

EPCAMR



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February 2011 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Attended a publicity event at Wilkes-Barre Area School District's Kistler Elementary 5th grade teachers and students, PPL, and the Citizen's Voice who were going to be running a front page cover story on the PPL & PA Fish & Boat Commission grant; EPCAMR Executive Director brought along some samples of the macro-invertebrate cut-outs and a giant wall poster of several dozen macros for the students and the teachers to view; Provided an overview of the Outdoor Environmental Education Program that will be conducted in May
- Received a very positive and encouraging Letter of Response back from OSM Director Joe Pizarchik regarding the OSM/AmeriCorps VISTA Program and support for EPCAMR's continued efforts in the field of reclamation and AMD remediation in PA
- Prepared 4 Letters of Support in continuation of our OSM/AmeriCorps VISTA National Service Program and submitted them directly to our PA Congressmen (Holden and Barletta) and Senators (Casey and Toomey)
- Informed Vinnie Cotrone from the PSU Cooperative Extension that EPCAMR would again be involved in Earth Day and the annual RiverFestival for 2011 and will more than likely focus on Macro-Invertebrate Identification and their relationship to clean streams and AMD polluted streams
- Began working with Anne Daymut-WPCAMR and Jeff McNelly-ARIPPA to redefine and update the EPCAMR/WPCAMR ARIPPA Mini-Grant Program Guidelines and Application for 2011 that will have \$10,000 for our organization's to distribute State-wide for AMD/AML related projects

Technical Assistance

- Pascale Banaszek, EPCAMR volunteer, completed drying and processing nearly 5 pounds of iron oxide for EPCAMR before she was preparing to leave to take a job in Washington DC
- Worked with Mike to prepare and submit an Letter of Inquiry to the Foundation for PA Watersheds for additional funding to support the ongoing work on our Mine Pool Mapping Initiative throughout the PA Coalfields
- Provided Brad Schultz-Skelly & Loy a copy of EPCAMR's Iron Oxide Sampling database from 2006 for him to know what type of lab sample analyses to procure for an iron oxide recovery project that they are working on in Tennessee

- Continued to work with Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Coordinator on the future development of the Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy; Discussed the possibility of reducing the number of active AMD Treatment Plants in the Anthracite Region down to a few through a pipeline distribution concept as opposed to dozens of isolated passive treatment systems throughout the region
- A request was made by ARIPPA to further develop our RAMLIS data for AML/AMD Problem Areas into several of the Congressional Districts in PA other than Congressman Holden's which was completed by EPCAMR; EPCAMR is seeking a college-level intern to assist with completing this project and has approached and submitted an appeal to King's College for such a position because additional funding would be necessary to complete this project; EPCAMR's Staff workload is such that this project would pull us away from our other work at a time when we are trying to finish up some other work with deadlines in June 2011
- Informed Mike that as of the end of January, ArcGIS Online base maps published and hosted by ESRI are now going to be freely available to all users regardless of commercial, noncommercial, internal, or external use; Base maps included in this new business model are World Imagery Map, World Street Map, World Topographic Map, USA Topographic Maps, and DeLorme World base map
- Spoke with Jim Wetzel-EPCAMR volunteer and Weatherly Borough Planning Commissioner who has been sampling several Hazle Creek AMD discharges in the Upper Lehigh River Watershed over the last year; Jim is interested in getting the partners together again, here in the Spring to review the data and see what our next steps are collectively to pursue any other additional kind of technical support from the State or Federal agencies involved in AMD remediation

Project Coordination

- Meeting with Jessica Wolfe-Harvard graduate student to help her work on her Master's Thesis Project involving the Huber Breaker "Energetic/Extractive" Project involving renewable energy and industrial heritage tourism in the Coalfields
- Informed an EPCAMR volunteer of ours, Joe DeAngelis that we don't have any immediate illegal dump site cleanup projects upcoming due to lack of funding to support the coordination of those events; Another partner of ours, the PEC NE Office, may have some future opportunities come up in the Spring/Summer 2011
- Discussed talking with Rob Krehely, WVSA to see if their cameras have ever been used to scope an AMD borehole to view and assess the integrity of the casing; LRCA Executive Director and EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl and I came up with the idea to see if a sewer camera would possibly be able to fit down the borehole at Old Forge on the Lackawanna River
- Received positive news that the SRBC will be funding additional Mine Pool Mapping work that is in line with our development of the Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy we've been working on to be performed by the EPCAMR Staff to complete the Southern Anthracite Coal Fields and to begin the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields in the amount of **\$75,000** through June 30, 2012

based off the original work that will be completed by June 30, 2011 under the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant for the Western Middle Coal Fields and portions of the Southern Coal Fields; A Scope of Work is being developed, reviewed, and ready for execution sometime in March 2011

