



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### July 2016 Progress Report

#### Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff conducted a **“Can You Dig It?” Summer Camp Program** for 4 days at the Hazleton One Community Center, Hazleton, PA for **20** students, mostly of Hispanic origin, and were able to teach bi-lingual lessons on AMD and Watershed Restoration work that EPCAMR does in the area with the help of *Denise Hernandez*, our Urban Outreach Specialist; [www.hazletonintegrationproject.com](http://www.hazletonintegrationproject.com) EPCAMR Staff conducted daily programs on AMD, Making seed bombs of native wildflowers for AML reclamation and vacant lots, AMD Chalk, Fossil Rubbings, Coloring pages from our AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse, EnviroScape Model demonstration on non-point source water pollution, and watershed restoration topics; EPCAMR Executive Director worked through *Elaine Maddon Curry-Hazleton Integration Project Program Coordinator* and *Deb Mills, Ph. D., Summer Program Coordinator* to coordinate the programs; EPCAMR received a wonderful THANK YOU Letter from the HIP for our programs that were offered and enjoyed by the youth at the Center
- *Corey Richmond*, Watershed Specialist for **Sullivan County Conservation District** provided EPCAMR with a final copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the History of Mining in Sullivan County co-developed by EPCAMR that was used for our Annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade AMD/AML Tour with Sullivan County Elementary
- Directed *Denise Hernandez*, Urban Outreach Specialist to look into the reapplication process and deadlines for EPCAMR to apply for the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program** as a potential source of funds for environmental education programs with schools in the region that we serve; EITC Program provides tax credits to businesses which make contributions to designated educational improvement organizations providing funding for innovative educational programs in public schools; EPCAMR has to reapply each year, although we wish that wasn't the process; This year, Act 86 increases the amount of tax credits available in the EITC program by \$25 million, providing a total of \$175 million
- Provided *Andrew Heath*, Executive Director from the **Renew Growing Greener Coalition** with an Executive Summary of our **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project** that was successfully completed as an example of the need for the continued use of the funds for AMD Projects in PA
- Coordinated with *Josh Swartz*, 2TwistedSisters T-shirt company ([www.2TwistedSisters.me](http://www.2TwistedSisters.me)) from Danville, PA who provided a **\$200** discount on **100** youth T-shirts for EPCAMR's AMD Tie-Dye Event at the **Danville Historic Iron Heritage Festival** conducted by the EPCAMR Executive Director on July 16th

- Received poster presentations from **King's College Dr. Margarita Rose's** Environmental Economics Class on their community service experiential service learning work with EPCAMR and the HBPS on the **Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park Project**
- EPCAMR was featured on **GiveGab's** platform on Instagram ( <https://www.instagram.com/p/BIAhsnDBwzt/> ) to help us with outreach to seek donations thanks to *Kadie Salfi*, Social Media Ninja for GiveGab

