

# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program January 2008 Progress Report

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### Highlights:

- Added to 5 EPCAMR GIS Layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Project, Sent 2 RAMLIS CDs; Produced 4 maps for EPCAMR Project Partners.
- Attended the Economic Development Meeting of the Luzerne / Lackawanna Joint Comprehensive Plan Project, an AML Campaign Meeting, an AMR Conference Conference Call, a Hicks Creek Watershed Meeting, 2 Mine Pool Mapping Meetings, 2 BAMR Focus Group Meetings & a Manure and Minelands Conference Call
- Updated [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org)

### Education and Outreach:

- Posted AMR Program Staff reports to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and sent them to 319 Program. Posted articles to the News Reader and added Carly Trumann to website as the New EPCAMR VISTA. Added EasyPHP Calendar to the website to revive the function and replace the failing and hard to use program that existed.
- Created a map of Luzerne County, Cities, Municipalities and Watersheds for Tanya for the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) display.
- Documented EPCAMR Region successes for the PA DEP 319 Program from 10-06 to 10-07 for inclusion in the Non Point Source Liaison Workgroup Resource Extraction Report to the EPA. Also collected information on AMD impacted streams with reclamation or treatment systems and suggested 30 segments on 3 different streams to be reassessed for possible removal from the PA Integrated Un-attaining Waters list.
- Attended the Economic Development Meeting of the Luzerne / Lackawanna Joint Comprehensive Plan Project. Many of the discussions focused on re-use of minelands for expansion of industrial, commercial and residential real estate development and use of mine pools and mine water to support the expansion (eg. Geothermal heat sources, industrial process water). These were formed into action strategies and will be placed in the plan. Also noticed many new maps and GIS layers, one in general showed boundary of underground areas affected by the Knox Mining disaster.
- EPCAMR Staff attended an AML Campaign Meeting in Alexandria, PA to gather thoughts of watershed groups and conservation district representatives into a plan for PA Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation in the new light of the AML Reauthorization. Reviewed efforts to outreach the public through townhall and special topic meetings. \*
- EPCAMR Staff sat in on an AMR Conference Conference Call. The data of this year's conference will be August 12-14<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada in State College and will focus on both the

Science of AMD/AML and the Historical Aspects of Mining. Each focus will last 1 1/2 days with an overlap in the middle.

- Attended a Hicks Creek Watershed Meeting to discuss progress with the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project. Also posted an update to the website under "Talking Timbers" Current Initiatives.
- Aided Savannah Lyons, Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) Team Leader, with contacting local groups that may be interested in hosting a VISTA position to create an ACCWT Team for the Anthracite Region in PA. 3 local Heritage Valley Authorities from the Schuylkill, Delaware and Lehigh and the Lackawanna were also interested in the idea and would like to form an Anthracite Region Heritage Area of sorts to better collaborate efforts. Early talks map place a group of 8 VISTAS in the Anthracite Region to help local groups.
- Updated and added more useful links to the Friends of the Nescopeck Website at [www.fon.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.fon.orangewaternetwork.org) . Also updated the Nescopeck Creek Website on [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) to add links to technical reports available online.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Collected and sent receipts for the Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO) related to the Mine Pool Mapping Project for their records and reimbursement processing.
- Received a beta version of SpiceWorks 2.0 which is a program that helps maintain an inventory of equipment and tracks changes to computers over the network.
- Copied more RAMLIS CDs and mailed 2: Hawbaker Construction Services, LLC and Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Johnstown Office.
- Created an invoice and narrative of work completed for the Manure and Minelands Project with PEC. ~
- EPCAMR Staff met with the project team for the Mine Pool mapping Project here at the EPCAMR Office to adjust the database used for collection of water quality / quantity information. Sent 3 published reports to Roger Hornberger and Jim Andrews for inclusion in a works cited database. Also provided a database of the anthracite collieries separated by coal field for Roger to fill in the bottom depths of mine pools as he is finding them through his research.
- Sent out a reminder of the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting to the EPCAMR Board, posted BAMR's Quarterly Report to the MRAB, the last quarter Watershed Reports and Minutes to the Board Meeting section of [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org).
- Received news about the Dundee Borehole Collapse and that BAMR/OSM Staff would be meeting onsite to prepare a contingency plan. The borehole became plugged with the collapse of the pump from the EC Phase 2 Treatment System. Mine Pool levels rose 20 ft in surrounding boreholes and a new discharge formed in Clarks Cross Neighborhood. Prepared maps for the site investigation of the underground mine pools from both the Scarlift and Ash Reports.
- EPCAMR staff met with the project team for the Mine Pool mapping Project at the USGS Office in New Cumberland to get a handle on the data sources needed to produce a hydrologic model of a mine pool, USGS's portion of the project.
- EPCAMR staff met with PEC Northeast Office to review their need for maps for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. So far 8 maps are planned with existing data and 4 maps will need data created. A public meeting to view the maps is scheduled for 2-25-08. \*\*
- EPCAMR staff sat in on a Manure and Minelands Conference call with PEC to plan next steps in choosing a site after looking over the 20 best suited available BAMR Project Locations in and around Schuylkill County.
- Created binders for and conducted an AMD Sampling Training with Catherine Webster, OSM/VISTA for the Schuylkill Conservation District. Provided her with a certificate for the process with the caveat that we would continue with flow monitoring and macro-invertebrate collections with warmer weather in the spring.

- Created a CD of before and after Fly Ash Reclamation projects for ARIPPA, who plans to use the images to design a redistribution of their promotional video on Reclaiming AML with Fly Ash.
- Created an aerial map of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site for a class of Landscape Architecture students from PSU Main Campus. The students may take on the project to design a memorial the site and place to learn about the disaster along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail.
- Brainstormed a list of sources for start up funds for a new watershed group in the Wyoming Valley, Abrahams Creek Watershed Association. The watershed is mildly impacted by AML like its neighboring Hicks Creek Watershed.
- Inquired into the possibility of using the Quick Response Grants for a problem that the Shamokin Creek Restoration Association is having with one of their treatment systems. The township has cited the group for an “attractive nuisance” that the Site 15 treatment ponds pose to the public. They can be fined daily until a fence is placed at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around the site.
- EPCAMR staff attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting in Bloomsburg, PA. Please see [EPCAMR Board Meeting Website](#) for agenda, reports and minutes of the meeting.
- Attended the Private Property Access Meeting in Pottsville and the AMD Treatment Meeting in Harrisburg which were both focus group meetings lead by PA DEP BAMR. These meetings were held to follow up on suggestions raised at the townhall meetings and proposed suggestions on how to implement these ideas.
- Continued to digitize Western Middle Anthracite Region Mine Pools, Mine Water Flow Directions, Barrier Pillars, Infiltration Points and Mine Tunnel Outlets the Bureau of Mines Bulletin 521, Technical Paper 727 and Scarlift Reports in Related Watersheds.
- Continued comparing a newly downloaded (1/2008) OSM Treatment System Database and NPS Projects Database. Sent preliminary findings to Garry Price, DEP 319 Program.

\* Represents time billed to the Western PA Watershed Protection Program.

\*\* Represents time billed to the PEC Catawissa Creek RCP Contract.

^ Represents time billed to the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Growing Greener Grant.

~ Represents time billed to the PEC Manure and Minelands Contract.