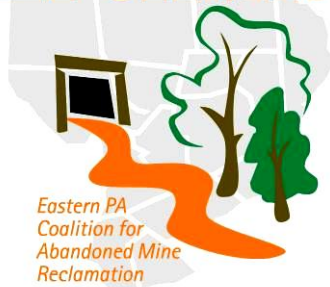


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation July 2010 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Continued distribution of RAMLIS version 10; Georeferenced 10 maps and updated 4 layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Program
- EPCAMR staff attended a Growing Greener Workshop, participated in 1 conference call about the AMD Formation Video/Book, hosted 2 AMD site tours, 1 borehole sampling work day and hosted 2 cleanups: near the Avondale MDHS and Old Forge Borehole.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, EPCAMR's Facebook Fan Page and www.datashed.org.

Education and Outreach:

- Started a letter chain to gather signatures on paperwork for EPCAMR's new Checking Account. This allowed EPCAMR to pay postage and help direct who to send the letter to next. The process worked without a hitch.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call with WPCAMR staff about the AMD Formation Video/Book. We discussed the format, content and logistics to complete the video and book by the end of September.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of June, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- EPCAMR staff met with Joe Miller and Joe Brothlesmeyer (over conference call) to discuss Florida Turbine Technology's possible role in "green energy" projects in the Anthracite Region. EPCAMR staff then led Joe Miller on a tour of several sites to get him familiar with the scale and layout of sites that may fit their ideas.
- Posted Bob Hedin's "What Color is Your Watershed?" PowerPoint presentation (presented at the 2003 AMR Conference in Mayfield, PA) to our FTP site so that Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, could use it as a reference for the AMD Formation video.
- Uploaded the "AMD and Your Community" community training guide and curriculum to www.curriki.org as a part of the Appalachian Coal Country Curriculum project spearheaded by the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team. This website is dedicated to amassing resources to help teachers incorporate the massive amount of good information into their teaching regime and still meet state standards.
- Met with Joe Miller at the Old Forge Borehole to show him the site as promised the last time we met with him. Joe has some ideas for "green energy" projects utilizing the large amount of water flowing from the mine pool. He also had some ideas to monitor the flow. I directed him to write a proposal for monitoring the flow at the borehole as per direction from the LRCA.
- Made some updates to www.orangewaternetwork.org to update the page and repost the fact that we are looking for another intern through the OSM VISTA Summer Associate Program.
- EPCAMR staff coordinated and participated in a cleanup along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail with Wilkes University Freshmen between the Plymouth Township Recreation Park and the PA

Historic Museum Commission (PHMC) Avondale Historic Mine Disaster Marker. Some items were left because they were infested with bees. Posted photos to EPCAMR's Facebook Fan Page.

- Received some resource weblinks from Executive Director to place on the www.orangewaternetwork.org from the West Virginia Save our Streams coordinator. Used some of the information to aide in the publication of the AMD Formation book and posted the rest to the web.
- Produced a first draft of the AMD Formation Book, which will be a companion to the video that WPCAMR is producing. Also revised the Video Script Dtaft 3-1 and sent it back to WPCAMR for comments. More will be done once I know more of the content of the video so I know where to concentrate research.
- Used a Sierra Club call to action e-mail to send a response to legislators about the Beneficial Uses of Coal Ash in Pennsylvania. Provided several case studies and factual sources that can be read for more information.
- Ordered a replacement laptop, GPS unit, wireless desktop (keyboard/mouse) combination and monitor to replace the ones that were stolen.
- Traveled to Hazleton to tour the Genetti's Best Western Inn and Suites to see if it would be a possible location for the 2011 AMR conference. Their flexible floor plan can be divided into five separate rooms, one grand ballroom, or any combination in between and is free for use depending on the catering package. They also have an outdoor space with a plastic floor and covered by a tent that would work great for network opportunities. The hotel itself has plenty of overnight accommodations or it has an affiliate hotel that is nearby.
- Provided EPCAMR Board Members with a reminder of the next EPCAMR board meeting and included a few tentative agenda items.
- Caught 2 mice within 3 hours of each other (or it may have been the same one) and released them outside. Who needs a pest control service when you have staff members that jack-of-all-trade?
- Attended a Growing Greener Grant Workshop hosted by the PA DEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.
- EPCAMR staff joined with staff from PA Tectonics and LRCA volunteers to clean off the Old Forge Borehole control structure and about 100 feet of the concrete capped culvert. The site was overgrown heavily by knotweed, an invasive species. Yard waste and trash that was dumped over an access point was removed or pushed to the side to create a stone stairway over the bank for easier access. EPCAMR staff took several photos including underwater photos and video explaining the existence and purpose of the site. These were uploaded to EPCAMR's Facebook Fan site.

