

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program January 2009 Progress Report

Michael A. Hewitt, *Watershed Outreach Coordinator*

Luzerne Conservation District
485 Smith Pond Rd., Shavertown, PA 18708
(p) 570-674-3414 (f) 570-674-7989

hardcoal@epcamr.org
www.OrangeWaterNetwork.org

Highlights:

- Updated 4 and created 2 GIS databases; produced 5 and georeferenced 16 maps
- EPCAMR Staff submitted 2 grants totaling \$215K
- EPCAMR staff attended an Old Forge Borehole Project Mtg., 2 Mine Pool Mapping Mtgs., "Grass on AML" Mtg., and lead an AMR Conference call
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- Compiled minutes for the last conference call, created an agenda and lead discussions on the January AMR Conference Committee conference call.
- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of December, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Sent off EPCAMR successes for federal fiscal year 2007-2008 to the PA DEP 319 program for inclusion in the PA DEP Non Point Source Liaison Workgroup Report to the EPA.
- Aided Kat Krulack, Jeddo-Nescopceck VISTA and Carly Truman EPCAMR VISTA in creating a presentation about treating mine drainage. Provided information and photos of the Newport and Nanticoke Creek Watersheds.
- EPCAMR staff prepared an agenda and an Annual Budget for 2009 for and attended the EPCAMR 2009 1st Quarter Board Meeting. Compiled the minutes and watershed report for the previous meeting.
- Met with stakeholders of the Old Forge Borehole project at the Duryea Borough building. Project partners provided an update of activities since the last meeting. The demonstration will be built and monitored this summer. Land acquisition is currently in process.
- EPCAMR staff attended and presented an update of the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative at the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) meeting at the PA DEP Office in Harrisburg.
- EPCAMR staff met with the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative Project Partners and the PA DEP Pottsville DMO to discuss future strategies with dealing with existing data and data collection in the southern anthracite coal field.
- EPCAMR staff met with Ryan Koch, Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) and representatives from local offices of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the PA Game Commission, the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to talk about projects involving growing "grass on AML". This meeting stemmed from initial research of 40+ acre AML lands available for native grassland habitat requested by LCD trustee, Bruce Trumbower, and a grant application to the

WILD resources fund. Attendees brainstormed a direction to resurrect the project and discussed possible economic ties related to switch grass production for the power industry.

- Posted articles and updated calendar items on www.orangewaternetwork.org.

Technical Assistance:

- Calculated “in kind” time and travel costs for the Mine Pool Mapping project for the 3rd Quarter Report.
- Ordered and aided Robert in setting up QuickBooks Premium: Non-Profit Edition. Upgraded current EPCAMR accounting files from Quicken. Created customer, vendor, employees, classes and subclasses from the information in the “memo” and “payee” information. The conversion will aide staff in producing profit loss and annual budget reports as requested by the EPCAMR Board and foundations.
- Found the location of the PA DOT AMD Mitigation Wetland along the Casey Highway (Rte. 6) in the Lackawanna River Watershed (PA 3754) with the help for Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA). Will report this to Dave Hamilton, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to add to OSM’s Treatment System GIS Database.
- EPCAMR staff prepared and submitted a grant application to the OSM Applied Science Grant to continue the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative in the Northern Anthracite and Northeastern Bituminous Coal Fields. Contacted professors from Mansfield and Lock Haven Universities to ask for their participation in the project. Researched equipment needed to take flow and chemistry measurements associated with the project. Also spoke to Mario Carello and Mike Smith from the PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office (DMO), to ask about the availability of maps for mines in the Northeastern Bituminous Coal Fields.
- Created a map to show AMD discharges, AML Problems (including priorities), roads, and polluted/clean streams in the Hazle Creek Watershed. EPCAMR staff met with stakeholders at the Weatherly Borough Building to discuss future projects for the watershed.
- EPCAMR staff prepared and submitted an application to the Cora Brooks Foundation for \$15K to aide in EPCAMR general operations and to create a Technical Assistance Center at EPCAMR’s office.
- Calculated time and travel costs for the Old Forge Borehle project and submitted it to Chris Gillis, Solution Mining Inc., the lead contractor in the project.
- Met with Tim Ference, Friends of the Nescopeck (FON), to scan the Nescopeck Watershed informational newspaper insert into PDF format.
- Created a map of streams in Lake Township, Luzerne County for Shawn Rybka, Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Watershed Specialist. Lake Township supervisors requested designated use information on streams for their comprehensive plan.
- Provided Operation Scarlift, Bureau of Mines, and U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Coal Investigation Series Maps to Blazoski Associates as requested by the Shamokin Creek Restoration Association (SCRA) and the Northumberland County Conservation District (NCCD). Their initial request was for all GIS data associated with the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative in the western middle anthracite coal field, however, this data is still in draft format and not ready for distribution. These maps were provided instead, as they are published sources of the draft GIS data. Once the data is finalized and peer reviewed it will be available for distribution.
- Updated Old Forge Borehole Property Boundaries from the subdivision maps submitted to Luzerne County using the Altek Digitizer. Created a property map and floodplain map with topographic and aerial photos as background for the project.
- Updated and cleaned out a donated IBM Thinkpad laptop from the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) for EPCAMR Executive Director.
- Began to georeference the 2nd Geological Survey for the southern anthracite coal fields. These maps show underground mine workings completed before 1890, faults, anticlines, tunnels and various elevations for use in the Mine Pool Mapping Project. Completed map georeferencing

and began digitizing layers on 14 of the 28 maps. Cross sections of these maps are also available and may be useful in future development of 3D layers.

- Georeferenced and digitized mine pool boundaries shown on a map by Kimmel in 1990 provided by Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville DMO. Features include the Williamstown-Lykens mine pool, flow directions within the pool and the Big Lick Tunnel.
- Met with Roger Hornberger and Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville DMO, to rectify differences between 2 versions of GIS mine map colliery boundaries and began combining collieries into multi colliery hydrogeologic units.