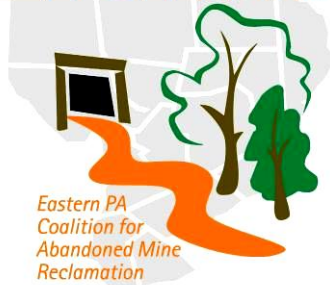


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2011 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted 2 AMR Conference Calls, an EPCAMR Board Meeting, and EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Dinner / Fundraiser Committee Meeting. Attended a SAN Meeting, and “The Inquest” theatrical performance.
- EPCAMR staff submitted 1 letter of intent to a foundation for \$15K
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and located 23 in the Wyoming Valley
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, www.epcamr.org, and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and pyritebad yahoo group listserv. Began testing the [new EPCAMR website](http://www.epcamr.org) built by BRF Designs.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff hosted an AMR Conference Call to discuss publicity via the website and news releases as well as the general theme and layout of the conference. Built a website at www.treatminewater.com (also treatminewater.epcamr.org) to post details and keep potential attendees up-to-date on the most current news on the conference. Aided partners with reconnecting to the “pyritebad listserv,” a yahoo group that was set up years ago by WPCAMR staff to facilitate collaboration through e-mail. EPCAMR staff just recently gained administrative access to the group, which was dormant for a year while the Office of Surface Mining was the lead organization for last year’s Joint Mining Reclamation Conference. Edited the AMR Conference logo created last year to include a representation of the anthracite fields (this was missing from the original logo).
- Attended a Schuylkill Action Network Meeting at the PA DEP District Mining Office in Pottsville. Cooperation organizations reported on their progress and plans for the upcoming year related to mine drainage remediation in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The one partner received a grant from the PA Foundation for Watersheds and the William Penn Foundation to prepare a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan for the Schuylkill River Headwaters and PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation staff were there to provide some helpful guidelines.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of January, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the EPCAMR 1st Quarter 2011 Board Meeting in the Earth Conservancy Conference room. Prepared an agenda, minutes and watershed reports for the meeting and uploaded them to the trustees’ portion of www.epcamr.org.
- Prepared an agenda and some notes for the EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Dinner / Fundraiser Committee meeting that preceded the board meeting.
- EPCAMR Staff collaborated on a save the date card and started a brochure to publicize the 15th Annual Dinner / Fundraiser.

- Attended “The Inquest,” a theatrical reenactment of the aftermath of the Avondale Mine Disaster with EPCAMR VISTA hosted by the Welch Cultural Endeavor of Northeastern PA at the Dallas Country Club. Tentatively invited the actors, collectively known as the Eckley Players, to perform the same ½ hour skit for AMR Conference attendees in August.
- EPCAMR staff met again with Patrick Genetti at Genetti Inn and Suites to discuss some details related to the EPCAMR Dinner and AMR Conference in August. Tentatively organized the room layouts and chose food items for meals and breaks. Prepared a scaled room layout based on the meeting and send it to the conference planning committee listserv. Sent the information for “The Inquest” as well.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a second AMR Conference Call to discuss the results of the meeting at Genetti’s and begin to kick around ideas for guest speakers, more hot topic presentations and workshops that should be offered at the conference.
- Received the “keys” to the new EPCAMR website at www.epcamr.org/home from designer Bill Frantz at BRF Designs. Began the process of “test driving” the WordPress administrative abilities to make sure the bugs are worked out before the site is unleashed. There are a few details that need to be worked out. Assigned author abilities to EPCAMR executive Director so he can post and edit news articles. Added the 15th Anniversary Dinner / Fundraiser Flier to the site as an article.
- Tried to transfer HBPS website domain to GoDaddy.com to allow EPCMR staff to better manage the service for them, but due to an auto debit transaction the domain was automatically renewed by the previous registrar. Hope to try again next year before it is automatically renewed again.
- Submitted a Letter of Intent to the Foundation for PA Watersheds regarding Phase 2 of the Northern Anthracite Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. Got a response quickly to go ahead and submit a grant for up to \$15K after we report on Phase 1 (funding received in 2008). The total Northern Anthracite Mine Pool Mapping Initiative will draw from a variety of funding sources and is estimated to cost \$135K over the next few years.

