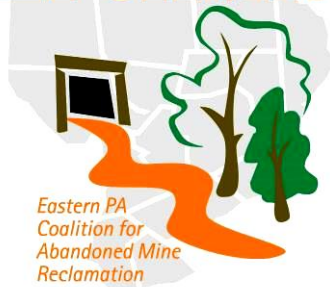


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, Executive Director

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

January 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Meeting with Frank Knorek, EPCAMR Volunteer Community Development Coordinator, to finalize and submit the PA DEP EE **\$3000** grant budget for ***EPCAMR's AMD Outdoor Education & Pottery Art Classroom Program*** in partnership with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Wilkes U., Misericordia U., and the Earth Conservancy; Received all letters of support from each of the partners listed above
- Worked with Frank Knorek, EPCAMR Volunteer Community Development Coordinator, Gabby Zawacki, David Svab, and Holly Halecki-EPCAMR Interns, on the development of an *EPA Environmental Education Grant* entitled, "*Exploring NE PA's Wyoming Valley Anthracite Coalfields Abandoned Mine Impacted Watersheds through Outdoor Learning Experiences using Audio-Visual Camera Technology to Document the Development of the Resource Recovery of Iron Oxides for Artistic Mediums*"; EPCAMR is proposing to work with four local underserved school districts to incorporate some innovative model environmental education initiatives that have not been done before anywhere in the Region; It builds off of our work with PPL's support to build our Solar Kiln for drying AMD; EPCAMR should have its very own glazes by the Summer 2014, Pottery by the Fall 2014...and some new ways to teach students about AMD through the use of 3D Mine Pool Models built by a 3D Printer, more AMD Field Tours, and hopefully, two newly designed from scratch, EPCAMR Remote Control (RC) Boat Cams using Mounted Go-Pro Cameras (water-proofed, of course) to get fish eye perspectives of AMD from the point of discharges to areas downstream
- Participated in a conference call with Dan Cardell, Bernie McGurl, Brian Whitman, Holly Frederick, and Ken Klemow from *Wilkes University* to discuss future collaborations on AMD work in the region to decide on what role Wilkes U., as a community resource, and highly respected institution of higher learning with top notch faculty, facilities, labs, and students who need to be placed as interns, community service learning volunteers, and on the job field training, are going to fit into the big picture of AMD remediation
- Skip Sensbach, Misericordia University Artist, who works with EPCAMR's iron oxide dropped of two advance copies of *Ceramics Monthly*, where EPCAMR and Skip's artwork utilizing our iron oxide and describing the process in which we collect, harvest, package, and sell the recycled sediment as a pigment, was featured in the national magazine for pottery artists across the country; <http://ceramicartsdaily.org/ceramic-supplies/ceramic-raw-materials/reclaimed-iron-oxide-ceramic-artists-use-the-byproduct-of-an-environmental-clean-up/#comment-13306>
- **House Bill 649** (HB 649) Seeks to Name ANTHRACITE as PA's State Rock; EPCAMR has written a letter of support for the bill to Chairman of the House State Government Committee, Rep. Daryl Metcalfe

- EPCAMR Community Relations Intern writes News Story on our Solar AMD Kiln Construction for Processing and Drying Iron Oxides; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-has-great-success-with-originally-designed-one-of-a-kind-solar-powered-kiln-for-iron-oxide-processing/>
- Prepared an EPCAMR Position Statement against **Senate Bill 411** (SB411) as written; The activities that would occur as a result of the enactment of SB 411 are far-reaching and require comprehensive hydrogeological analysis and further baseline data gathering to begin to take a hard look at the future potential impacts of this piece of legislation. EPCAMR encourages the General Assembly to work to authorize the prioritization of funding to conduct further studies and detailed analyses of the potential impacts that this legislation could have on PA's rivers, streams, and mining impacted communities that lay above the underground multi-colliery hydrologic units that are beneath our feet that we commonly call mine pool complexes. To not support such studies and further funding devoted to getting a more comprehensive understanding of the movement of the mine water underground across PA in the various AMD impacted watersheds, which does not flow in the same way water does on the surface of the land, would be a consequential mistake that should be avoided at all costs; AMD does not just flow from a discharge location that has been abandoned. The underground mine pool complexes are just that, very complex, have various differential flow paths, can have flashy shallow pools, or deep, stable pools, with the potential for water storage. The impacts that the reduction of AMD could have on the land above these pools need to be taken into consideration, due to the potential for additional mine subsidence, discharges migrating to new locations, contamination of existing public water supplies, mine water being backed up and or dammed underground that could lead to upstream or adjacent flooding issues or the creation of new AMD discharges in other parts of the mining impacted watersheds; Submitted a copy of EPCAMR's No Vote on SB 411 to Senator Blake, Senator Yudichak, Senator Baker, Representative Carroll, and Representative Mundy, here in our Northeast region; Forwarded our letter to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Choose Clean Water Coalition for further distribution; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-reaches-out-to-regional-legislators-to-oppose-senate-bill-411-that-would-provide-the-gas-industry-with-immunity-from-treating-amd-should-they-decide-to-want-to-withdraw-the-contaminated-water-f/>
- Reached out to Professor Jean Adams' Wilkes University Ceramics I students with Gabby Zawacki, EPCAMR Community Relations Intern, and talked about EPCAMR's upcoming **AMD & Pottery Art Education Program**, to seek interested students who might want to produce ceramic art pieces that could be dipped in our future iron oxide EPCAMR glazes that we hope to develop by Summer 2014
- EPCAMR discovered that the Dorrance Fan House Colliery Complex was also being demolished, however, the fan itself is going to be preserved at the Lansford #9 Mine Museum; <http://m.citizensvoice.com/news/razing-history-dorrance-fan-complex-to-undergo-demolition-1.1615286> and the Baltimore Tunnel Disaster ended up getting a PA Historic Museum Commission approved sign; http://citizensvoice.com/arts-living/phmc-to-unveil-marker-on-1919-baltimore-tunnel-mine-explosion-1.1617983#.Ut2vOV_qwFk.facebook
- Anthracite Heritage Museum marked the 55th Anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster; <http://timesleader.com/news/news/1118368/Anthracite-Heritage-Museum-marks-Knox-Mine-Disasters-55th-anniversary> and <http://citizensvoice.com/news/knox-mine-disaster-remembered-1.1619494>

