



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2016 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Worked with EPCAMR Staff to create an ETSY online account for the sale of recycled iron oxide products created by EPCAMR
- Conducted an AMD & Energy Education Program at the Hazelton STEM School with *Estelle Ruppert*-Green Schools/Blue Waters Program with *Mr. Benjamin Evancho*'s class of **28** students; Forwarded EPCAMR Executive Director's clearances to the school to follow safety protocol
- Met with *Estelle Ruppert* following our AMD & Energy Education Program on our upcoming EE Capacity Workshop at the PAEE Conference on 3-15-16, at the Inn at Pocono Manor, Poconos; Participated in an EE Capacity Workshop conference call with the PA Leadership Team; Held another conference call to develop our PA EE Capacity presentation for the NAAEE Webinar
- Participated in two online webinars with NAAEE and presented on behalf of our PAEE State Affiliate of EE Capacity along with the Maine State Affiliate on 2-11-16 and with Oregon and Kentucky's State Affiliate on 2-29-16
- Met with *Liz Hughes*-Earth Conservancy to discuss working together and the allocation of some Staff time to conduct educational programs and facilitation at the ***Askam AMD Treatment System Wayside Exhibit Program***, Hanover Township, PA
- Participated in a ZOOM online conference call Board Meeting of the PAEE Board of Directors; Provided updates on EPCAMR's involvement with the EE Capacity Workshop and involvement with NAAEE on the National level
- Held a conference call with WPCAMR to discuss the finalization of the ***2016 ARIPPA AMD/AML Mini-Grant Application*** process and prepared to announce the next round of the grant program to our reclamation partners, watershed groups, and Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth
- Participated in a conference call with the Governor's Policy Office on the tentative design and outline of a Growing Greener III Environmental Grants Program that is being discussed at the State Level by the Governor's Office and Secretaries; A large state-wide stakeholders group have been assisting with the planning of the outline along with EPCAMR; As to how it's going to be implemented, remains to be seen; Provided Staff with a copy for their review

- Continued talking with *Arpita Ajena*, Associate Producer of TIME Video about a Spring Tour of Centralia, PA for a documentary she is working on; Interviewed by *Peter Loftus*, Staff Journalist with the Wall Street Journal on Centralia for a story as well
- Congressman Matt Cartwright wants \$1Billion from the Federal Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund; <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2016/02/pa-coal-state-congressmen-want-1.html>; The bigger question is who would get the funds and how would they be distributed; EPCAMR is trying to get answers to these questions through the PA AML Campaign partners
- Posted an interesting link to our EPCAMR website on how to become a volunteer with non-profits; <http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/volunteer-and-nonprofit-careers/> provided to us by *Dominic Silva-Martin*, Chief Communications Officer from LearnHowToBecome.org
- Requested that *Gabby* push out this link to have people sign up with iGive to donate to EPCAMR through our social media outlets; <http://www.iGive.com/welcome/warmwelcome.cfm?m=805539&c=59897>
- Discussed with *Gabby* and *Liz* about putting a grant together for PPL on the construction of bird boxes for wildlife habitat improvement on abandoned mine lands that have been reclaimed after talking with *Alana Roberts*, PPL Foundation

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff participated in a conference call with CSI Environmental, LLC and partners to discuss an outline and scope of work for the proposed ***Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Mine Pool Feasibility Project*** that we're interested in developing in partnership with the SRBC as a consumptive use mitigation project; Participated in a second call with CSI Environmental, LLC and partners with the SRBC to discuss further details based on the phased scope of work developed for the project
- Met with *Hank Zelinsky*, Northampton Fuels Supply, to discuss opportunities to partner with the Co-Generation plants on future reclamation projects in the region and come up with project locations for discussion of the development of reclamation plans throughout the Anthracite Region; Scheduled a field tour in the Hazleton Area in late March 2016
- Worked with *Butch Frati*-City of Wilkes-Barre to obtain the 2014-2015 Audits for the City to provide LandStudies for the NFWF Program, who are in the process of reviewing the fiscal documents submitted with the Full Proposal for **Project #51065 - "Retaining Stormwater: Green Infrastructure Practices for the City of Wilkes-Barre, PA"**
- Provided *Robert Frank*, new Watershed Specialist for the Dauphin County Conservation District with some technical assistance, links, resources, and contacts for groups working on AMD and mine reclamation work in his area; Asked him to check with his District Manager to see if he can become appointed to the EPCAMR Board to represent the District throughout the year
- Followed up with *Dr. Brian Mangan*, Professor of Environmental Science and Biology, King's College who is working with a colleague from Susquehanna University on a project related to mercury contamination at mine fire sites and the levels that are contained within spiders found in those locations; Provided them with a delineation of the Laurel Run mine fire in Wilkes-Barre Township
- Provided *Gabby* with two research papers on freshwater mussels in the Susquehanna River basin from *Diane Day* from the PA F & BC

