

# EPCAMR



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July 2011 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Meeting with Senator John Blake in Scranton, PA to inform him of EPCAMR's outreach efforts to municipalities within the Lackawanna County area and some of his surrounding jurisdictions related to our regional Mine Pool Mapping and Borehole Elevation Monitoring Campaign; He was very supportive of our efforts, particularly with our work with LRCA and SRBC on the Old Forge Borehole; Provided him with some of our outreach materials, a list of the boreholes being monitored, and a list of those that we would like to daylight to get additional water elevation data in the mine pools; His legislative aide, Larry West will be coordinating with us to find and open the covered boreholes; A great article appeared in the Citizen's Voice after the EPCAMR Executive Director had an interview with Paul Golias; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/mapping-of-underground-water-pools-1.1164422#ixzz1QCMrY1RE>
- EPCAMR Staff worked on completing the AMD Tour Route for the Shamokin Creek and Mahanoy Creek Watersheds that we will be hosting, along with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; EPCAMR has become a partner in their Susquehanna River Confluence Teacher Training Outdoor Learning Experiences Program; **22** teachers were a part of this year's program; EPCAMR followed up with the NCCD and the SCRA to be present at a few of the AMD impacted sites and AMD Treatment Systems that they currently monitor and maintain within the Shamokin Creek Watershed; Completed the Tour on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month
- Meeting with Congressman Lou Barletta's legislative assistant, Stefanie Pollock, at our EPCAMR Office to inform her of EPCAMR's outreach efforts to municipalities within the Luzerne County area and some of his surrounding jurisdictions related to our regional Mine Pool Mapping and Borehole Elevation Monitoring Campaign; He was very supportive of our efforts; Provided her with some of our outreach materials, a list of the boreholes being monitored, and a list of those that we would like to daylight to get additional water elevation data in the mine pools; Stefanie will be assisting EPCAMR with identifying future funding sources to help us obtain the equipment to possibly monitor the chemical constituents of what's inside the mine pools
- Participated in PA DCNR's annual Kayak Education Field Trip on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, leaving from Tunkhannock, heading south along the River 8 miles downstream, with over 60 students from the Community Connection's Watershed Education Program that EPCAMR has been involved with for over a decade; EPCAMR Executive Director talked about AMD on the North Branch & Acid Rain impacts to the Bowman's Creek watershed
- Created a press release for the **PA DEP EE AMD Teacher Training Workshop/In-Service** that EPCAMR will be conducting for **34** Wilkes-Barre Area Elementary Science Teachers over the course of the next year

- Reached out to Cabela's Corporate Outfitters and Grace Knebel sent EPCAMR information on applying for future grants and funding
- EPCAMR signed on to the FY2012 Chesapeake Bay Rider Letter of Support being submitted by the Choose Clean Water Coalition and another letter from the National Wildlife Federation to oppose the Goodlatte Amendments

## Technical Assistance

- Prepared a cds Creative Marketing Application submission on behalf of EPCAMR to see if we can get some free professional services to help us market our work, the iron oxide, and other products and services that EPCAMR can offer to the region and our constituents
- Participated in a Conference Call with John Coleman-PACD TAG Engineer with the EC on the Nanticoke Creek Dundee AMD Wetlands Treatment System design
- Attended a Workshop on how to network with community volunteers through a Social Network called iYouVo at the NEPA Alliance, Pittston; Met with Chris Beeman and Charlie Mulligan, two up and coming entrepreneurs who started the site [www.iYouVo.com](http://www.iYouVo.com) and it's free for non-profits to manage volunteers on a local level
- Resubmitted a proposal to provide EC Technical Water Quality Sampling and Macro-Invertebrate Identification/Biological Sampling services on the **Nanticoke Creek Dundee AMD Treatment Wetlands Construction Project**

