown from LCCC, to work with us on cutting out aquatic insect cutouts for the AMD Avengers Comedy skit and backdrops with Leigh Ann; EPCAMR needs pizza boxes that are recycled to provide to the students to make their own cutouts once the originals are completed; The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Greater Nanticoke Elementary will be participating in the EE Program
- Interviewed by Paul Golias, Citizens Voice journalist or an article and story on the Huber Breaker AML Memorial Park fundraiser in partnership with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- Talked with Wayne Lehman, Schuylkill County Conservation District Watershed Specialist about EPCAMR's participation in the annual Bear Creek Festival this year and requested that the Conservation District help to offset some of our costs by purchasing the iron oxide that we will need to conduct the AMD Tie Dye Workshop that we do every year with nearly 600-750 people
- Ms. Paula Longo-Environmental Initiatives Coordinator, Bear Creek Community Charter School requested that EPCAMR conduct an AMD Education Program to their Environmental Club in the Spring; EPCAMR recently submitted a **\$500** grant to their foundation and was awarded it to purchase a digital video camera to assist us with producing a video for submission to Mike Rowe's Dirty Jobs on the work of EPCAMR while involving the students from the Charter School
- EPCAMR Executive Director attended a photo shoot at the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader for a future feature later in March 2010 as one of the **Top 40 Under 40 Top Professionals** within the service area of one of the largest circulating newspapers in Luzerne County; Selected by a panel of professional peers from the area for his environmental work in Luzerne County, the Region, and as a native son to the Wyoming Valley
- Corresponded with Hannah Smith-PACD EE Specialist and requested that EPCAMR Staff e-mails be maintained on the PACD EE List-Serve

## Technical Assistance

- Meeting with Bernie McGurl-LRCA Executive Director and EPCAMR President to review and sign checks and to review a RBC leadership grant application package that LRCA will be submitting; EPCAMR Executive Director provided ideas and some content towards the development of a draft proposal; Contacted Drew DeHoff-SRBC about potential allocation of funds for the monitoring of several AMD locations in the Lackawanna Watershed, including the Old Forge Borehole
- Provided Weatherly Borough Planning Commission and the Hazle Creek partners with a revised description of the AMD Monitoring Work Plan around the headwaters of Hazle Creek in lower Luzerne and northern Carbon County
- Continued to work on a draft Surface Coal Mine Boundary Area Standard and drafts of four Title IV AML SMCRA standards with members of the OSM National Geospatial Data Standards Team; Worked with Mike to utilize our RAMLIS Tool to create screenshots for figures to be included in the standards
- Attended the PA DCNR Greening Grant Workshop at LCCC
- Provided Walt Dietz-PA Fish & Boat Commission Aquatic Resource Specialist with contact information for t-shirts for future AMD Tye Dye activities and fish print activities; EPCAMR goes to Futuristic Innovative Graphics in Wilkes-Barre; website is [www.4t-shirts.com](http://www.4t-shirts.com)

## Project Coordination

- Mailed out amended EPCAMR contracts with sub-contractors and independent contractors on projects to extend the closure dates on all grants through June 30, 2010
- Attended a meeting with PA DEP BAMR, Skelly & Loy, Luzerne Conservation District, and PA DEP Dams & Waterways Division (Chapter 105 Program) to go over necessary Joint Permit application requirements for the Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project; Prepared a second letter requesting an extension through June 2011 to complete the design and construction of the project because the permitting review alone for the Chapter 105 Joint Permit will take beyond June 30, 2010
- Received January 2010 Invoice and Final Project Report Outline from Roger Hornberger for the Mine Pool Mapping Project; Requested electronic versions of draft chapters from Roger Hornberger for the Mine Pool Mapping Project
- Worked with Janice Leiby, Wilkes-Barre Career & Tech Center Horticulture Teacher and FFA Advisor on revising an Avondale AML Community Gardens survey that will be forwarded to the Plymouth Twp. Planning Commission members for their March meeting; Attended a photo opportunity at the W-B CTC with Administrators for the newspaper on the recently awarded **\$4000** grant to the W-B CTC FFA Club that are partnering with EPCAMR on the Avondale AML Community Gardens Project

## **Conferences, Trainings, & Tours**

- EPCAMR Staff attended the Keystone ColdWater Conference in State College to sit in on several topics related to the Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling throughout the State and its relationship to potential use of AMD and mine pool water for future frac water resource development
- Provided a speaker bio to the PA Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) for a co-presentation in May 2010 on EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Progress and the Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy in partnership with the SRBC; Tom Clark and EPCAMR Executive Director to co-present
- Invited by Keith Brady-PA DEP to submit an abstract to present at the NAAMLPA Conference in September 2010 in the Scranton area on our Mine Pool Mapping Project in Eastern PA; Working with Mike Hewitt and Tom Clark to put together two presentations that will complement each other; EPCAMR will be a part of several tours in the Anthracite Region along with PA DEP BAMR and ARIPPA as a part of the Conference
- Worked with Gwen Johnson-Foundation for PA Watersheds on the Datashed Panel Session for the May 2010 Watershed Summit; Mike Hewitt to be on the panel and ECAMR Executive Director to moderate

## **Community Cleanups**

- Wyoming Valley PRIDE Spring/Summer 2010 Cleanups through the 1-800-Volunteer.org application has been approved by the Volunteer Action Center of United Way of Wyoming Valley; EPCAMR can now accept volunteers and begin tracking hours related to volunteer service; Meeting with Rick Rose-President of Petroleum Service Company, Wilkes-Barre to inform him of our cleanup project and asked his permission to place a dumpster on his property which is adjacent to the cleanup spot; He agreed and is supportive of our cleanup efforts; Meeting with Bill Harris-Planning Director of the City of Wilkes-Barre who provided us with property ownership maps and tax parcel identifications to the adjacent properties around the cleanup site so that we can contact them to obtain permission to enter and cleanup the area

## **Community Meetings**

- Held a conference call with Tom Clark-SRBC about planning a regional meeting on the Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy and Datashed AMD Water Quality Monitoring; Submitted comments to Tom Clark on the development of an Anthracite AMD Strategy Survey to be provided to participants who will be attending the March 11, 2010 Meeting at the Penn-State Hazleton Campus
- Attended a meeting of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board to discuss the Huber AML Memorial Park fundraising Project; Worked with Ray Clarke-HBPS to review the donor database and to create a Paver Fundraising database to track donations for the Project

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed a US Department of Commerce-Census Bureau Classification Report mandated by the IRS on behalf of EPCAMR and submitted it
- EPCAMR Staff sat in on a conference call on organizational development sponsored by Network for Good on “Making a Switch: How to Change When Change Is Hard”
- Worked with GoodSearch to add an EPCAMR Logo to their toolbar that will assist EPCAMR with donations for general fund revenue
- Meeting with Bill Frantz, a web designer and web host manager who provided EPCAMR Staff with some information on a new hosting package, software, open source programs, and freeware that might be more suitable to EPCAMR since we have been having some difficulties with server side maintenance of the EPCAMR website
- EPCAMR Executive Director withdrew name from reviewing PA DEP EE Grants under the advisement of the PA DEP legal staff, even if EPCAMR were not seeking a grant for any given year that the Director was being asked by the PA DEP to be a grant reviewer; Didn't want to create any conflict of interests



An illegally dumped air conditioner cover at the Penn Ave. Cleanup Site in W-B