Technical Assistance:

- Attempted again to create a downloadable web version of RAMLIS 10 with the new Layer Pack (LPK) ArcGIS format after getting some questions "answered" at the www.ArcGIS.com web forum and with a service pack update to ArcGIS. An error keeps being produced if any more than 2 layers are put through the process. Perhaps the bugs will be fixed in ArcGIS 10 and I will be able to produce a fully downloadable and completely functioning version of RAMLIS.
- Received EPCAMR's laptop back from Mine Pool Mapping Grant contractor, Ian Palmer. Ian is almost done gathering water quality from surface mine permits in the southern field and was able to use another laptop. Transferred Executive Director's files to this laptop, from his desktop, so that his information is portable and hopefully more secure if it is with him.
- Prepared Robert's old computer as the EPCAMR server and intern computer. This computer now has the "G drive" which houses shared files between staff and an archive of intern files.
- Purchased a 1.5 TB external drive, through the Datashed Grant, that will now house EPCAMR's GIS data. Regular backups of this database will be done of the EPCAMR GIS Database and

Executive Director and Program Manager Files to another external drive will be stored in a secure location.

- Continued to work on the EPCAMR 2010-2011 Operating Budget in preparation for the Annual Board Meeting. Used the previous year's budget to start and keep excel format for consistency. Added PA Fish and Boat Commission Grant and removed several grants that were closed out in the last budget. Supposedly Quickbooks has this functionality, but we are unsure of its capabilities and like to keep the excel format as a check and balance.
- EPCAMR staff met with representatives Lackawanna River Corridor (LRCA), PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and PA Techtonics to discuss possible scenarios for gathering reliable flow data at the Old Forge Borehole.
- Gathered serial numbers and item numbers from several pieces of equipment to intentionally update EPCAMR's inventory. The lesson was learned that you can never have enough information in case something happens.
- Performed a RAMLIS investigation, with EPCAMR intern Shawn Jones, for the Earth Conservancy related to an area along the outcrop of coal near Plains.
- Followed up with Joe Miller as he was gathering ideas to use the Old Forge Borehole for 'green energy.' Joe is in need of some mapping to locate abandoned mine features near the borehole that could be used. We suggested that he put some thoughts together on paper so we could put together an estimated cost for the work.
- Traveled to Ebensburg, PA to participate in a meeting about the future of OSM's Passive Treatment System database and www.Datashed.org. It seems like a good match for Datashed becomes the program that takes over the process to update the database. Discussion focused on logistics from Stream Restoration Inc., EPCAMR, WPCAMR, DEP and OSM. There are a few hurdles that will be overcome in the near future, but funding is desperately needed to continue the work and upgrade www.Datashed.org.
- Edited and added to some general instructions provided by Stream Restoration Inc and uploaded them to www.Datashed.org.
- Created a backup of www.orangewaternetwork.org and saved it to the "Z drive", a local external hard drive.
- Prepared maps of the locations of boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool to aid in the location of these monitoring points and plan a route that would get us there in a timely manner. Also, reprojected and loaded the borehole locations into our handheld iPAQ computer running ArcPAD and a watered down version of the RAMLIS GIS tool. The Teletype Bluetooth GPS works with the handheld computer and should lead us right to the boreholes in the field.
- Produced some iron oxide pigment with EPCAMR intern, Shawn Jones, to send to the North Fork Watershed Association in West Virginia.
- Worked with Shawn Jones, EPCAMR Intern, to continue to georeference the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Mine Map Folios for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. He has been concentrating on lining up maps associated with the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool. Downloaded the LiDAR 2ft contours for this area from PASDA.
- Discovered that the PA Department of Transportation GIS files uploaded to PASDA have an incorrect projection and therefore do not line up properly with their Aerial Photos or Topographic Maps. The projection is a custom projection and should actually be defined as GCS_North_American_1983. Sent this information to PASDA.
- Traveled around Scranton to test the water level in several boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with DEP and LRCA staff. The field GPS setup with ArcPAD worked like a charm and led us directly to the boreholes (within feet) when we were close. DEP staff had a legacy map of the boreholes that they used to plan a route. Found another borehole, in the Diamond Colliery, that was not in the GIS layer. Also added some notes to this layer about boreholes that are no longer accessible and the LiDAR height of the borehole. Some of this data is in GIS format (from 2002), but there are many more sampling events that are not. We

would like to work with DEP to obtain the paper copies and transcribe them into an electronic format that could then be incorporated into a GIS layer.

- Provided a copy of the RAMLIS 10 GIS Tool CD to a representative from the PA Game Commission as per EPCAMR Secretary, Cathy Haffner's request.
- Added more elevations to the USGS Anthracite Discharges layer and drew the Underwood Tunnel and water ditch as defined in the Bureau of Mines (Ash) maps of the Northern Anthracite Field. Finished drawing mine pools in the extreme northern end of the northern anthracite coal basin. This was accomplished by georeferencing maps in Bureau of Mines Technical Paper 727. These pools were missing in the Bureau of Mines 517 and 538 Publications.
- Added a maximum, minimum, average and count of mine pool elevations the southern anthracite field shafts layer as part of the Mine Pool Mapping Program.
- Aided Executive director with the final reimbursement and wrap up report for the Illegal Dump Grant provided by the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management.
- Aided Executive Director with a narrative report and associated expenses for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative from January to June 2010. This initiative was funded by a Growing Greener Grant.