

EPCAMR



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July 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Reviewed comments from the PA DEP NE Region on the *American Rock Salt Company Water Quality Monitoring Permit* and NPDES Permit to the Lackawanna River for the proposed Salt Distribution Facility on Elm St. in Scranton
- EPCAMR signed on to a letter to the US EPA Region III as a member of the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) that was providing comments on the Draft EPA Technical Memorandum: "Accounting for Uncertainty in Offset and Trading Programs" that the US EPA is drafting to reflect their expectations of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions in their development and implementation of nutrient trading and offset programs under the Clean Water Act
- EPCAMR signed on to a letter as a member of the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) to the Chair of Chesapeake Bay Program, District Department of the Environment, Washington DC that contained formal comments about the timing of the input period as well as how stakeholders have been made aware of the opportunity to comment; Our concerns were categorized into 5 areas, Public Participation & Transparency, Chesapeake Bay TMDL & Water Quality Standards, Accountability, Outcomes vs. Measuring Progress, Significant Omissions
- Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program's Education Coordinator, Rebecca Holler, offered to list EPCAMR's websites and promote our organization to the students who will be attending their ***TU AMD & Stream Ecology Summer Camp***
- On Aug 2, 1913, between 20-28 miners were killed in two explosions at the East Brookside Mine, located north of Tower City in Porter Twp., Schuylkill County, PA; A memorial service, honoring those killed in the "*East Brookside Mine Disaster*" will be held a day after the 100 year Anniversary, Aug. 3, in the Saints Peter and Paul Chapel, Tower City; A small group with ties to the mining industry, from Valley View, Pitman, Klingerstown and Tremont, began the effort 2 months ago; According to Williams, the Rev. Paul Rothermel, pastor of Most Blessed Trinity Church, Tremont, will participate in the memorial service, along with "The Breaker Boys," Stu Richards, of Orwigsburg, and Tom Symons, of Heckchersville, well-known for their mining songs and skits; Williams' request for someone to read the famous poem, "The East Brookside Mine Accident," was immediately answered when Mayor Dan Daub volunteered; Council President Bruce Schneck assured Williams that help from fire police for traffic control would not be a problem and a proclamation by the Mayor would be approved

Technical Assistance

- Received a letter from Governor Corbett stating that he valued EPCAMR's progress in our mine mapping efforts to ensure the public's safety in the Coal Region
- Invited by Keystone Anthracite Coal Company and the PA Anthracite Council to conduct a field visit to the **Packer #2 & #3 Mining Operation** in Gilberton, PA in the Western Middle Fields, where Bobby Burns, Jr.-President of Keystone Anthracite Coal Company will be submitting a Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA) Act 13 Grant to remine this area, create jobs, and treat the Weston AMD Tunnel discharge that currently flows into a stripping pit and flows out of the Packer #5 into the Mahanoy Creek; Plans are to treat the Weston Tunnel in an Aerobic Treatment Wetlands by piping it along a bench down valley along the surface and then empty into Shenandoah Creek; EPCAMR provided a letter of support for this project
- Received the revised monitoring form from Brantley Kirkland, ACCT OSM/VISTA Leader to use for our **Year 2 Waterboxx** plots and plantings: **4** at the Huber Miner Memorial Park, **2** at St. Peter's Church in Wilkes-Barre, and **14** at the Earth Conservancy Espy Run AMD Wetlands Treatment System in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA; There is a listserv for all projects at Waterboxx@coalcountryteam.org to share information to other groups around the country participating in the research and reforestation project; Received a copy of the American Chestnut Foundation's Germplasm Agreement, from Michael French, a Forester, from Hope, Indiana, in case they were able to get us some seedlings to plant in future Waterboxxes in the Fall of 2013 or Spring 2014; Provided Brantley with a corrected Excel Data File of all of our Year 1 Monitoring Results and Research since our intern found an error in a formula calculation that wasn't applied to all cells in the document's spreadsheet; Roxanne Li, EPCAMR Volunteer called Mid-Way Gardens and Octoraro Nursery to obtain a quote on some seedlings
- Provided Grant writing technical assistance to the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy, Inc., LRCA, in partnership with SRBC at the EPCAMR Office and completed the submission of the CFA Act13 Grant for the **Old Forge Borehole AMD Treatment Feasibility and Land Acquisition Project**; EPCAMR provided a letter of support to the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy, Inc. for this project and is a primary project partner
- Informed by Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Borough volunteer, that the data loggers and data shuttle for flow monitoring of the AMD discharges on the **Hazle Creek Project** in the Upper Lehigh arrived and that he'll be hooking them up to his home computer to set them up and get familiar with them and the software; The flumes have been ordered and delivery is expected in early August. He'll drop everyone a note when the flumes arrive to see who is interested in helping with the installation and to pick a field date
- Informed by Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc., that they have finished the transfer of data for selected passive treatment system sample points from the PA DEP SIS database for years 1996-2012 into the updated **Datashed**, a process that has taken many years to complete; EPCAMR is a partner with SRI on this effort and has imported many Anthracite Region water quality data sets into Datashed and provided technical support and trainings on the use of Datashed to our watershed community volunteers over the years

