

EPCAMR



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January 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Participated in the PACD Education & Outreach Committee Meeting in State College, PA to hear about the PACD's efforts to develop a strategic marketing plan that can be utilized by most Districts, given their differences and specialties, state-wide; Discussed the development of EE sessions for watershed specialists, EE & CE Coordinators at Districts, for an upcoming Joint Annual Conference on July 29th, 2008; Reviewed a draft version of an EE Survey sent to all Districts on education programs offered by category, target audience, and delivery method; Completed a PACD Grant-writing questionnaire and submitted it back to PACD
- Prepared a letter of support for Dallas Elementary School District's **\$10,000** Toyota Tapestry Grant related to an existing application that was being resubmitted from two years ago where EPCAMR and the LCD were partners with the School District to potentially use the District Wetlands as an outdoor classroom to teach 5th graders wetlands plant ID, topography, map interpretation, and how to use GIS and GPS technologies in the field
- Attended the Huber Breaker Preservation Society meeting to inform them of some potential upcoming partnership opportunities with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission that might assist them with taking their conceptual plan of a Huber Memorial Park on the 3 acres of AML that they own to a design & construction project with the help of our OSM/VISTA partnership
- Conducted an AML Tour of the Avondale Mine Site and surrounding area with 12 Penn-State Main Campus Graduate students from the College of Landscape Architecture and Professor Korostoff, who informed EPCAMR that the students have chosen the Avondale Site as a class project where they will assist EPCAMR and our local Anthracite Living History Group partners to develop charettes, conceptual designs, interpretive kiosk, and trail mapping for the entire site over the next semester
- Held a meeting with Allan Sachse, Executive Director of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, who is interested in building on EPCAMR's existing partnership with the ACCWT through our OSM/VISTA relationship to potentially bring other OSM/VISTAs to the Anthracite Region to assist communities with AMD/AML outreach and education programs, community development, capacity building, and historic preservation projects
- Informed Vinnie Cotrone-Wilkes-Barre RiverFront Parks Committee that once our OSM/VISTA comes on board in February that she'd be involved in the future planning efforts for the 2008 Annual RiverFest and will more than likely be conducting an AMD Tie Dye Workshop along the Susquehanna River

Technical Assistance

- Completed deposits and reconciliations of EPCAMR Accounts in preparation for upcoming 1st Quarter 2008 Board Meeting; Prepared a tentative EPCAMR Board Meeting Agenda
- Completed and mailed EPCAMR's State Tax Exemption Forms to the PA Department of Revenue
- Reviewed WPCAMR's 30% Set-Aside Calculator in preparation for an upcoming MRAB Presentation in Harrisburg, PA; The tool can allow the public, Conservation Districts, and Community Groups to determine the future allocation of AML funds over the next 12 years in PA based on several assumptions and willingness of the State PA DEP to commit those funds accordingly
- Inquired at OMEGA Bank, on behalf of the EPCAMR Board, in preparation for the upcoming Board Meeting, as to whether or not the EPCAMR Accounts can be tied directly to debit cards that would allow EPCAMR to pay most, if not all of its bills directly through a debit card transaction, as opposed to reimbursing the Luzerne Conservation District with numerous checks on a monthly basis, since service fees are being applied to the EPCAMR Account due to the number of checks written on a monthly basis
- Assisted OSM with an AMD Field Investigation on the collapse of the Dundee AMD Outfall, located on Earth Conservancy's property, in Hanover Township, PA, located near the Nanticoke Creek; Provided some of our existing mine pool mapping from ScarLift Reports and some RAMLIS information to pinpoint the potential extent of the backing up of the flooding and blocked mine pool in the Truesdale Mine Colliery complex; Sampled water from the discharge and for the public, where one low-income housing unit was being inundated in their basements with suspected mine water
- Co-presented with Bruce Golden-WPCAMR at the MRAB Meeting on the 30% Set-Aside Calculator in Harrisburg, PA, as well as served as the alternate Board Member for Dave Manknameyer, who was not present
- Meeting with Brad Clemenson, PEC Senior Project Manager to inform him of some of EPCAMR's technical capabilities because of his inquiries on the potential for our assistance on future projects in the Region where we may be of service

Project Coordination

- Completed a Growing Greener **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** Reimbursement and submitted it to EPCAMR's Project Officer, Dan Koury at the Pottsville District Mining Office
- EPCAMR Technical Committee Meeting with Pottsville District Mining Office staff, Roger Hornerberger, P.G., Ian Palmer, and Dan Koury, on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** to review some of the multi-colliery hydrogeologic units (connected underground mine pools) that Roger has found to date and to assist Ian with further developing the water quality database management system that's been created to compile existing data with the Surface Mine Permits and other referenced reports
- Attended a meeting with Roger Hornberger, P.G. in Penn-State with Dr. Kleit and Dr. Shortle to discuss how they can possibly fill a role in our **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** by assisting us with developing the marketing aspects and framework for developing such markets that might potentially be end-users of the mine pool water or the metals recovery processes that might ensue

- Completed and submitted a **PEC Manure & Mine Lands Project** Invoice and Status Report to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Convened a conference call on the **PEC Manure & Mine Lands Project** with PSU's Rick Stewhouwer, and PEC's Scott Vandermark
- Attended a PEC **Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan** Meeting in Luzerne, PA with Janet Sweeney, Project Manager to narrow down the selection of the GIS Maps Themes and Layers that are needed for the Catawissa Creek RCP Plan

Conferences and Trainings

- Completed and submitted an abstract for the Water & Environment Symposium on EPCAMR's RAMLIS GIS Mapping Tool at the request of the PA Council of Professional Geologists, slated for May 8, 2008 in Camp Hill, PA; EPCAMR Program Staff to co-present, if selected to make a presentation
- Talked with Bruce Golden to coordinate schedules of anticipated upcoming January Meetings that we'll be attending related to AML
- Submitted topics for inclusion in the 2008 AMR Conference discussion, specifically on the possibility of developing an AMD Monitoring Certification Program within PA for watershed groups and OSM/VISTAs, in particular
- Attended an AML Campaign Regrouping Meeting at John Dawe's Farm House, Huntingdon, PA to discuss the next steps in pursuing how the additional AML funds get properly distributed throughout PA for priority projects
- Participated in an 2008 AMR Conference Call with Mike and the AMR Conference Planning Committee to begin to flush out this year's 10th Annual AMR Conference to be held in Penn-State at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA from August 12th to the 14th
- Conducted an AMD Field Monitoring Training Session with Catherine Webster-OSM/VISTA for Schuylkill County
- Attended the OSM National GeoSpatial Data Committee Team Meeting, held in Tampa, FL to continue to further develop GIS data standards for mining, abandoned mines, and underground mines

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted December 2007 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 December 2007 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Manager's Meeting with Josh to review anticipated EPCAMR Program Administrative Changes as well as policy changes according to the new LCD/EPCAMR MOU for 2008; Follow up meeting with Mike to review with him the administrative/policy changes for EPCAMR
- Attended the EPCAMR 1st Quarter Board Meeting in Bloomsburg, PA on 1-24-08