

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program February 2009 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Created a new version of RAMLIS v 9 GIS Tool CD, distributed 5 copies and 1 online version
Updated 2 GIS databases; produced 7 and georeferenced 9 maps
- EPCAMR Staff submitted 1 grant proposal
- EPCAMR staff attended a Mine Pool Forum, a Renewable Energy Mtg., lead an AMR
Conference call and a Catawissa Creek RCP Mtg.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and <http://2009.treatminewater.com>

Education and Outreach:

- Attended the Mine Pool Forum at the PA DEP Offices in the Rachel Carson State Office
Building to talk about the potential for industry to be interested in mine pools as low flow
augmentation make up water to meet Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) low flow
withdrawal regulations.
- EPCAMR Staff met with Pagnotti Enterprises Inc., Intelliwatt Renewable Energy and Temple
University representatives in Wilkes-Barre to discuss possible areas for bio fuels harvesting on
Pagnotti Enterprise lands and collaboration on such a project. Sent the newly finished RAMLIS
v 9 for their perusing.
- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of January,
gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP
319 program.
- Created the web pages for the Mine Pool Mapping Project, the Hicks Creek Natural Stream
Channel Design Project (NSCD), the Iron Oxide Resource Recovery Project, and the
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association Education Grant Project on
www.orangewaternetwork.org. Updated the "Talking Timbers" section of the homepage to
reflect the changes. Added news updates to the scroller including the Growing Greener Grant
announcement from Governor Rendell.
- EPCAMR staff led an AMR Conference call. Created an AMR Conference Planning
Committees document to keep track of who is on what committee and subcommittee also
created an agenda, updated the budget and created a speaker list for the AMR Conference
planning effort. Worked on the conference website and created 5 pages with preliminary
information at <http://2009.treatminewater.com>.
- Attended the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) with PA Environmental Council
(PEC) staff to update them on the progress of the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan
(RCP). Currently I am finished with 12 of the 15 maps. PEC staff led a project planning session
and handed out draft information on the plan. Discovered a PA bike route exists in the
watershed, will be sure to add it to the Open Space map. *

Technical Assistance:

- Received mine maps for Tioga County from Mario Carrello, PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office (DMO). These are all of the maps that are available from the National Mine Map Repository and may be helpful in delineating mining extent and possible mine pool extent for these mines.
- Updated elevations in the drainage tunnels layer from 2nd Geologic Survey and Surface Mine Permit maps from Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville DMO.
- Sent mine pool extents, barrier pillars and tunnels information to Todd Wood, PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office and partner in the Mine Pool Mapping Project.
- Created a higher resolution EPCAMR logo from the original in Photoshop for use on the EPCAMR partnership award plaque.
- Spoke with Susan Smith, Schuylkill Co. GIS Department, to obtain newer GIS files produced as a part of their county comprehensive plan a few years ago. The files would be used in the Catawissa Creek RCP maps. Downloaded the Appalachian Trail, DCNR snow mobile trails and updated park boundary GIS files from PASDA for use in the project. *
- Completed a draft zoning map for the Catawissa Creek RCP, but decided to wait for new zoning data from Schuylkill County before finalizing the map. Also updated, printed and created PDFs of 5 other maps in preparation for the next RCP public meeting. Updating included labeling streams, and changing the PEC logo. *
- Made a judgment call not to go with adding water quality data from the Catawissa Creek TMDL Report and added the loading reduction data tables from the Catawissa Creek TMDL study to a Current Water Quality map instead to show water quality improvements still needed to de-list the stream. The results would have shown a reduction in water quality since the 1997 fish and boat commission study. I don't think the datasets were complete enough or compatible to accurately show the real life improvements to water quality over the approximately 10 year span. *
- Produced a spreadsheet of the water bodies in the Catawissa Creek Watershed from the SRBC GIS file and sent it to Janet Sweeny, PEC Northeast Office, for inclusion in the RCP report. *
- Completed RAMLIS v 9 after downloading 2009 DEP GIS data from the PA Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Server and updating symbology to reflect changes. The tool is now available in 3 formats on the CD: MXD (for use with ArcView 8.x and up), PMF (for use with ArcReader 9.3) and KML (for use with Google Earth). I also posted the KML online with a secret link as a trial for online access, but the file is 95MB and takes approximately 10 minutes to download on cable modem. Distributed 5 CDs to waiting partners.
- EPCAMR staff wrote a grant proposal to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to supplement and continue work on the Mine Pool Mapping project.
- Printed a total of 4 posters for the Luzerne Conservation District Banquet.
- Georeferenced 4 Surface Mine Permit maps for the PA DEP Pottsville DOM containing mine pool boundaries and adjusted mine pool layer to these extents. Also georeferenced 5 2nd Geologic Survey Maps containing old coal workings, tunnels, and faults for the Mine Pool Mapping Project. Found additional Bureau of Mines Reports pertaining to the Anthracite Coal Region from the University of Hawaii at Manoa's TRAIL Website.

* Indicates work done for the PA Environmental Council under the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (531-2008)