

# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program January 2007 Progress Report

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### Highlights:

- Produced 7 maps for EPCAMR Partners and added information to 3 EPCAMR GIS Databases
- Attended 2 AML Campaign Meetings, the EPCAMR Board Meeting, a Flood Coalition Meeting, the Exeter Borough Meeting and an AMD Conference Planning Committee Conference Call
- Updated [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org)

### January 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

- Sent the Lackawanna River SCARLIFT Part II report in PDF via CD to Bruce Golden for inclusion on the [www.AMRClearinghouse.org](http://www.AMRClearinghouse.org) SCARLIFT collection.
- Used the maps and descriptions from SCARLIFT 181-3 (Solomon, Nanticoke and Warrior Run) which identify potential surface water loss points to add to the EPCAMR infiltration Points GIS Layer. These were also verified by reading problem area comments in the AMLIS database.
- Researched the ability to use the ArcView Single User License when there is not internet connection or ArcInfo Floating License (via MOU with OSM) when an internet connection is available on the same computer. Found that it was possible and this will be applied to the laptop for out-of-office presentations.
- Began extracting comments from the AMLIS Database to construct a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the Solomon Creek Watershed. Provided Tim Ference, Friends of the Nescopeck, with a draft copy of the Nescopeck Creek WRAS. The group plans to begin focusing on projects mentioned in the WRAS plan.
- In preparation of the Growing Greener Grant Mine Pool Project for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields, I began the process of installing GMS v.6.0 from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) TIPS Program.

### January 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

- Aided Robert with purchases for the PA Fish and Boat Commission Grant.
- Aided Angela Lambert, Lackawanna State Park Education Coordinator, in finding new AMD Cleanup educational activities. Recommended the "Settle it out Activity" activity from St. Vincent College which deals with passively settling out iron, similar to passive treatment wetlands. Also suggested Valerie and Pam's AMD Education module "What's in Your Water?" to cover some of the other types of treatment and a general overview. Posted this module to the Education section of [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org).
- EPCAMR Program Staff traveled to the Lykens Water Level Tunnel AMD Treatment Site with Robert to check up on the progress of construction. Took pictures. Looks like most of the earth moving has been done and the basins are formed. The riser drain pipe was installed in the

lower basin and there is a rock lined channel leading from the discharge, but the water has not been diverted yet. \*

- EPCAMR Program Staff met with John Dawes at the PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) office in Harrisburg to talk about the progress of the RAMLIS GIS Tool. \*
- Produced 20 RAMLIS v.6.3 CDs and a map for Bruce Golden in preparation for the upcoming AML Campaign Meeting.\*
- Produced a map of the Wapwallopen Creek Watersheds for Tom Venesky, Times Leader.
- Worked on simplifying the process of posting articles to the [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and having them show up properly in the NewsFlash. Also worked on Syndicating WPCAMR's Abandoned Mine Posts on EPCAMR's site. Added news articles related to the SMCRA Reauthorization by Congress.
- Received a call from Andy McAllister, WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator, asking if it was possible to break down the Priority 1 and 2 Problem Areas to show the distribution in the EPCAMR and WPCAMR Region. He would be presenting the information at a PACD Meeting.

### **January 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

- EPCAMR Program Staff attended the AML Campaign Celebration Meeting at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh, PA to celebrate the passage of the SMCRA Reauthorization. Worked on selecting the Unreclaimed Priority 1 and 2 AML Features from the AMLIS database and associating them with their respective Problem Areas to show the number of AML Problem areas that contained Priority 1 and 2 Features, thus answering Andy's question on the way to Pittsburg as Robert drove. Priority 1's still exist in 7 counties in the EPCAMR Region and 20 in the WPCAMR Region, Priority 2's exist in 14 EPCAMR Region Counties and 26 WPCAMR Region Counties. Made maps with statistics to hand out at a later time. \*
- Drafted a meeting agenda and watershed reports based on comments received and sent a 1 week reminder for the upcoming EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting. Prepared the meeting minutes and watershed reports from the last quarterly meeting.
- EPCAMR Program Staff Met with Gerald Longenecker, Skelly and Loy, at the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project Site to reassess the site now that the grant was awarded.
- EPCAMR Program Staff met with the Northeast Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC NERO) to pick up signs and discuss future plans for the COALS Initiative in Luzerne County. It seems that the name has changes to Clean Our American Lands and Streams as reported by DEP Bureau Waste Management, Don Hagrich.

### **January 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**

- EPCAMR Program Staff met with the AML Campaign in Huntingdon, PA to discuss what can be done now that SMCRA has been reauthorized. \*
- Ran into a problem with [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) where the pictures would no longer show up in the Photo Gallery. Attempted to troubleshoot the problem and finally had to ask our webmaster, Bill Waters, to fix the problem.
- Began a 2006 EPCAMR Year in Review document based on an e-mail from Donna Carnahan, DEP 319 Program, asking for information to add to the NPS Program Update to the EPA. The document reflects on the efforts in the EPCAMR Region in 2006 that met the goals and the objectives from the Resource Extraction section of the report.
- EPCAMR Program Staff prepared for and attended the EPCAMR Board Meeting. Presented the EPCAMR GeoBasins Layer in 2 maps: the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region and the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields.
- Attended the Flood Coalition Meeting headed by POWR to discuss the need to establish a coalition and a media campaign which will effectively connect stormwater issues to flooding

problems in the mind of “John Q. Public” in Pennsylvania. Several regional and statewide groups were in attendance.

- Updated the old GIS Laptop so that Robert could demonstrate the RAMLIS GIS Tool to attendees of the OSM Meeting in California.

### **January 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Attended an Exeter Borough Meeting to explain the newly awarded Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project which will be funded by Growing Greener. Several residents were opposed to the restoration of surface water flow in the channel after reading an article in which I was quoted. EPCAMR was asked to come to the meeting to explain the goals of the project. Since the project was not fully funded, we decided that work should start upstream working our way downstream installing sediment reducing and flow directing structures until the money runs out. The secondary goal of reducing infiltration to the mine pool may or may not be a reality in this phase of the project. After discussion the borough council reaffirmed their support of the project.
- Joined in on a Conference Call to discuss the 2007 AMD Conference. Discussed the format, theme, place, time and other details relevant to the beginning planning stages.
- Met with Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), to sit down and identify infiltration points that may recharge mine pools in the Lackawanna Valley. Gave the EPCAMR GeoBasins Layer to his GIS Technician, Alley, for inclusion in their GIS Database.
- Met with Josh First, Appalachian Land & Conservation Services Co. president and AML Campaign Member, to demonstrate the RAMLIS GIS Tool.
- Continued to add points to the EPCAMR Infiltration Points Database using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (ACOE) Section 206 Ecosystem Restoration Plan (2005) for Nanticoke Creek Watershed and SCARLIFT 181-4 for the Mill Creek Watershed (Luzerne County).
- Sent pictures of last year’s COALS Initiative Cleanups to PEC NERO staff for inclusion in a general presentation for the program.