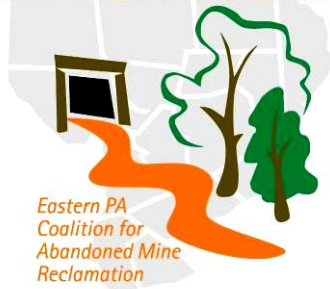


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation February 2010 Progress Report

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### **Highlights:**

- Updated 6 GIS layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Program
- Attended a WBACTC Mtg, Grant workshop, the Keystone Coldwater Conference, a Mine Pool Mapping Mtg. and a conference call
- Updated [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org), [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org) & EPCAMR's Facebook

### **Education and Outreach:**

- Updated the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) associated with Grants.gov to keep in compliance with new security requirements. This is needed to accept grant funds from federal agencies.
- EPCAMR staff spoke with Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), about the upcoming Anthracite Strategy meeting and recent SRBC staff legislative visits. They have been big proponents of our mine pool mapping program and are helping us look for money to complete the study for the Northern and Eastern Middle Anthracite Regions in the Middle Susquehanna Subbasin.
- Submitted an invoice and narrative for the Datashed project to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to bill down budget items spent on the project.
- Created the EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for January, collected staff reports and posted them online at [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org). Aided Executive Director in preparing the reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program.
- Updated the EPCAMR Membership Application to include the upcoming EPCAMR board meeting dates for 2010.
- Rescheduled the SRBC Anthracite Strategy Meeting at Penn State Hazleton to March 11<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather.
- Met with Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center principal and acting directors and posed for a photo opportunity to announce the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Grant award to the WBACTC and EPCAMR for the Avondale Memorial Garden Project. A press release was posted the EPCAMR Website and sent to local news outlets.
- EPCAMR Staff attended a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) C2P2 Grant workshop to see if this grant source would entertain a proposal for the Northern and Eastern Middle Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. The grant is mainly for park and trail development, there is not much money available for study of natural resources (which is where our proposal would most likely fit).
- Received the GoodSearch Toolbar that was created for EPCAMR. The toolbar is a great fundraising tool for EPCAMR. Searches made with this toolbar and online purchases from cooperation business will generate donations for EPCAMR. Last year with searches alone, we generated about \$40 and about \$50 in 2008. The toolbar can be downloaded from

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/epcamr-ea...stern-pennsylvania-coalition-for-abandoned-mine-reclamation>

- EPCAMR staff attended the Keystone Coldwater Conference at the Penn Stater in State College, PA. Much of the seminars focused on the Marcellus Gas Rush in Pennsylvania and the impact on the environment and economy.
- EPCAMR staff sat in on a conference call provided by Network for Good on How Organizations Adapt to Change. The speaker provided an interesting perspective on how people make decisions and how to make change easy.
- Posted Mine Pool Mapping 2009 quarterly reports to the EPCAMR website.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- The EPCAMR website at [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org) went down for several days this month due to database errors. Contacted our webhost, Elite Hosting Service (EHS) at each instance, but learned that website maintenance was not a part of our contract with the company. Their role is only to keep the server running and connected to the World Wide Web. EPCAMR Program Manager had to troubleshoot the problem and research a solution. The website was initially setup using PHPNuke, a server side content management system written in several computer languages (including, but not limited to perl, php, html, and java). There is no “what you see is what you get” (WSIWYG) interface like Dreamweaver or Microsoft Front Page (which are both now outdated programs). While this setup provides for a dynamic website with the use of sql databases and the ability to grant permission to different pieces of the website to different users, it is difficult to maintain and vulnerable to attacks. Since it was setup for us by EHS in 2002, it has been a struggle to keep up and learn very complex methods of repairing and enhancing the website. Although it may look seamless to our users on the outside, it is a “patchwork quilt” on the inside. I would never recommend this setup to another organization.
- Researched and switched the EPCAMR e-mail system over to Google Apps. Google provides up to 7GB of storage space for each domain and many tools to block spam for free. There are also many free tools such as a web calendar and an FTP access which can be integrated into our website. Replaced EasyPHPCalendar script with the Google Calendar script. The EasyPHPCalendar was in need of an update to patch security vulnerabilities; I deleted it completely from the server.
- Aided Leigh Ann as she signed up and posted volunteer opportunities (cleanups) to 3 volunteer websites: HandsOnNetwork.org, 1-800-Volunteer.org and idealist.org. The cleanups are also posted on the EPCAMR website at [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org).
- Updated the Environmental Education page on the EPCAMR website. After transferring the remaining files from [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) over to my desktop and deleting them from the server, there were several pages where files and images were missing and needed to be uploaded to [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org). Several links to external websites were also no longer in service and needed to be replaced or updated. Also updated the Watershed Assessment and Stream Sampling page to reflect some new materials that are available.
- Discovered that articles posted to the EPCAMR website have an option to create a printer friendly version. The logo however was that of PHP Nuke. Replaced it with an EPCAMR logo.
- Created a stream sampling project dataset on Datashed for the Catawissa Creek Main Stem and added the in-stream sampling data from Bloomsburg University that was taken before and after the startup of the Audenreid Treatment System.
- Worked on EPCAMR Executive Directors computer to add memory to the computer which had also crashed and was working very slowly as a result of some recent Microsoft Windows XP Updates. Two other Windows XP computers in the office had problems as well; one also crashed and needed to have the operating system restored. The other did not crash, but still suffers from slowed performance.
- Received handwritten Mine Pool Mapping Draft Report Chapter files via fax from Roger Hornberger and handed them off to Leigh Ann for transcription into a Word document.