- The Plymouth Historical Society obtains the deed for the Avondale Mine Disaster property previously owned by the Earth Conservancy; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/historical-society-receives-land-1.1621422>
- *John Dziak*, Greater Pittston Historical Society, is interested in discussing setting up a digital Anthracite History Library collection and is interested in seeing where EPCAMR can fit in the proposed project with all our resources and knowledge of Anthracite History
- Met with *Dr. Liu* and *Dr. Xiao*, two Penn-State University Professors at the EPCAMR Office; They are interested in future opportunities to partner on researching gases emitted from abandoned mines, mine fires, mine shafts, and mine discharges that have not been backfilled or boreholes that still vent air to the surface; These are the features that are on the landscape that will mostly contain emissions of some form of CO, Methane, SO₂, etc.; EPCAMR offered up a tour of AML sites in the Spring or Summer of 2014
- Registered for a *Strategies for Bridging Communities in EE 4-week*, on-line course developed to share strategies for not only attracting a diversity of stakeholders to the PA State Consortia, as a part of the PAEE EECapacity Grant project EPCAMR is involved with on a state-wide level, but also empowering course participants with the tools to orchestrate a diversity of perspectives and capacities and build collective goals around increased environmental literacy and action; Lead by Akiima Price
- *Richard Simon*, Science teacher at Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre, is interested in having his “Watershed” students involved in a cleanup project with EPCAMR in the Spring or early Summer in the Solomon Creek watershed; EPCAMR will be in touch with Mr. Simon when the weather breaks and will be looking to schedule a huge cleanup on the **Lee Park Tributary** in Hanover Twp., Luzerne County
- Worked with Gabby Zawacki, EPCAMR Community Relations Intern to submit a small \$1000 grant to the *Awesome Foundation* in New York City, to see if we can secure some funds towards a marketing/media campaign to reach artists to utilize our iron oxides
- *Dana Sword*, a Bloomsburg University student is interested in an EPCAMR Internship in the Summer 2014; EPCAMR advised her to follow up with her advisor and come in for an interview and obtain the appropriate formal internship paperwork from the University to provide to EPCAMR, should she be accepted into our Internship Program
- Provided ARIPPA Staff with some information on the deadline set by the US EPA to make a final determination on the classification of coal ash disposal; <http://www.power-eng.com/articles/2014/01/epa-sets-coal-ash-disposal-rule-deadline.html>

Technical Assistance

- Provided a Letter of Support for Earth Conservancy’s **Warrior Run AML Reclamation Project** submitted to the US EPA Brownfields Program in the Warrior Run Watershed, Warrior Run Borough, Luzerne County