## Project Coordination

- Discussed with Mike Porta-PA Fish & Boat Commission, NE Region, the possibility of conducting an electro-shocking fish survey on the Solomon Creek watershed in Luzerne County, both the upper reaches that do contain trout and the lower reaches below AMD impacts from the Solomon AMD Boreholes and the Buttonwood AMD Shaft; Mike is going to be assisting EPCAMR with identifying reports and reference documents on the watershed for our **Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan Project** that we'll be developing over the next 18 months through a **\$6000** grant EPCAMR received from PA TU, PA F&BC, PA DCNR, and the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Mike would also like to work with EPCAMR to possibly apply for future funding for check dam removal within the watershed to allow for further migration of the trout; See project details <http://epcamr.org/home/2011/epcamr-awarded-a-coldwater-conservation-grant/>
- Began field work on the **Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan** by stream walking the Sugar Notch Run tributary, taking photos, chemistry samples, identifying fish, identifying macros, and conducting visual habitat assessments throughout the corridor; Completed a section from Carey's Patch confluence with the main stem of Solomon Creek upstream to a culvert underpass along State Route 29 and I-81 in Ashley Borough; Received a Fisheries Report from the PA Fish & Boat Commission from 1995 on the results of their study that will be referenced in the Plan from Robert Wnuk

- Hosted **8** Wilkes University Freshman student volunteers at the EPCAMR Office for **2** hours who needed some community service hours as a part of their orientation to work with EPCAMR on drying and processing our iron oxide
- Meeting onsite at the Old Forge AMD Borehole with SRBC Staff, LRCA, PA Tectonics, and EPCAMR Staff to discuss our new innovative idea to measure the flow of the Borehole
- EPCAMR was informed by the W-B Area Science Coordinator-Mike Corcoran that 2 of the 3 teachers at Kistler respectfully asked to cancel the Wyoming Valley AMD Watershed Tour field experience in the early part of June because they felt that they are lacking the necessary time to complete curriculum and testing before the end of the school year; EPCAMR obliged and will just inform the granting agency of the decision; Other sections at Kistler went on to participate with EPCAMR and made the Macro Mayhem cutouts that EPCAMR hung from two trees near the sampling sites to show the diversity of the bugs found in those sample sites; We are pleased to show that we did have great participation by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District's 5th Grade Sections from Dan Flood Elementary and Kistler Elementary, for a total of **8** sections, that equated to around **200** students and **10** teachers
- Submitted the Final Reimbursement for the ***Mine Pool Mapping Project-Eastern PA*** to Dan Koury-Project Officer at the PA DEP DMO, Pottsville, while on vacation; Final Narrative will be complete by the end of August 2011; Worked with Jon Dietz to acquire several of his Chapters in his ***Investigation of AMD Treatment, Water/Solids Reuse and Industrial Development: Feasibility Study for the Scotts Tunnel, Colbert Breach, Excelsior Overflow, and Maysville Borehole Discharges*** in the Shamokin Creek Watershed in order for EPCAMR to reference his research and data in our Final Mine Pool Mapping Report
- Coordinated efforts with WPCAMR to conduct the administrative reviews of the ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-grants that were submitted for this year's round of **\$5000/region**; Provided Jeff McNelly with some ideas for the 2012 First Annual Golf Tournament that will help to raise administrative funds and grant funds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Mini-grants to community groups across PA with the help from the ARIPPA Plants
- Working with Tom Clark-SRBC on a Growing Greener Grant Proposal related to our AMD Remediation Strategy for a more robust and technical borehole sampling protocol for the entire Anthracite Region
- Prepared a Letter of Extension to the Growing Greener Grant Center for our ***Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project*** through June 30, 2012 due to permitting delays; Informed Skelly & Loy that we are just in need of a meeting with one landowner that has had issue with Exeter Borough in the past and we don't want to exacerbate the problem with our project, yet we have to fill him in on the details of the construction project; Working with Karen Szwast-Hicks Creek Watershed Association to set up that meeting

## Conference Coordination

- Conducted 2 PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Calls to move the agenda along and get everyone up to speed on the Conference; Updated the Committee on the

Speakers List and the Presenters List, Bios, Abstracts, Pre-Conference Tours, and Invited Speakers; Final Conference Call-Everything has fallen into place; EPCAMR Staff printed the Program Brochures, printed name tags, created Conference Labels for the folders, and stuffed the folder packets; Final Tour Route send to Pre-Conference Tour Committee leads

