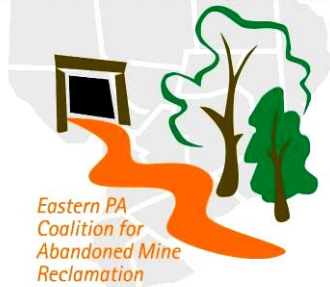


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## January 2011 Progress Report

### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted Renewable Energy on AML Mtg.
- EPCAMR staff submitted 1 grant proposal for \$15K and 2 letters of support for a partner.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes.
- Completed 1 set of AML statistics for a US Congressional District.
- Updated [www.orangewaternet.org](http://www.orangewaternet.org), [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org), [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) and EPCAMR facebook page. Previewed the [new EPCAMR website](#) being built by BRF Designs.

### Education and Outreach:

- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of December, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- Found an article about the most recent Growing Greener awards and posted the article to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) to share this information with others.
- Provided Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) with 2 letters related to the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, as requested by the Northeast Office staff. One explained that we were paid a little more than **\$3K** in full for contract work completed. The other documented additional in-kind work that was completed since September 2010. EPCAMR provided over **\$20K** in in-kind services for this grant (**>500% match**).
- Continued writing the EPCAMR 2010 Annual Report and added information to the Nonpoint Source (NPS) report builder spreadsheet for the EPCAMR Region for Donna Carnahan, PA DEP 319 NPS Pollution program staff.
- Previewed a draft of the new EPCAMR website built by [BRF Designs](#) in a WordPress CMS format. The new site can be previewed at <http://epcamr.org/home/>. It's a work in progress, but should have a more up-to-date look and be easier to use and upgrade background programming.
- Discussed the new EPA conductivity guidelines that will be required soon for coal mining permits in the Appalachian region on EPCAMR's facebook fan page. EPCAMR is preparing, but getting a meter that will sample this parameter and a few others automatically, which will save time in the field.
- Signed EPCAMR up as a partner with [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net). The initiative recycles / "up-cycles" packaging from many companies that currently isn't recycled in traditional municipal collections. The site pays for the return of this packaging and could be a potential fundraiser. Signed up for a total of 36 "brigades" for each of the companies that were represented. What the site does not tell you right away is that you must return packaging to separately to each company and each company has different guidelines.

- Created a tentative agenda for the upcoming EPCAMR board meeting and emailed it along with a reminder to the EPCAMR board. Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA), responded back with a suggestion that we consider taking on a project to prepare a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Catawissa Creek Watershed. This was added to the board agenda. Forwarded the information for the Foundation for PA Watersheds grant application as a potential source for funding.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a meeting with Vince Carbone, HDR, Inc., and Earth Conservancy staff to talk about the potential for renewable energy on abandoned mine lands (AML). Vince was able to put together some informational handouts dealing with what the energy industry is looking for and potential sources for funding. He also plans to follow up with his contacts in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a potential site visit in the Anthracite Region.
- Aided EPCAMR VISTA with the design of backdrops for the AMD Avengers vs. the Pollution Posse skit. Most important, EPCAMR needs to have a portable design to take this environmental education program to several schools. Wren thought up the idea of using a 2 collapsible clothing racks and paint panels of canvass to go with different scenes. The play is still in early development stages, but EPCAMR staff were able to brainstorm 4 different scenes that could be used throughout the chronology of the play.
- EPCAMR staff brainstormed an itinerary for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Stream and AMD Site visits in slated for early summer. The program will involve 150 kids total for 4 days. Students will have the opportunity to use hands on techniques that compare water quality, stream habitat and macroinvertebrate populations between a fishable stream as opposed to an AMD impacted stream. The nature of the activities will require a bit of preparation work with teachers and activity leaders, but will maximize actual student participation.
- Put together some suggested topics for discussion and staff activities updates related to the EPCAMR 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner / Fundraiser and suggested that the EPCAMR Dinner Committee meet before the next board meeting.
- Added an article to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) on "The Inquest" a skit that will be performed next month by the Eckley Players based on the Tragedy at the Avondale book. Posted a WPCAMR video "Aesthetically pleasing AMD Treatment" to our EPCAMR facebook site. Added historic mine disaster statistics (on a poster in the office that many visitors like) to the website and added a few videos found on youtube that commemorate some historic mine disasters. Spent a little time updating links to old videos on the [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) site. Many linked back to the old [www.GreenWorks.tv](http://www.GreenWorks.tv) site which is no longer viable since funding was lost for that program. The site was taken over by [www.GreenTreks.tv](http://www.GreenTreks.tv), which no longer has the old programs in its archive. EPCAMR requested these historical video files from Kelly Meinhart (now with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation), which could serve as interesting clips to show at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser.
- Prepared an agenda for the upcoming AMR Conference conference call. This call, being one of the first planning meetings, will focus on theme selection, topics and some logistics dealing with the venue and the format of the conference.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Aided Jackie Dickman, Earth Conservancy, in finding the streams and watersheds impacted by AMD on the Integrated List of Waters Non-attaining Streams (formerly part of the 303(d) list) and those streams on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) list in the Wyoming Valley on the PA DEP website. Mapping to follow.
- Received and reviewed photos of a monitoring borehole drilled in the cap over the Old Forge Borehole from Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) Executive Director.
- Continued to write Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report for the Western Middle Field. Added Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) info for the Packer #5 discharge. Updated