- Provided a Letter of Support for PEC NE Office's USDA Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant and hopes to coordinate efforts with them to reach their goal of 40 cleanups being proposed in the grant
- Provided Joe Calore, Director of the Weatherization Services, *Commission on Economic Opportunity* (CEO), an EPCAMR Letter of Support and Commitment to the for their submission to the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant Program Application
- EPCAMR Staff contribute to front page story on mine fires in Northeastern PA by providing details form it's RAMLIS Community GIS Tool to the Scranton-Times Tribune; http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/business/crew-works-to-stop-culm-dump-fire-dep-investigating-active-mine-fire-in-carbondale-1.1620808#.Ut_yy6bmfds.facebook; <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/eight-local-coal-fires-still-burning-dep-records-state-1.1622232>; <http://timesleader.com/news/local-news/1156029/Legislator-wants-action-on-mine-fires> ; and <http://thetimes-tribune.com/opinion/nepa-has-had-enough-of-mine-fires-1.1621976>
- EPCAMR updated News site details EPCAMR's work on the monitoring o**Earth Conservancy's Askam AMD Borehole AMD Treatment area**; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-monitoring-the-earth-conservancys-askam-amd-treatment-system-in-the-nanticoke-creek-watef-rshed/>
- EPCAMR updated News site details EPCAMR's monitoring of the **Espy Run AMD Treatment Wetlands**; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-continues-monitoring-of-espy-run-amd-treatment-system-for-the-earth-conservancy-in-the-nanticoke-creek-watershed/>
- Professor *MaryAnn Krasny*, Cornell University, requested EPCAMR photos of one of our mining restoration activities that includes people doing some sort of action and would be readily identifiable as mining restoration in PA (or a similar state); She will be using them for a book she is writing for MIT Press; It would be published in black and white
- Followed up with *Joe Gourniak-Synagro*, to see if he made any headway with any of the contacts EPCAMR provided to him about the granulite market development; EPCAMR asked him if he was still interested in exhibiting or sponsoring at our Conference in June as well as becoming an industry member of EPCAMR; Joe provided EPCAMR with a spec sheet on granulite
- Worked with Holly Halecki, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern to begin to draft up a PA DCNR State Forest Research Agreement (SFRA) for submission to PA DCNR to share data and information and resources on watersheds that EPCAMR are working on that are either adjacent or a part of State Forest Lands in our region; Must receive approval from the PA DCNR Wild Conservation Resource Program to participate in the agreement; PA DCNR would like to set up a Spring Meeting with EPCAMR Staff in Harrisburg to review our agreement prior to approval; They are very interested in our underground mine pool mapping efforts
- Requested information from Chuck Cravotta, USGS as to whether or not he may end up working on the Lackawanna QHUP development; Chuck is interested in meeting with EPCAMR, PA DEP BAMR, PA DEP BCR, LRCA, LVC, and any other partners to look at what remains to be collected to fully develop the QHUP upon the approval of Todd Wood-PA DEP BCR

Project Coordination

- Attended a meeting of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board to discuss future **Huber Miners Memorial Park Project** fundraisers on the former abandoned mine land site in Ashley; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/huber-preservation-society-plans-fundraiser-1.1615652>; EPCAMR and HBPS are working with Paselo Logistics, the recycling company that is demolishing the Huber Breaker for scrap metal to obtain several industrial artifacts for the Park; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/demolition-begins-at-huber-breaker-site-1.1621406> EPCAMR worked with the HBPS to come up with a list of items to be removed from the Breaker that will eventually end up in the Park for interpretative art elements Discussed the script from Alana Mauger and John Welsh, for the Huber Breaker KickStart Fundraiser video; Field meeting and interview with Pablo Maurer, freelance journalist for the DCist online newspaper blog who interviewed EPCAMR about the Huber Breaker preservation efforts and the demolition of the last breaker standing in the Northern Anthracite Coalfields; http://dcist.com/2014/01/abandoned_huber_coal_breaker.php#photo-1; <http://m.citizensvoice.com/news/work-underway-to-save-huber-breaker-artifacts-1.1627288>; and <http://timesleader.com/news/local-news/1163647/Mining-lcon-being-demolished-in-Ashley>
- Meeting with *Aaron Stredny*, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist to work on ideas for future grants/project development for the upcoming Spring/Summer/Fall 2014; Discussed a timeline for the Spring to get back out to Nockley's Tributary to install the rock energy dissipaters and to check on the growth of the 125 seedlings planted in the Fall 2013
- Forwarded **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project** Environmental Assessment paperwork and contact information on Exeter Borough contacts to Mike Lower, Skelly & Loy Engineering; Completed a Reimbursement and Progress Report from August 2013 through December 31, 2013 and forwarded it on to Dennis Palladino, PA DEP BAMR Project Officer for review and submission to the Growing Greener Grants Center for approval; Sent to Skelly & Loy a draft updated and revised Contract Agreement for the remaining work items that are left in the project for their review and consideration