Community Volunteer Service Coordination

- Co-presented with *Ray Clarke*-Chairman of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to *Dr. Margarita Rose's* Environmental Economics Class at King's College, Wilkes-Barre on the reclamation of the Huber Miner's Memorial Park; The Class is working on a semester long service learning project in partnership with EPCAMR and the HBPS to conduct a community survey, an economic analyses report, and a community cleanup project at the site towards the end of the semester in May 2016
- Communicated with *Wesley Mech*, Nanticoke, PA who signed up to volunteer with EPCAMR through GiveGab and informed him of upcoming activities with EPCAMR
- *Christopher Simkonis*, Nanticoke, PA is an architectural engineering student at Luzerne County Community College and an avid hiker; He recently explored the trails around the Hanover Reservoir on Alden Mountain Road and couldn't believe the amount of trash and litter there; He's interested in organizing a cleanup and getting volunteers from LCCC and the local community to help clean the area up; Encouraged him to sign up through EPCAMR's GiveGab page first to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and then followed up with him
- Worked with *Gabby* and *Dave* to come up with a list of Stream Assessment Sites Map that could use water sampling and macro-invertebrate sampling done on them in the Wyoming Valley and be placed into a GIS layer for future volunteers
- *Casey McCauley*, Slippery Rock, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer through GiveGab, and has expertise in strategic communications and would like to volunteer virtually to help us with brochures or flyer development
- *Brittany Legg*, Johnstown, Colorado, signed up through GiveGab to become a volunteer artist who is willing to work with our iron oxide to create art; EPCAMR sent her a few packets of iron oxide to experiment with and will follow up in a month or so
- *Mario Fiorucci*, Sugar Notch, signed up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR through GiveGab as a Visual Habitat Assessment Scorer and is interested in conducting cleanups of illegal dump sites in Sugar Notch Borough; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up directly with Mario to discuss future opportunities with Earth Conservancy
- *Rose Fierman*, Colorado School of Mines student, and Kingston, PA native was looking to get involved in EPCAMR activities over the summer while she was visiting her parents; Her interests are in mineral economics and sustainability reporting

Project Coordination

- Completed the ***Lewis AMD Rehabilitation Treatment System Project*** Final Report and other Worksheets and forwarded them to our Project Office *Eric Rosengrant*-PA DEP DMO; Copied *Marc Lewis*, the landowner in on the project update out of common courtesy; Submitted before and after photos to Eric as well and placed dozens of others on to a DVD and mailed them to the Moshannon District Mining Office; Talked with Rexers, LLC to inform them that their final payment would be forthcoming when the Final Report and water quality tests were back from the lab to be included with the final results