## Technical Assistance

- Informed that a CFA Greenway, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application prepared by EPCAMR Executive Director on behalf of the **Huber Breaker Preservation Society** last year was awarded in the amount of **\$100,000** for the Anthracite Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley, PA that is a former 3 acre parcel of abandoned mine lands that is being converted into a public space with trails, historical and industrial elements of the Huber Breaker, community gardens, restored coal cars, restored Blue Coal Signs, picnic tables, benches, and a Memorial are all components of the park; Funds will be used for a fence around the perimeter, environmental assessment work, survey and design work, engineering, stabilization of a parking lot area, environmental education components, and a few other elements; Provided Andy and HBPS Board members draft budget adjustment scenarios that need to be further developed and submitted to PA DCED; EPCAMR is a partner on the project
- Provided *Liz Hughes* Director of Communications, from EC with high resolution images of our EPCAMR Logo that will be placed on the signage for the **Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System Wayside Exhibit** stations funded under the EPCAMR/ARIPPA mini-grant award
- Discussed with *John Levitsky*, **Luzerne Conservation District** Watershed Specialist, about reaching out to the **US ACE** and **NFWF** since they are attempting to perform another study with Federal funding to aid the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and suggesting that they give AMD another look; If the US ACE publishes it, some Federal funding might be easier to come by for AMD remediation work; Could look at 1) water quality/aquatic biology analysis above Lackawanna River for 4 different seasons; 2) With a timed hydrology analysis of the same downstream of the AMD to truly identify/deny water quality/aquatic biology impacts to the Susquehanna River, the largest source of fresh water to the Chesapeake Bay; 3) Biology: Fish, mollusks, macroinvertebrate sampling, submerged aquatic vegetation; 4) water quality: pH, alkalinity, DO, sulphate, iron, manganese, aluminum, algae, iron and sulfates reducing bacteria; [http://www.stardem.com/news/environment/article\\_004cc999-1322-54c9-92f2-f65c675aa5f5.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.stardem.com/news/environment/article_004cc999-1322-54c9-92f2-f65c675aa5f5.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)
- The **Hebei Canri Chemical Co., Ltd** in China, which has been manufacturing iron oxide pigment for 23 years using it for concrete, cement, asphalt, brick, paint, and coating requested samples of EPCAMR's iron oxide to test and match for quality and potential purchase; Directed *Gavin* to send a small whirl-pak sample of our iron oxides out to the company to see what they think
- Worked with Chemistry Professor, *Andrea Nerozzi* and her students from **Wyoming Seminary Upper School**, in partnership with **Wilkes University** to monitor some algae species from AMD discharges around the Wyoming Valley
- Provided comments to *Duane Feagley*, **PA Anthracite Council**, on the proposed incentives to offset administrative fees to the coal industry; Suggested adding a paragraph in the letter to the PA DEP Bureau of Mining on the added benefit of remaining to the underground mine pool complexes and groundwater systems that occurs when land reclamation occurs on the surface and a reduction of surface water runoff and infiltration is eliminated from finding pathways and flow paths into the highly

fractured bedrock and underground workings that tend to elevate mine pools, cause them to fluctuate, and ultimately create AMD discharges with varying flows; Large flows and small seeps with varying degrees of metal loading in the impacted waterways are also reduced when remining occurs so that the cost to treat AMD discharges is reduced and could lead to a smaller footprint for treatment plants and design and construction costs

- Provided *Bode Morin*, Historic Site Administrator for the **Eckley Miner's Village** with suggested theme comments for some interpretive signage that will be going up at Eckley

## **Community Volunteer Service Coordination**

- *Tim Gregory*, Carbondale, PA signed up through MailChimp to become an EPCAMR volunteer; Followed up with him to let him know that if anything is going on in the Lackawanna Valley, that we'd be in touch
- *Lorena Beninquez*, Photographer, is interested in writing a book on the Huber Breaker and is looking for use of photographs from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society and EPCAMR; Forwarded the request to *Andy* to follow up with the Huber Board; [www.beniquezproductions.com](http://www.beniquezproductions.com)
- *Wesley Mech*, Nanticoke, PA followed up with EPCAMR and was interesting in volunteering on any Summer Projects being coordinated by us; Informed him of the Fall Centralia Cleanup that is planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> and let him know that once EPCAMR has another RECLAIM Crew Meet n' Greet
- Worked with *Andy Friefeld*, EPCAMR Park Development Coordinator Intern for the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park Project** to update the job description for the EPCAMR internship
- *Alexa Nallin*, signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer
- *Andrew Malmgren*, Allentown, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer

## **Project Coordination**

- Informed **Skelly & Loy, Inc.** to submit any invoices only through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, if they had any since the previous request on the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project**; EPCAMR is still waiting on a formal extension that was requested back in April 2016 from the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Center before either of us can proceed with additional work on the Bid Package document development and eventual placement for bid, and then on to Construction
- Coordinated with *Andrew Korzon*, RLA, **LandStudies**, to get an update on the Conceptual Design plans for two of the Stormwater BMPs for the City of Wilkes-Barre under the **NFWF Technical Assistance** Grant and to confirm July 13<sup>th</sup> for our meeting with City officials; Informed *Joyce Morrash* that retention ponds should be considered as a Stormwater BMP for the plan and to provide the proposed location along Solomon Creek to *Andrew*; *Gavin* worked up a GIS layer of the potential Stormwater BMPs sites with latitude and longitudes to provide to LandStudies for the plan; WB City provided EPCAMR with a copy of the Ward Map and WB City Council Member Contact Info by District; Requested a copy of the draft GIS Green Plan from **LandStudies** for review to add additional projects

