

EPCAMR



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January 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Posted several articles to EPCAMR FaceBook Account; Provided Leigh Ann with our EPCAMR PSAs to send off to local radio stations for publicity and outreach on our upcoming planned Spring Cleanups for 2010
- Ordered Pocket Guides for identification of plants, bugs, wetland plants, and rocks out of our Orion Grassroots Network Grant
- Participated as a judge at the West Side Career & Technical Center Skills USA Judging Competition as an environmental community leader upon invitation from the Leadership Program Director Lori Vandermark
- Provided an update to Stefanie Milewski-Conservation Alliance, Lackawanna County on EPCAMR Activities in the region and our search and need for mine maps to assist us with our future Mine Pool Mapping Project for the Northern Anthracite Fields
- Finished up and submitted or "***Cultivating Tree Trout and Understanding AMD Impacts in the Wyoming Valley***" Aquatic Resources **\$5000** grant application to the PA Fish & Boat Commission with the assistance of our intern Leigh Ann
- Talked with Rayne Brown-EPCAMR volunteer intern and LCCC student about coming in and helping us begin to create cardboard templates of aquatic insects for the Educational AMD Comedy Skit
- Awarded a **\$5000** grant from the Foundation for PA Watersheds to promote the use of *Datashed* (www.datashed.org) in the EPCAMR Region to our constituent watershed groups that have water quality monitoring data that needs to be digitized and entered into an online database management system
- Reviewed the letter of invitation prepared by the SRBC that has gone out to community groups in the EPCAMR Region within the Susquehanna River Basin to attend a discussion meeting on February 11 from 6-8PM at the PSU Hazleton Campus, about the development of an Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy and assistance with the Mine Pool Mapping efforts of EPCAMR for the Northern and Eastern Middle Anthracite Coalfields

- Talked with Kathryn Bawden, ACCWT Recruiting Coordinator and informed her of our inability to find additional matching funds in the amount of \$5500 for another OSM/VISTA at this time; We do have space that could be rented to other regional Anthracite Heritage Alliance OSM/VISTAs that need office space, however, we just do not have the funds to sponsor another full-time OSM/VISTA at this time and we wish we could; Discussed with her issues related to housing as well
- Prepared a Letter of Support to the Luzerne County Commissioners encouraging them to keep Moon Lake County Park open for future educational programs that we provide and the work we do with local youth on water quality and watershed studies; The County Park is set to be closed and all staff positions eliminated from the 2010 County Budget

Technical Assistance

- Conducted an interview with Greg Anderson, a Brown University Graduate student, who is working on a senior thesis titled "*Conserving Ecological and Industrial Heritage in Pennsylvania's Anthracite Region*"
- Meeting with Mrs. Janice Leiby-Horticulture Teacher at the Wilkes-Barre Career & Technical Center to review our Living2Serve Grant for the Avondale AML Beautification Spring Field Days and Budget allocations; Completed a 2010-2011 Living2Serve draft Grant Application for **\$3000** and forwarded it to Janice to submit for the Huber Breaker Anthracite Miner's AML Memorial Park Landscaping and Paver Project
- Worked with Arielle Avishai-OSM and Robin Lighty-PA DEP on completing our draft standard for *AMD discharge Inventories and Treatment Facilities* and another *Pre-SMCRA Surface Coal Mine Boundary* with Bruce Johnson-from North Dakota AML in preparation for their review at the OSM National Geospatial Data Standards Team Meeting at the end of the month in San Antonio, TX
- Conducted a public Webinar at the EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center for community groups interested in PA DCNR's "Greening" Webinar to roll out their new Keystone C2P2 Parks & Recreation grants based on the Sustainable Sites Initiative, a national model
- Reviewed a sample completed Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) from Todd Wood-PA DEP BAMR, a link to the restoration plan for the Upper West Branch of the Susquehanna River, a blank QHUP form, and a link to the draft Set Aside Program Guidelines; These documents along with the restoration plan should give some guidance on what is needed to establish a QHUP; The documents should answer some of the questions that have arisen at different meetings as far as what information is needed for a QHUP
- Provided Bill Weihbrecht, Senior Stream Restoration Specialist-URS Corporation with information on relocating streams using impervious liners; He's working on a project for a quarry where there is significant loss of flow due to karst geology and sinkholes; He'd like to relocate the stream and install a liner; He's looking for some guidance as far as types of liner

and installation requirements; This stream has good trout numbers so we would over excavate and be putting in substrate over the liner; Directed him to Dave Greenfield-PA DEP BAMR who has completed several projects in the Region with liners to some degree of success