Technical Assistance (cont'd)

- Received notification that EPCAMR was **1 of 10** grant awardees from the **Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Grant Program** and the only non-profit organization outside of the other colleges and universities to receive **\$342,143** over the next 3 years to scan, geo-reference, digitize, and catalogue historic mine maps and image files for the Commonwealth of PA's Anthracite Region; EPCAMR Board Members have signed in the appropriate locations of the Mine Map Grant agreement and the paperwork has been forwarded to PA DEP MSI for final signatures to allow for full execution of the grant agreement and the project to begin; Purchased our ColorTrac Scanner Equipment, Laptops, Wide Flat Screens for digitizing and geo-referencing, and software in advance of getting our technical operations side of the **MSI Mine Map Grant Project** underway in the later Summer 2013
- Prepared minor changes to Hedin Environmental's contract with EPCAMR and forwarded it along to Bob Hedin, as we begin to plan for our initial field investigation to the Lewis AMD discharge on August 27th all day, for the **Lewis AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation Project**, Cherry Township, Sullivan County, PA
- Wildlands Conservancy requested EPCAMR become a partner in the **Upper Lehigh River Advisory Committee** to assist them and provide technical assistance to develop a protection and restoration plan for the Upper Lehigh River watershed; A project is underway, funded by the William Penn Foundation to develop the plan and two regional meetings are being held, one in early July and the other in late August 2013; EPCAMR obliged
- Provided a Letter of Support to West Wyoming Borough for their submission of a Growing Greener Grant for **Frances Slocum Lake Survey Project** to study and survey the Lake to determine dredging needs, phosphorus loads, water quality monitoring, and planting and installation of 2 floating islands for aquatic habitat improvement; EPCAMR is willing to provide volunteers interested in becoming certified Water Quality Monitors with EPCAMR training should enough people be interested in becoming active volunteers in the West Wyoming Boro
- Brian Taylor, *Taylor Energy Alternatives* (www.taylorenergyalternatives.com), would like to set up an AMD Tour with EPCAMR Staff to Old Forge and other Northern Field AMD discharges in the Anthracite Region; EPCAMR to coordinate the AMD Tour following the 15th Anniversary PA AMR Conference in the latter part of August or early part of September 2013

Project Coordination

- Followed up with Heather Berlew-Luzerne Conservation District E & S Supervisor Technician II about the minor deficiencies in our E & S Plan submission for the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project**; Skelly & Loy, our engineering firm has addressed the issues and resubmitted the plan that was approved; The Luzerne Conservation District will be issuing EPCAMR our approved E & S Permit in the weeks ahead; Informed the Exeter Borough Engineer, Harold Ash that our engineer, Skelly & Loy will remove the Floodway area and use the 50' default on either side of the stream in determining our disturbance area at the advice of the Department which will reduce our disturbance

Project Coordination (cont'd)

footprint to under 1 acre; We are approximating a .62 acre disturbance out of the Floodway; This way we will have no impact fees assessed; We are looking to take a phased approach where we will have a Phase Line drawn for the Upper Reach to an end of Phase Line leading into the Capitano property; We are still going to submit the permit for the entire length of stream channel that we originally had planned on working on with the understanding that in the future, we may be able to perform work on the Capitano property; Attended the Exeter Borough Council meeting to provide them with an update on the project and to seek their approval to become the applicant for the Joint Permit initially to allow for a waiver of all administrative permit review fees by the PA DEP; The PA DEP said that we could still move forward with the Permit Application while the easement situation is being worked out; That does not preclude us from submission for approval; Exeter Borough was provided a letter from EPCAMR seeking the approval that was read at the meeting by Council and approved unanimously; EPCAMR and Skelly & Loy will be working on completing the Joint Permit Application together after we get approval from the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Center on our **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project** extension from June 30th, 2013 through June 30th, 2014; Justin Dresch, PA DEP provided EPCAMR with the entire Joint Permit Application and the Chapter 105 Permit Transfer documentation for our reference; Completed Reimbursement and Progress Reports through June 30th and Jul 15, 2013 and submitted them to our Project Officer Dennis Palladino, PA DEP BAMR; Paid outstanding invoices to Skelly & Loy for work completed