Technical Assistance:

- Gathered GIS layers and maps related to the underground mines for Jessica Wolfe, Harvard University Grad Student. Jessica is working on a thesis project that will provide innovative landscape design options for the future Huber Breaker Memorial Park. EPCAMR staff met with Jessica and Ray Clarke from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) to discuss the potential for the site, including a discussion on geothermal energy considering the presence of a mine pool at approximately 525 feet above mean sea level (approximately 80 ft below the surface).
- Prepared 3 maps of the borehole locations in the Wyoming Valley for Shawn Jones, former EPCAMR Intern and Keystone College undergrad student. Shawn will be working on a Capstone Project in which he will be sampling up to 30 boreholes in the valley and digitizing GIS layers related to the mine pools from old US Bureau of Mines Maps.
- EPCAMR staff responded to an e-mail from Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), regarding the potential treatment of the Old Forge and Duryea discharges as a part of the Anthracite Strategy Report.
- Traveled around Scranton to complete a monthly round of testing the water level in 14 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes. Compared elevations in a graph to find common water levels.
- Aided Wren with the PA DCNR C2P2 grant application for the HBPS.
- Began to quantify mine pool extents (in acres) represented in the Mahanoy Creek Scarlift 197 and US Bureau of Mines Reports in Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report. Added this information to Pools 1-7 and will continue to include it as I move forward.

- Prepared a computer for the intern/clerical workstation in the office by uninstalling a lot of software and running diagnostic programs to speed up performance. The computer was previously used by myself, but is very slow and requires continual maintenance to keep it running. We may need to look at replacing the computer in the near future.
- Aided Earth Conservancy staff with a minor sound problem on one of their computers.
- Notified that Google Apps accounts will be upgraded to work more like regular Google accounts (with more services available), but may affect our e-mail system. As a precautionary measure they provided a way to test the new settings before the transition. All of our e-mail accounts will be unaffected but the executive director and program manager accounts. Contacted support to aide in the transition of these accounts, but I am awaiting a response.
- Aided EPCAMR VISTA with backdrop assembly for the AMD Avengers vs. the Pollution Posse skit. Logistically, there will be 2 rolling racks that will each hold 4 panels, one for each side of a stage. The 4 panel sets can be rotated and flipped to portray scenery from the prehistoric formation of coal, the discovery of coal, when coal was king... to the decline and the future with reclamation and clean energy.
- Added the EPCAMR Treasurers Report of Accounts from the past few board meetings to the fiscal year 2010-2011 budget and grant tracking system to aide in consistency and ease of calculation for future EPCAMR Board Meetings. Added information to allow staff to more easily show the complexities of reimbursement style grants like working capital (which can be seen as a "profit") and funds being withheld (which can often be seen as a "deficit"). In reality, these complexities are more related to the life cycle of a particular reimbursement grant.
- EPCAMR staff and SRBC staffer, Tom Clark, located 3 boreholes between Nanticoke and Ashley with the help of PA DEP BAMR staff. Located an additional 20 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley with Shawn Jones and prepared a sampling route for future use. 3 were paved over or no longer accessible and another 5 were blocked (something lodged in the borehole, access gate locked or tar sealed) but potentially accessible in the future. 6 more are yet to be found in the southern portion of the valley. Shawn compiled the sampling information into an excel sheet that contains historic borehole monitoring data and sent it back. Reviewed, edited data, added notes and returned the file.
- Investigated a leak developing on a ceiling tile in EPCAMR executive director's office. The leak is coming from a leak in the roof. Notified Earth Conservancy staff and contractor that installed the ceiling, PJ's Construction, for a quote.
- Prepared a CD of GIS data related to the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan as requested by the PA Environmental Council Northeast Office. Gave to EPCAMR Executive Director to prepare an invoice and send it along.
- Spoke with Mike Bloom, VISTA for the Grater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, about EPCAMR possibly hosting their nonprofit website. Sent information and cost scenarios.
- Updated the EPCAMR Membership Application / Renewal form for 2011 and posted it to www.epcamr.org.
- Setup an e-mail account for our newest staff member, Shaqune McLendon. She will be helping us with some paperwork and clerical duties that have us buried up to our necks most of the year. Welcome!