- Received updated GIS layers from Jim Andrews, Pottsville District Mining Office, and incorporated these layers into the existing layers for the Mine Pool Mapping Project.
- Created 3 - 3.5'x10' maps and 1 - 3.5'x7' map at 1:20,000 scale that Showed the entire Southern and Western Middle Anthracite Coal fields and several GIS layers that were developed for the project. The size of the maps really gives a scale to the enormity of the region covered by this project. After initial review of the maps, the print was too small for Roger Hornberger to read. Created another set of 10 maps for the Western Middle Field based on the coverage areas of the C-series maps at a scale of 1:10,000 (2x the size). These were much easier to read.
- Worked with Neil Wolf, Hedin Environmental, to ascertain whether mine workings existed under the Bear Creek Phase 2 treatment system proposed project boundaries. Either way it would be advantageous to know if the flow from the shaft can be combined with a seep downstream or if the ponds need to be lined to stop a potential leak into the mines experienced at the Bear Creek Phase 1 project site. Neil forwarded the AutoCAD DWG files and I overlaid them on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Geologic Survey map from the Mine Pool Mapping Project Collection. This overlay did not show mine tunnels under the Phase 2 project, but did show many that crossed under the Phase 1 project. Phase 1 Pond C was sealed last summer and is now holding water. No Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Mine Map Folios exist for this area; I recommended they contact PA DEP Deep Mine Safety in Pottsville to see if they had any maps that may show other conditions. Hedin Environmental is also working on re conditioning Phase 1 Pond B to spread the flow across more of the surface area and remove the limestone.
- Created examples maps and attribute tables of the PA Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) layers to back up the changes that the data stewards of the OSM Geospatial Data Standards team were recommending to the national AMLIS database through American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International.
- Responded to a request from ARIPPA Inc, to provide a short explanation of the AML problem areas and features in PA House Representative Swanger's District. All of the problem areas run along the northern edge of Lebanon County. 3 Problem Areas consisting of 7 discharges and 2 subsidence prone areas (about an acre in the Yellow Springs Trail Problem Area). The entire length of Swatara Creek from Pine Grove to Jonestown is impaired by AMD (pH, suspended solids and metals), approximately 13 miles in her territory. Approximately 7.5 miles of Rausch Creek and East Branch Rausch Creek are impacted by AMD (pH only). There was a limestone diversion well installed in 1999 to raise the pH on that stream, but I am not sure if it is being maintained. A few bigger problems are just over the boundary into Dauphin and Schuylkill Counties.
- Received a PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Historical Reclamation database update from Brian Bradley. This new database will replace a 2005 version of the database and be incorporated in the 2010 version of the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Reclamation Inventory System (RAMLIS) Tool.
- Clipped, compiled and sent several GIS layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Program to John Dietz as per his request with the caveat that the layers are draft and will not be final until the report is released and published.
- Noticed some inconsistencies in the mine pool, drainage tunnel and flow direction GIS layers after adjusting the barrier pillars to match the locations of the barrier pillars on the C-series maps in the Western Middle anthracite coal field. It is the consensus of the partners in the Mine Pool Mapping Project that the C-series maps are the most reliable when it comes to the location of underground features since the maps have references to Latitude / Longitude Coordinates displayed on the outside of the map. Re aligned the Ash Mine Pool map to better match the barrier pillars and started readjusting the afore mentioned layers to match.
- Met with partners in the Hicks Creek AMD Natural Stream Channel Design Projects at the PA DEP Northeast Regional Office to review steps needed to complete to submit and complete a permit review. Due to a setback from not hearing about our Growing Greener grant extension

from the grant office in Harrisburg, the project timeline was delayed to this point and now it will take several months to complete the review. If the process is hurried there is a possibility to complete the construction this year. Performed another Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) Search to include with the permit and wetlands delineation information.

- Recently the Raster Layers on EPCAMR's RAMLIS Tool had not been working. These layers were served up by the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) server. Recently PASDA received a cut in funding and had to switch the address of their ArcIMS service. Most raster information is still available, but formatted a little differently. This information will be incorporated in the new 2010 version of EPCAMR's RAMLIS Tool.
- Resolved a question about the division between West Bear Ridge and surrounding collieries. Barrier pillars surrounding the colliery act as a dam, but allow a connection to the surrounding collieries hydrologically when the water is at a higher level. West Bear Ridge however, is a high point in the Mahanoy Basin portion of the Western Middle Anthracite Region and may contain a perched pool. Water on the west end sheds west and water on the east end sheds east.
- Provided Bureau of Mines Report 538 to [www.oldforgecoalmine.com](http://www.oldforgecoalmine.com), an online repository of local historical reports.
- Uploaded pictures and info to Datashed for the Audenreid and Aylesworth Creek Passive Treatment Systems. Also added EPCAMR Executive Director as a user on Datashed.
- Aided Bill Best, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, in figuring out how to update their website. Currently their website was written with Joomla, a server side content management system. This program is almost as complex as the program that runs the EPCAMR website. Fixed up a computer for the organization and suggested SiteSpinner, a desktop program to manage the website, but the site will need to be transferred over.
- EPCAMR staff discussed the possibility of providing a website service to our member organizations with an additional administrative fee (set by the board). The intent would be to provide space and limited maintenance for informational websites. Webmail, calendar, and document space would all be provided through Google Apps. Maintenance of the website would be supervised by EPCAMR at our Technical Assistance Center and done with a desktop program such as SiteSpinner or the free Net Objects Fusion Essentials (both WSIWYG interfaces similar in operation to Microsoft PowerPoint). The website address would be the "organization name".orangewaternet.org, unless the organization had their own domain that EPCAMR would host (domain registration fees apply).