Conference Coordination

- Completed a 13th Annual AMR Conference Press Release for distribution to the mass media and our partners in the region announcing the upcoming event
- Completed a 13th Annual Conference Sponsorship Letter, Call for Presentations, and the Conference redirect with Mike to www.treatminewater.com
- Put a call out to volunteer community leaders in the Upper Schuylkill Headwaters, Catawissa Creek, Nescopeck Creek, and Hazleton area watersheds affected by AMD to see if they would be interested in becoming a part of the Pre-Conference Tour Committee and all accepted; We're looking for a tour route that could fit within the timeframe of around 11-4 or 10-3 (5 hrs) on August 4th with the open invitation of folks who will be attending the Tour to register and participate in EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser that evening at the Genetti's Hotel Inn & Suites that evening
- Worked a Datashed (www.datashed.org) workshop by Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Incorporated into our 13th Annual Conference as a part of a Growing Greener Grant submitted by SRI, Inc. where EPCAMR is a partner that approved putting it into the Program for the 2011 and 2012 Conferences
- Touched base with Breaker Brewing Company about sponsorship at EPCAMR's 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser and the 13th Annual AMR Conference in August
- Talked with Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR and John Ackerman-PA Anthracite SME about working with EPCAMR and an Anthracite Region Pre-Conference Tour Committee to develop a tour route
- Partnered with the Lansford #9 Mine to promote their mine tour for Conference Attendees who might come out early or decide to take a side trip following the event; Dave Kuchthka, will be providing EPCAMR with a \$2 discount off the regular \$8 ticket price for the tour to all Conference Attendees that identify themselves with the PA AMR Conference; www.no9mine.com/
- Made an initial contact with Diane Reposh-NEPA Alliance—Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Program to see if our Conference could qualify for a technical assistance grant to assist with covering expenses for the 13th Annual AMR Conference in August
- Contacted the Foundation for PA Watersheds to see if they were interested in making a presentation on Successful Grant Writing for AMD Remediation Projects in partnership with the NCAC/NEPA Alliance that has already committed to giving a presentation on Successful Grant Writing, in general, and on where to find diverse funding sources

- Prepared and submitted Official Letters of Invitation to PA DEP Acting Secretary Krancer, OSM Director Pizarchik, and Renew Growing Greener Coalition's Executive Director-Andrew Heath; Heath and Krancer are confirmed already to be speakers at the Conference
- Called former PA DEP Secretary Dave Hess to see if he would be EPCAMR's Master of Ceremonies at our 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser and he graciously accepted
- Met with Patrick Genetti, Best Western Genetti's, in Hazleton, to coordinate the meeting location specifications on rooms, meals, exhibitor locations, registration location, and conference logistics
- Chaired a follow-up a PA AMR Conference Planning Committee conference call to update all partners on the status of the upcoming conference planning logistics
- Prepared and submitted a Letter of Request for **\$5000** in funding to support the 13th Annual AMR Conference to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation through John Stefanko-PA DEP
- Some abstracts are beginning to filter in to the EPCAMR Office that will be forwarded out to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee for further review and eventual selection and approval

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks;
- Worked with Mike to load the new ArcGIS v10 and SP1 from the OSM TIPS Program to Executive Director's computer
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for January 2011; Reviewed Mike and Wren's monthly Board Reports
- Completed an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) application through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development to become an approved Educational Improvement Organization with PA that could allow us to receive funding to support our environmental education programs throughout the schools that we serve in NE & NorthCentral PA
- Convened EPCAMR's Quarterly Meeting at the Earth Conservancy
- Began working on the development of EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary and 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser Event brochure, Save the Date card, and invitation with EPCAMR Staff
- Informed Nate Johnson, of the ACCWT, that EPCAMR would not be able to come up with the increased cost-share for the OSM/VISTA in 2011/2012 to \$6000, nor could we afford to sponsor an OSM Summer Intern because of the increase in cost share from \$250 to \$2800; EPCAMR is going to have to work with local colleges and universities to provide unpaid internships where the students are eligible to still receive college credits for completing an Independent Study or similar off-campus internship program with EPCAMR looking to the Spring 2011; Our plan is to work with

them to see if we can provide their students with internship or community service opportunities throughout the semester that will provide them with the necessary hours that they need to fulfill credit requirements in class and or while they are paying for the college credits through some type of elective course or senior project, they can complete projects with EPCAMR and it doesn't cost us anything. This is our only backup plan due to lack of funding; We have to recruit based on providing experiences, hands-on work, educational opportunities, networking, resume building, and outdoor field trainings

- Oriented our new part-time Clerical Assistant-Monique McLendon to the EPCAMR Operations; Monique will be working with EPCAMR part-time and is entirely funded by a Federal program operated by EDSI, Inc. through the PA CareerLink Center, Wilkes-Barre; Monique is assisting EPCAMR Staff with populating a new database of all of our partners in the region to help with future solicitations for membership and invitation to our 1st Annual Dinner in August



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Figures 1 & 2: Students and teachers at Kistler Elementary getting a primer on Macro-Invertebrates that they will be collecting and identifying in May with EPCAMR, PPL, the W-B Area Science Department



Figure 3.

The Old Forge AMD Borehole in Lackawanna County