- Informed by the Luzerne County Council Clerk that the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy, Inc. will be receiving a letter of support for EPCAMR's & LRCA's **Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Restoration & Assessment Plan** (Lower Lackawanna WRAP) based on our previous presentation at the Luzerne County Council Meeting last month; The Luzerne County Council has supported our application for Act 13 Funds to conduct a feasibility study of treating the Old Forge Borehole and to seek funds to acquire land from targeted landowners in the area where an AMD Treatment Plant could be constructed to treat the AMD discharge and provided us with a copy of the Resolution 48-2013; SRBC sent a copy of the Anthracite Remediation Strategy, completed by SRBC & EPCAMR (http://www.srbc.net/pubinfo/techdocs/Publication_279/techreport279.htm) to the entire Council and the County Manager, Robert Lawton; EPCAMR Staff & LRCA Executive Director, Bernie McGurl also met with Senator John Yudichak to provide him with a copy of the plan to educate him on the recommendations that are in it; Provided James Pagnotti a copy of the Powerpoint presentation, mine pool volume estimates, and a PDF document that has been used at our stakeholder meetings since he is an interested landowner that may provide our partners with enough land to construct an AMD Treatment System for the Old Forge Borehole; Prepared a Letter of Support for the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy Inc. Act 13 CFA Proposal; EPCAMR Staff have conservatively calculated approximately **128 Billion gallons** of water in the Scranton Metro Mine Pool (discharges to the Old Forge Borehole) at a water elevation of 610'; There are portions of the pool in the upper area (Olyphant) that are much higher
- Conducted **Nockley's Tributary Stream Cleanup** in Wilkes-Barre funded by PA American Water and PACD, Inc., with nearly **30** Wilkes University Freshman Volunteers and an additional **20** EPCAMR Community Volunteers from 9-12, including members of the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited; Removed **2.25** T of trash, **140** tires, and removed **4** woody debris blockages during our first of two cleanups on the tributary to Solomon Creek along a **.25** mile stretch of the channel; EPCAMR partnered with American Rivers (www.AmericanRivers.org)

Project Coordination (cont'd)

and received free garbage bags for including our numbers in the 2013 National River Cleanup; Chipped over .5 T of wood and converted it to mulch; WNEP Channel 16 showed up and filmed the work of EPCAMR and the volunteers; <http://wnep.com/2013/07/15/getting-dirty-to-clean-up-the-creek/>; (FaceBook Photo Album) <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151754642629095.1073741829.95647429094&type=1>; Northeast Cartage provided EPCAMR with a discounted 20 cubic yard roll-off dumpster

- Meeting with Ray Clarke-Chairman/Treasurer of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to obtain a quote before we order pavers, edging, spikes, and cap blocks from Old Mille Impressions, Mechanicsburg, PA, who will also be doing the engraving of the pavers for the Paver Project at the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park Project**, Ashley, PA this Fall

Conference Coordination

- PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to wrap up loose ends for the **15th Anniversary PA AMR Conference**; Paid the Stone Valley Conference Center the balance due for the Pre-Conference Workshop on August 8th as a part of our PA AMR 15TH Anniversary Conference; Handled all scholarship requests and coordinated their room payments with the Ramada Inn Conference Center; Finalized the content of the Watershed Hero Trading Cards and sent them to the printer and printed off a large poster for the Conference; Confirmed Glenn Rider-Chief of the PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration, as our Keynote Speaker on Friday morning; Updated the website at www.treatminewater.com, finalized the Program content with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, provided an opening comment for the Program, and sent off some additional PR blasts to outlets, partners, and online media sites plugging the Conference; Updated last year's Conference Survey for 2013 in addition to using SurveyMonkey this year; Glued together the iron oxide PA AMR Conference magnets provided to us by Misericordia University's Artist in Residence, Skip Sensbach; <http://2013.treatminewater.com/attendees-to-receive-commemorative-15th-anniversary-magnets-created-by-misericordia-university-artist-out-of-iron-oxide-coal-ash-regional-clay/>
- ARIPPA will be planning their Tech Symposium on the same dates as our Conference for 2014 at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA from June 26-28th
- EPCAMR Staff has been invited to make a presentation on our 3D Mine Pool Modeling and Mapping at the Oct. 17-18th Northwest PA GIS Conference at Clarion University, Clarion, PA

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Mel Talmadge, EPCAMR Community Volunteer Service Coordinator has completed scanning Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) folders and documents into EPCAMR's NEAT Receipt Electronic/Digital Scanning system marked 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, is partially done with 2008 still has 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 to go
- Field Training with Roxanne Li-EPCAMR Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer on Solomon Creek utilizing EPCAMR's AMD Hach Kit and our AMD Field Monitoring Binder; Roxanne

Community Volunteer Coordination (cont'd)

also provided EPCAMR with a picture album of Nockley's Tributary she had taken prior to our scheduled cleanups on July 1, 2013 and July 15th 2013 as a photo-essay and to document a "before" gallery of photos of the tributary prior to the cleanup