Project Coordination

- Prepared an official request letter for the ***Hicks Creek NSCD AML Restoration Project*** at the direction of Jackie Lincoln-PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Ctr for our formal extension of the project through June 30, 2010; Received formal approval the same week; Contacted our Project Officer to get an update on the review of our Environmental Assessment that was submitted in December 2009; Submitted a request for reimbursement for the Project through December 2009
- Attended a Senior Staff level meeting in Harrisburg with Paul Schwartz, SRBC Executive Director and others along with Mike to present an update on our ***Mine Pool Mapping Project*** and to discuss a future partnership effort on the development of an Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy; Worked with Tom Clark-SRBC Basin AMD Coordinator to develop a preliminary budget request that SRBC will be submitting to the Legislature to implement the ***Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy*** and the ***Mine Pool Mapping Project*** begun by EPCAMR for the Northern Anthracite and Eastern Middle Coal Fields; **\$200,000** over 3 years to complete
- Prepared several contracts amendments for Ian Palmer, Roger Hornberger, and the Dauphin CCD to extend the grants until June 30, 2010 for the ***Mine Pool Mapping Project***
- Prepared a contract amendments for Borton-Lawson to extend the grants until June 30, 2010 for the ***Hicks Creek NSCD AML Restoration Project***
- Submitted a Reimbursement and Progress Report for the ***Mine Pool Mapping Project*** to PA DEP Project Officer Dan Koury, Pottsville DMO; Talked with Chris Murley, *Abandoned Mine Research* Director, about setting up a meeting where he might be able to show us some of his collection of underground mining shots of roofs, pillars, water-filled areas, for the Anthracite Region that we might be able to use in the report that we are writing; There are some great photos that could explain a lot of things that we are interpreting from the mine maps for these regions and their interconnectedness to multiple layers underneath the ground; EPCAMR will give full credit to the photographer

Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- EPCAMR Staff Conducted an AMD Watershed & Assessment Tour of the Nescopeck Creek Watershed and Jeddo Mine Tunnel with **24** Berwick Middle School students and the Columbia County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, Stephanie Singer; Conducted a stream visual assessment and performed some AMD water sampling

- Attended the Office of Surface Mining Geospatial National Data Standards Team Meeting in San Antonio, TX to develop Title IV mapping standard practices for GIS
- Informed Gwen Johnson that EPCAMR Executive Director will facilitate the Technical Track at the 2010 Watershed Symposium and that Mike Hewitt will sit on the Dashed Panel; EPCAMR to bring its AV Equipment to the Symposium at the Ramada Inn, State College in May 2010
- Directed Mike to post the Call for Presentations for the **NAAML P Conference** in Scranton, PA September 19-22, 2010

Community Cleanups

- Asked Drew McLaughlin, W-B City Administrator, if he knows if it's possible for him or Butch Frati-Planning Director to help us identify the property owner from the City's Tax Parcel ID Map to find out who the owner of that parcel (s) of land belongs to along High St. where we have a planned illegal dump site cleanup planned for the Spring 2010; EPCAMR has a landowner access agreement that we would like to provide to the landowner, regardless if it is a private landowner or a public entity, such as the City, that would allow us to conduct the cleanup and be freed from any liability for personal injury and that would cover the landowner from any actions being taken against them, since this is a volunteer cleanup effort; It is a document that we've modeled after the PA CleanWays access agreement form; They are also a partner with EPCAMR in this effort.; They will help to provide us with educational materials on illegal dumping and will report our numbers state-wide following the collection of the materials, debris, and recyclables
- Directed EPCAMR intern, Leigh Ann to sign EPCAMR up for the Annual Great PA Cleanup Event online at:
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=14638&SubjectID=>

Community Meetings

- Participated in a conference call with partners from the Weatherly Borough Planning Commission on the Hazle Creek AMD Remediation Monitoring Assessment; EPCAMR to assist with installing weirs and flow monitoring training
- Participated in a PA RC & DC Conference call

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Paid off EPCAMR's short term loan of **\$30,000** to First National Bank now that the PA DEP 319 Working Capital Request has been deposited
- Finalized December 2009 EPCAMR Monthly Report and PA DEP 319 Reimbursement

- Reviewed Kovalchik & Kollar's Memo on Employment Taxes for 2010 and 2009 1099-MISC Reporting Requirements; Sent out and completed all 1099-MISC Forms to our independent sub-contractors; Completed EPCAMR's W-2s with Zagrapan for staff
- Worked with Mike on preparing our updated Operating Budget for the First Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting
- EPCAMR's PA INVEST Accounts have gone on-line instead of paper accounts; EPCAMR can now make transfers and receive their monthly statements for download as Adobe PDF documents; EPCAMR Executive Director set up an account online
- Ordered the PA State and Federal Tax Employment Law Poster updated for 2010 for public display in the EPCAMR Office
- Set up a meeting with RJ Zagrapan, EPCAMR CPA to review the PA Unemployment Compensation Contribution Rate Notice for 2010 related to EPCAMR
- Informed from the PA DEP that for any organization that has a State Grant, the reimbursable mileage rate has changed to *\$.50/mile* as of January 1, 2010
- Talked with Josh Longmore-Luzerne Conservation District about a request for further detailed documentation of hours from a PA DEP Environmental Education Grant and reimbursement for costs (phone, travel, insurances, etc.) incurred by the District upon the completion of their audit six months following our departure from the Office; The grant files were left with the Conservation District prior to our separation from them in June 2009; The file has been misplaced at the District Office and EPCAMR has not been able to properly document the hours worked on the grant broken up into a bi-annual basis as the District would like us to without the Project Folder; All hours have already been properly documented prior to the close-out of the grant; The EPCAMR Board would like to have more time to follow up with Josh following our EPCAMR Board Meeting in late January because much of the requested reimbursement being sought has already been previously documented as in-kind by the District
- Attended our EPCAMR 1st Quarter BOT Mtg

Robert looking over Miscellaneous Geologic Investigation (I-Series) Maps from the 1960 to early 1970s reprinted at our Tech. Assistance Center