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in a conference call with PAEE and NAAEE partners who are assisting with coordinating the *PAEE EECapacity Community Leaders Workshop* in the Spring 2014 via a virtual webinar kickoff and another workshop at the Annual PAEE Conference in March 2014 at Antioch Village, PA; www.paee.org
- Participated in two PA AMR Conference Calls to continue planning the 16th Annual PA AMR Conference in State College, PA to be held on June 26th & 27th, 2014 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in collaboration with ARIPPA, who is celebrating their trade association's 25th Anniversary; www.treatminewater.com has updated details on the Conference Planning, Agenda, Sponsors, Activities, and Speakers; PACD has become a sponsor again this year as well as SRBC and the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Made reservation and put down a deposit for Penn's Cave alternate field trip to the Golf Outing being hosted by ARIPPA
- Attended the **South Valley Chamber (SVC) Business Card Exchange** with *Gabby Zawacki* and *David Svab*-EPCAMR Interns, in Wilkes-Barre at the Hilton Garden Inn to introduce them to community leaders and organizations in the Southern Wyoming Valley and to talk about EPCAMR Projects in the area

- EPCAMR promoted the Schuylkill River Watershed Congress on it's social media site (FaceBook); <http://delawareriverkeeper2.givezooks.com/events/2014-watershed-congress-along-the-schuylkill-river>
- Tom Clark, SRBC AMD Coordinator will be providing EPCAMR Staff and Board with a half-hour training on the **SRBC Mine Drainage Data Portal Online Database** at the February 20th Quarterly Board Meeting

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Provided the necessary orientation to *Gabby Zawacki* and *Holly Halecki*, EPCAMR's two Spring 2014 Interns on their first day of their internship; See EPCAMR News stories on the girls; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-brings-on-gabby-zawacki-old-forge-pa-as-our-first-community-relations-outreach-intern-from-wilkes-university/> and <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/holly-halecki-wikes-barre-twp-pa-and-senior-at-kings-college-becomes-the-first-epcamr-watershed-outreach-intern-for-the-spring-2014-semester/>
- EPCAMR was provided with a FREE Community Leader Subscription (valued at \$75) on www.VolunteerMatch.org due to our level of transparency and details that had been provided to GuideStar on our work; EPCAMR will be working with our Interns to update the volunteer job descriptions, see what other tools can be used on the site, and upload additional photos to the site
- *Brandon Hannis*, a local, Junior from Hanover Area High School, Ashley, PA became a member of EPCAMR, and also an active community volunteer Iron Oxide Processor, who is spending several days a week after school helping EPCAMR to dry our iron oxide pigment supply and create an inventory for us; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-adds-brandon-hannis-ashley-resident-and-hanover-area-high-school-student-as-an-iron-oxide-processor-volunteer/>
- EPCAMR Staff developed an online volunteer form to make it easier for interested EPCAMR volunteers to get involved with our organization when they are looking for opportunities locally to help out with environmental projects; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-adds-on-line-volunteer-form-to-make-it-easier-for-you-to-volunteer-with-us/>
- *Jason Longenberger*, Berwick, PA and *Lisa Woolery*, signed up and completed his volunteer form to become a Community Service Volunteer; *Lauren Brown*, Wilkes-Barre, PA and *Jess Yockavitch*, is interested in becoming a Community Service Volunteer
- *Gabriel Vargas*, and *Usmaan Chaudhry*, Photographers, are interested in coming to the EPCAMR region to take photos of AMD
- *Micaela Payne-Dallas*, PA, and *Tommy Nava*, requested more information on becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer, so EPCAMR referred them both to complete our Volunteer Service Form; http://epcamr.org/storage/projects/EPCAMR_Volunteer_Registration_Form.pdf
- *Jamie Yousten*, a landscape architecture student at Louisiana State University inquired about the Huber Breaker; She is interested in using it as a topic for her senior thesis project; As a landscape architect, she is particularly fascinated with historically important abandoned sites and designing spaces that serve a communal and environmental purpose; She has family in Virginia and has driven by the Huber Breaker for years without knowing its significance, and would love to learn more about it and potentially pursue it for her project; She is considering the location for her project and will get back to EPCAMR, should she decide she needs a sponsor or Supervisor for the project

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts; Meeting with Bernie McGurl to sign checks
- Completed and submitted the December 2013 PA DEP 319 Progress and monthly EPCAMR Board Report and December 2013 Reimbursement
- Meeting held with John Morgan, RJ Zagrapan, CPA to review our W-2's, 1099-MISC, and IRA Contributions for the year 2013
- EPCAMR Executive Director completed an Online Course: ***The Environment, Health, and*** the mail from when the course was completed in October 2013
- Created a PA CareerLink business folder on the CareerLink website; EPCAMR used to be involved with CareerLink a few years ago when we had sponsored individuals who worked through the EDSI and EARN Program for Paid Work Experience (PWE) and community service
- Provided Deirdre Jolley, EPCAMR's Bookkeeper with links to QuickBooks newsletter tips that get forwarded to EPCAMR
- Followed up with a number of Conservation Districts and their Staff upon their EPCAMR Membership renewals for 2014
- Worked on developing the upcoming February 20th EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting Agenda with Mike
- Renewed EPCAMR's commitment membership to the Choose Clean Water Coalition and passed along EPCAMR's SB 411 Position Letter against the bill