the description of Pool 7 & 7A. Added associated discharges, upwelling areas and stream losses to this area as the original Bureau of Mines report showed this area as being pumped and actively mined.

- Traveled around Scranton to complete monthly round of testing the water level in 14 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes. Compared elevations in a graph.
- Prepared and submitted a **\$15K** application to the Cora Brooks Foundation for an Anthracite Region Water Quality Monitoring Training Assistance Program.
- Ordered Adobe Creative Suite 5 Design Premium from techsoup.org to aide EPCAMR staff in the creation of documents, publications, brochures, websites and images. The software package includes: Photoshop CS5 Extended, Illustrator CS5, InDesign CS5, Flash Catalyst CS5, Flash Professional CS5, Dreamweaver CS5, Fireworks CS5 and Acrobat 9 Pro. This “package deal” will upgrade 4 separate software programs to a more current version for less than it would be to purchase and upgrade them individually through techsoup.org.
- Attempted to upgrade the Coppermine photo gallery on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). The CPG nuke version is no longer supported and the upgrades failed without having to doing a considerable amount of scripting. Some of the updates were critical and could present a security risk to the site. EPCAMR is looking into slowly transitioning away from the CPG nuke content management system (CMS) to maintain the website.
- Researched Flickr as an alternative to the Cincopa cloud and platform to host interactive photo galleries.
- Aided Executive Director in setting up a PayPal account for EPCAMR. The new website will use this gateway to accept donations through an online store.
- Answered questions for Stream Restoration Inc. related to discharges in the Schrader Creek. A few discharges were on [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org) and did not have much information associated with them. Confirmed that there were in fact 2 treatment systems named Falls Creek, one is a limestone diversion well built by the watershed group and another is a vertical flow wetland built by PA DEP BAMR. There was also a question about a Coal Run project, but a note said this was a limestone sand dosing project. This represents some work that needs to be done to better categorize treatment projects on datashed.org. There is now a [Coal Run treatment system](#) completed by the watershed this year, which needs to be added or updated.
- Created a map for the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association to help in updating their brochure. The new map shows the current status of their treatment projects and adds a few smaller discharges which may be of concern to the group.
- Installed the concurrent license of ArcGIS 10 from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Technical Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) Program on the EPCAMR program manager laptop. Upgraded the software immediately to service pack 1.
- Ordered a drum unit for our Brother MFC 9840cdw network printer, scanner, copier and fax machine. The multi-function unit has an automatic function to warn a user when the life of toner cartridges and other replaceable parts are about to end. A few weeks after the first warning, pages started getting streaks on them. I would recommend this machine to any small business or group as being easy to use, maintenance costs are low and initial cost was very reasonable.
- Received a database of points from SRI related to projects in [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org) and converted the database into a GIS layer. Due to the inconsistent format of the latitude / longitude information, it was challenging to get all the data into a decimal degrees format. The data transferred nicely as a geodatabase feature class, but much of the descriptive data was lost in the shapefile conversion process. SRI would like to make this process more automated in future upgrades to the site and would like to add a more project type definitions to better categorize the projects on the site.
- Created a set of statistics related to US Congressman Holden’s District as requested by Jeff McNelly at ARIPPA. In 2007, EPCAMR gathered statistics related to the passive treatment

systems, reclaimed and priority abandoned mine lands based on PA House and Senatorial districts, but the US Congressional districts were not completed at that time.

- Contacted Michael Kuhns and Edie Zabroski, OSM Wilkes-Barre Office, to inquire about the borehole camera they used to look at the structural integrity of the New Askam and South Wilkes-Barre boreholes. Now that there is a test hole drilled in the cap over the Old Forge Borehole, possibly this camera could be used to judge it's structural integrity. They mentioned that the camera was borrowed from the Pittsburgh Office and that they had a difficult time weighing it down to counter act the flow coming out of the boreholes. This would be a magnitude of levels more difficult with the amount of flow coming from the Old Forge Borehole.