- Worked with Mike to create the Professional Development Hours Certificate Template that we'll be handing out at the Conference this year; Up to 16 hrs of PDH can be achieved, if attendees participate in the Pre-Conference Tour and the day and half of presentations
- EPCAMR Executive Director followed up personally with all keynote speakers on the phone to see if they had any additional needs in preparation for their talks at the Conference
- Worked on obtaining the Access Form from Pagnotti Enterprises to take our tour of the Jeddo Mine Tunnel in the Nescopeck Creek Watershed as a part of the Pre-Conference Tour; Coordinated with our Insurance Company to list them on our Certificate of Liability and provided a copy to James Pagnotti for approval

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Completed the June 2011 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement & Progress Report; Reviewed Mike & Wren's monthly Board Reports
- Continued working with EPCAMR Staff on the development of EPCAMR's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner/Fundraiser Event, webpage, and online store registration process payment links; Mailed out the Sponsor Invitations; Picked up the final recycled frame from the Salvation Army for our PR Collages; Reviewed the final artists contracts with Wren; Received a donation of 55 cubic yards of spent mushroom compost from Hy-Tech Mushroom, Inc. for the Silent Auction valued at over **\$1000** from Lisa Van Houten;
- EPCAMR Staff worked on developing over 120 Table Card Momentos with quotes from our partners on the value of the work that we've done in the region over the last 15 years, along with an embossed seal of more than a dozen bankrupt coal companies from the Anthracite Region on the outside of the card; Worked on finalizing the EPCAMR 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Program Brochure; EPCAMR received our donated iron oxide glazed trout magnets from Stream Restoration Inc. with our acronym on them and a 15 in the tail for our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Prepared a Press Release about Bruno Najaka, EPCAMR's Greatest Story Teller and his guest appearance at our Dinner to tell some tall tales; <http://epcamr.org/home/2011/come-listen-to-epcamrs-greatest-story-teller-from-the-endless-mountains-coal-region-bruno-najaka/>
- Worked with Mike to develop our 2011-2012 Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming Annual Board Meeting
- Continue to fill Iron Oxide Pigment Orders and other items listed on our EPCAMR Online Store

- Meeting with Ashley Antolik-EDSI, PA CareerLink Workforce Development Coordinator, to see if EPCAMR could have another Community Service position filled within our Office; Ashley will be reviewing resumes and providing us with potential volunteers in the weeks ahead; Provided her with a job description of the work, duties, tasks, and activities that the position entails
- Completed the US Department of Commerce Quarterly Services Survey online
- EPCAMR Deposits and Reconciliations of Accounts and provided Basil Lynch-CPA for EPCAMR with our Accountant's copy of our 2010 Register Report for him to complete the 2010 990s
- Provided EC with a high resolution EPCAMR Logo image file for her website, news article, and Trail Signage for the Sugar Notch and Penobscot Trails funded by EPCAMR through the ARIPPA grant
- Worked with Cabelas Corporate Outfitters who is willing to provide EPCAMR with free embroidery services for any future t-shirt, polos, or cap orders for our field work; Cabelas created our custom-made logo for EPCAMR that we will be able to use on all future orders
- Worked with Mike to send out 2011 Membership Renewals to EPCAMR supporters
- EPCAMR applied to Macy's for a Shop for A Cause approval to assist with generating additional unrestricted income as a part of their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Campaign to help local non-profits out within their service area; EPCAMR's application was accepted; <http://epcamr.org/home/2011/epcamr-partners-with-macy%E2%80%99s-for-sixth-annual-shop-for-a-cause-day/>
- Discussed with Mike about using PayPal Invoicing APIs; Will need to review them further before utilizing the service from PayPal; <https://www.x.com/community/ppx/invoicingapis>
- Jack Ross, an advocate for [www.Empowered.org](http://www.Empowered.org), appreciates the work that EPCAMR is doing in the region and touched base about building a relationship; It's a free platform designed to help groups making a social impact; The site allows EPCAMR to manage members, fundraise effectively and grow organically. They've helped over 500 groups raise more than \$8 million dollars in 2011 on the platform. It's 100% free to use, with no costs or commitments; That said, we'd be happy to waive that fee and let EPCAMR fundraise for free for the next 6 months. All we'd ask in return is to highlight you as one of our charter partners



Just a few pieces of the Anthrascapes AMD Art that will be on display at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary EPCAMR 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner/Fundraiser