

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program February 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:

- Completed 5 EPCAMR GIS Layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Project; Produced 6 maps and provided 2 sets of AML statistics for EPCAMR Project Partners.
- Applied / inquired about 2 grants / corporate giving programs on behalf of watershed groups
- Attended 2 Anthracite Heritage Region VISTA Team Meetings, an AMR Conference Conference Call, and a Catawissa Creek RCP Meeting
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR Staff attended a meeting at the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Office in Lehighton with representatives from the ACCWT, the Office of Surface Mining, Lackawanna Co. Conservation District, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Corridor Association, Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery, Inc., Nescopeck State Park, Friends of the Nescopeck, Greater Hazleton Area Trails Association, Northumberland County Conservation District, Schuylkill Conservation District and other EPCAMR Region groups to discuss plans on obtaining possibly 5-7 new VISTA Positions in the region. Collectively the group will be the Anthracite Heritage Area VISTAS and a part of the ACCWT. Allan Comp requested that EPCAMR map out potential "territories" that the position will cover.
- Posted AMR Program Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent them to 319 Program. Posted events to calendar. Applied for a custom search box module from GoodSearch to add to the website.
- Received a response from Pam Milavec, DEP BAMR, that grant money from the Quick Response Grant Program could not be used to erect a fence around Shamokin Creek's Site 15 treatment system, stating that this was not a repair that would "likely result in serious environmental consequences or will contribute to further damage of a project".
- EPCAMR Staff participated in a 2008 AMR Conference Call to hash out details and coordinate efforts for this years conference. The theme will be "Our Abandoned Mine Legacy: Reclaiming our Past, Shaping our Future" and will be a 3 day conference consisting of 1 ½ days of the traditional AMR Conference and 1 ½ days of a Western PA Mining History Conference.
- Sent a spreadsheet of PA AML Statistics broken down by PA Legislative District boundaries to Meghan Kerr, PA Environmental Council VISTA as requested.
- Welcomed Carly Trumann as EPCAMR's new OSM VISTA from the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT). Setup a workspace and computer for her use. Found Wyoming Valley Watershed files and former VISTA files for her orientation.

- Created business cards for all EPCAMR Staff including OSM VISTA.

Technical Assistance:

- Responded to a potential source of used computers for watershed groups sent via the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT). Maylan Labs Inc. has a computer recycling program and required a letter of request for the donation. Received a response that currently there were no computers, but they will let us know when they do have more available.
- Corresponded with Tim Murphy, Columbia County GIS Department, to acquire GIS files for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. He was able to supply several layers including: agricultural security areas, covered bridges, hydric soils, municipal parks, state game and forest lands, Catawissa Creek boundaries and slopes.
- Worked text, maps, figures and sources for the Hicks Creek Wetlands Delineation Report ^
- Finished digitizing Western Middle Anthracite Region Mine Pools, Mine Water Flow Directions, Barrier Pillars, Infiltration Points and Mine Tunnel Outlets the Bureau of Mines Bulletin 521, Technical Paper 727 and Scarlift Reports in Related Watersheds.
- Setup EPCAMR invoice tracking system on the Quicken 2008 Small Business Edition. This streamlines the process which involved a few different computer programs in the past.
- Created 4 maps for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan and attended a public meeting to show maps, receive comments and ascertain additional maps that will need to be produced. **
- Produced 2 base maps for Carly, EPCAMR VISTA, for the Wyoming Valley Watershed: aerial photo map and polluted streams map.
- EPCAMR Staff attended a meeting at the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery (EMARR), Inc office to find out their overall reclamation plans and goals for the region. Also discussed the need for a VISTA in the Nescopeck Creek Watershed and what help other groups in the region were willing to provide for the position.
- Printed ACCWT promotional materials and took them to 3 local college career development offices: Wilkes University, Kings College and Penn State Wilkes-Barre.
- Spoke with Shawn Bussler, Stream Restoration, Inc., to gain access to Datashed, an online data warehouse specific to AMD Monitoring. Granted administrator and began setting up EPCAMR to participate and add data.
- Updated biography, combined with Robert's bio and posted to website.
- Added Habitat for Wildlife Management, Inc. to the EPCAMR Members list and contacted potential compost suppliers for upcoming projects in the Shamokin Creek Watershed. Met with Dave Katela, chairman, and toured sites with EPCAMR VISTA and a local newspaper reporter.
- Met with James Sutton, senior at Dallas High School, and signed off on a trail map that he created for the Luzerne Conservation District as his senior project.
- Met with Shamokin Creek Restoration Association and Northumberland County Conservation District staff to discuss possible acquisition several parcels of land for potential AML Restoration. Discovered that the land was a pre-act coal processing station, but not on the AMLIS Database. Therefore it was not eligible for funding through the normal "AML funding pots". Talked to them about potentially having it added to the database.
- Baked a batch of iron oxide with EPCAMR VISTA as AMD Tie Dye season will be here shortly.
- Attempted to produce a "virtual Southern Wyoming Valley tour" using Google Earth.
- Updated EPCAMR 2008 Membership Renewal Form and Cover Letter

** Represents time billed to the PEC Catawissa Creek RCP Contract.

^ Represents time billed to the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Growing Greener Grant.