- Sought information from *Heather Daddow* and *Derrick Williams*, PPL to obtain permission to conduct an electroshocking survey for the **Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Plan** with TU about a utility crossing along an unnamed tributary to Wheelbarrow Run from PPL who we believed owned the right of way and found out there was a private easement for the crossing; Coordinated with *Kathleen Lavelle*, TU about coming up to the region to conduct the electroshocking survey on Laurel Run
- Met with *Derrick Williams*, PPL to review the potential need for deepening or relocating a utility pole within the project area for the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal/Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project** in Ashley, PA; Requested that *Jeff Boyer*, from RiverLogistics, LLC follow up with him to discuss the options; Delivered a set of design maps to *Derrick* over at his office in Wilkes-Barre, PA for his review and consideration; The best approach is going to be to sink a longer pole in its current location; PPL will then submit an updated quote for the scope of work that it will entail; Forwarded a copy of the design plans to *Joe Simons*, Project Partner, with the **Stanley Cooper Chapter TU** and *Ben Lorson*, PA F&BC; Submitted a request for expenses and invoice to cover the pole deepening and PPL costs
- Followed up with **Jennings Environmental Education Center** about assistance with developing the Professional Development survey through SurveyMonkey under the **EE Capacity Project** with NAAEE and PAEE; Ordered the yearly GOLD Subscription Plan for **\$300** that is covered under the grant and created an EPCAMR Account
- Forwarded along a draft scope of work for additional comments to Brad Domitrovitch from American Energy Solutions, LLC for the **Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel AMD Mine Pool Monitoring and 3D Modeling Project** in partnership with the SRBC, PA DCNR Pinchot State Forest, and CSI Environmental, LLC
- Received EPCAMR's contract grant agreement paperwork and **\$3000** Award from Virginia Harris, Management Technician, for the PA DEP EE Grants Center for the **Monarchs on Minelands: Release the Butterflies! Project**; Signed all necessary paperwork and submitted to the PA DEP

## Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- The PA AMR Conference Committee began evaluating the recent Conference, and in particular, the Silent Auction process for next year and the facility at IUP on a conference call; Provided *Lorraine A. Luciano*, Attorney-Advisor for the Departmental Ethics Office for the USDOJ with a written response to her questions as to how the Annual Mayfly Award Winners are chosen and the criteria developed since OSM Director *Joe Pizarchik* was the 2016 Winner
- EPCAMR was asked by *Madeline Urbish*, Director for the **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**, to present on a panel on the RECLAIM Act and our work as it related to abandoned mine land reclamation, watershed restoration, and mine drainage remediation in terms of climate resiliency at the **Delaware River Watershed Conference** on September 20<sup>th</sup>; Committed to making a 15 minute presentation
- Confirmed attendance at the **NAAEE Conference** in October 2016 with *Ruth Roperti*, PAEE Leadership Team member who is applying for scholarships on behalf of the team to attend
- Hosted and served as a Guest Speaker for the **PSU Extension Master Watershed Stewardship Program** on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the EPCAMR Conference Room; Talks were given on Groundwater, AMD, and Marcellus; Workshop was organized by *Liz Rosser*, PSU Extension Master Gardener & Master Watershed Stewardship Coordinator; **13** volunteers attended

- Executive Director received an Expert Level Certification from the Cornell University Course Support Team following the participation in the Global Online Course, “**Environmental Education: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Wicked Problems**” from February to April 2016; Robert completed a Storify Case Study Project along with it on an example of EPCAMR’s work with underserved elementary students from the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, AMD, and Pottery Art; <https://storify.com/BobbyHughesAMD/potteryart>

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR’s Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Created the July 2016 EPCAMR Staff Agenda and forwarded it around for the July 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Completed the July 2016 monthly PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report
- Attended the **PA Anthracite Section SME** Board Meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Top of the 80’s, Hazleton, PA
- Enrolled EPCAMR into the PA SIDES E-Response system for any potential future filing of a PA Unemployment Compensation claims and was provided a PA UC Account Number electronically; Forwarded a copy of the form to RJ Zapgrapan for bookkeeping purposes
- Worked on preparing the final application packages for approval of the **2016-2017 EPCAMR/ARIPPA Mini-Grant AMD/AML Awards** with Anne and Mike; Some components of the applications were missing and a request was made by EPCAMR to have the applicants submit the missing items and additional information that was needed to administratively complete the review process before making any awards in August 2016; Created a letterhead template for Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association at the request of *Rusty Bennet*, President, because their computer was down