- Followed up with *Ben Lorson*, PA F&BC on the ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project***, Ashley, PA on how to proceed with getting the design and construction contracts together with RiverLogistics and with Larson Design Group for the permitting, restoration Chapter 105.12 waiver application, and E & S plan submission and approval to the Luzerne Conservation District
- Received a **\$450** award letter from WPC/Dominion; They funded the printing costs, ink cartridges, card stock for posters, and glossy paper supply costs that will allow us to develop a new updated brochure with our new logo and build off our earlier Outreach Campaign specifically targeting Dauphin and Tioga Counties (the two counties that Dominion serves that are in the EPCAMR Region). However, the development of a new brochure and some posters will definitely benefit us to promote them throughout the entire EPCAMR Region; This will give us plenty of time to work up a new brochure
- Worked on the review of Skelly & Loy's draft Bid Package preparation and provided them with comments prior to EPCAMR being able to put out the request for proposals for the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Conducted an AMD Watershed Tour and EPCAMR Project Overview for the National OSMRE/AmeriCorps Team (**8** members) that travelled up from Washington DC with *T. Allan Comp*, Program Manager; Received feedback from the AmeriCorps Team members through a follow up written evaluation of the tours and what they learned
- *Mike Hewitt*, Program Manager and the Executive Director travelled to Washington DC to the US Department of the Interior at the request of the OSMRE/AmeriCorps Team and *T. Allan Comp* on 2-23-16 to present on EPCAMR's nationally recognized work on the 3D Mine Pool Mapping and Modeling of the Underground Anthracite Mines throughout Northeastern and Northcentral PA; EPCAMR also discussed hosting and sponsoring future OSMRE/AmeriCorps Team members should funding become available on a National level; Provided bios for Mike and the Executive Director to OSMRE
- EPCAMR Staff met with US DOI Director of the OSMRE-*Joe Pizarchik* to discuss the RECLAIM Act and then met with several legislative director of PA Congressmen and a director for Congressman *Hal Rogers* Office, Kentucky, to discuss the RECLAIM Act and to provide input and EPCAMR's point of view on bill
- Participated in a monthly **2016 PA AMR Conference** planning conference call to provide updates on the website, final confirmation of speakers, comments on the IUP Contract that need to be revised before being finalized, and other details; www.treatminewater.com; Thoroughly reviewed the contract draft and sent a copy of my comments out to the entire conference planning committee for consideration; Completed a **\$5000** request for funding towards the sponsorship of the conference and submitted it to *John Stefanko*, PA DEP Executive Secretary; Made an official request to have PA DEP Secretary *John Quigley* as a speaker at the conference; Received confirmation that he would be able to speak on Thursday morning of the conference; Talked with *Lori Maloney* about her talk on establishing a AMD Treatment Trust in the Tioga River watershed
- Worked with *Corey Richmond*, Sullivan County Conservation District to set up an AMD Field Tour to several AMD sites on the Loyalsock Creek for 5-19-16 with the entire 5th grade

- *Christina Comuso*, Vice President of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) Student organization, from Stockton University requested to plan a trip to some of the mines, quarries, etc., within the Wilkes Barre area; About 25 students with 2 faculty advisors would be along for the tour; They are interested in any mines, fracking sites, or reclamation sites; or any contacts that we have that would be willing to show the students their operations; They are planning for a Fall 2016 trip, however, they are up for an earlier tour during the Summer; Initial contact was made through Ken Klemow at Wilkes University who asked if EPCAMR and PA DEP BAMR could work with him on developing a tour route and agenda

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Completed the February 2016 monthly PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report
- Held our EPCAMR Monthly Staff Meeting on 2-16-16
- Interviewed *Chris Cook Jr.*-King's College, for a part-time Work Study position, and *Gavin Pelliteri*, Bloomsburg U. for a potential internship over the Summer 2016
- Created an online Group Administrator account for the new United Concordia Dental Plan for EPCAMR and Staff; Removed a duplicate account number from our old plan's legacy account through an online customer service communication
- *Bren Coombs'* company, Backdrop (www.backdrop.com), a custom sock brand would like to design a pair of limited edition EPCAMR themed socks, with 50% of the profit going to EPCAMR; There is no risk or cost for EPCAMR other than spreading the word through our social media outlets that they are available for purchase; EPCAMR will have to provide the graphics for the socks; This idea may end up as a Summer 2016 project for an intern to assist us with creating
- Provided updated contact information to the Foundation for PA Watersheds at the request of *Branden Diehl*, Grant and Project Consultant
- Received communications from *Donna Wagner*, EPCAMR's PA DEP 319 Grant Project Officer that our **2016-2017 Conservation District Mining Program-East** Grant was amended and an additional **\$125,000** was awarded