- Corresponded with Elissa Kline and Maggy Makary, interested college students interested in becoming EPCAMR Canvas Artists to assist EPCAMR with outlining the background scenes from our activity/coloring book onto the 8 panels of the mobile backdrops we've created that we plan to use on stage with elementary students when we do environmental comedy skits on water quality in the classroom in the Fall 2013; Trying to find a date where they can both come into explain to them the work that remains to be completed on the canvases
- Corresponded with Celeste Kratz, a potential EPCAMR volunteer who is interested in community gardens and tree and landscaping; Directed her to Ray Clarke- with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society that is currently working on the **Huber Miner Memorial Park Project** where an 80' x 10' garden is being worked on now and other landscaping efforts around the 3 acre park is ongoing
- Corresponded with Becca Lindner, a potential volunteer who recently moved to the area from Georgia that wanted to volunteer with EPCAMR; She participated in our Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration cleanup and then continued to volunteer with EPCAMR in an administrative capacity when she had time available during the month of July; She scanned documents for the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA); EPCAMR Executive Director wrote a news article on her joining the volunteer ranks of EPCAMR on our website and FaceBook; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-welcomes-becca-lindner-yet-another-young-lady-with-some-southern-twang-from-georgia-to-volunteer/>
- Interviewed Todd Stires, from Lake Scranton area, for a potential Fall Internship with EPCAMR; Suggested that he coordinate with Penn-State University about their Internship Program and then get back in touch with EPCAMR so that we can act as a sponsor for him; Todd may be able to do plenty of field work in the Lackawanna River Watershed related to our **Old Forge Borehole AMD Treatment System Feasibility Study and Land Acquisition Project** and also the **Duryea AMD Outfall Flow and Chemistry Monitoring** in the Fall 2013
- Clay Helm and Kelsey Barr, two PA DEP Environmental Education Interns from the Harrisburg Area came up to participate in our Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration Project cleanup and offered to come up again in September 2013; EPCAMR will provide them with a tour of AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley on their Fall trip up to our area
- Richard Winkler, a Wilkes University student from the Wilkes-Barre area, and Billy Wellock, a reporter from the Citizen's Voice, joined EPCAMR as volunteers and became involved in our Nockley Tributary Stream Restoration Project cleanup and are looking forward to future opportunities
- Tatiana Markovich, our EPCAMR Virtual Graphics Designer/Poster Volunteer from Cherry Hill, NJ created a flyer for EPCAMR so that we can test whether or not people might be willing to donate some of their acid-washed jeans, clothing, or denim to EPCAMR for us to

Community Volunteer Coordination (cont'd)

make our own clothing line apparel items to sell with our iron oxide becoming a part of the new recycled look of the clothing apparel; It's only an experiment for now to see what type of interest and donations we could generate on our site

- Informed Jason Peters, another interested EPCAMR volunteer about our planned future cleanup in September 2013 on Nockley's Tributary in order for him to plan on attending to assist us with the cleanup

EPCAMR Program Administration

- April 2013 PA DEP 319 Reimbursement Deposited by ACH in the amount of \$11,331.36
- Completed the June EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP; EPCAMR Board members have signed in the appropriate locations on the Proposed Grant Amendment for our Project # 2902-Document #4100049999 for EPCAMR and EPCAMR has filed our officially approved extension letter and have just completed the FFATA Sub-Recipient Data Sheet; EPCAMR's Dun & Bradstreet info has been updated with their iUpdate online form
- Filed EPCAMR's State Worker's Insurance Fund (SWIF) Renewal for 2013/2014 where we saw a reduction in our premium of \$289 due to discussions with SWIF on a change to our code
- Conducted a part-time job interview with Paul Dunay, Tunkhannock, for one of a few upcoming GIS Technician positions that will be funded under the **PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund Program's Mine Map Grant**
- EPCAMR reviewed 4 applications for funding through our ARIPPA AMD/AML Mini-Grant Awards Program for 2013 and anticipated approval from our Board to fund all 4 for a total of **\$2500** at our upcoming August Annual Meeting retroactively; Funds will be provided following the Annual Board Meeting Presentation at the 8-21-13 ARIPPA Technical Symposium <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-awards-4-regional-arippa-amdaml-reclamation-awards-to-improve-local-waterways-in-the-amount-of-2500/>
- 10+ years ago, the PA DEP created the Office of Environmental Advocate (OEA); The mission of this office is to identify and strengthen relationships between individuals, communities, businesses, and government officials so that citizens of the commonwealth can engage in public participation during the permitting process; Into the future, they hope to continue to address concerns and issues overseen by DEP; To best make that happen, they reached out to EPCAMR in hopes that they can obtain the most up-to-date information so that they can contact us about important environmental happenings occurring in your area and in PA; Updated their Environmental Justice Database with current information on EPCAMR
- Followed up with WPCAMR on the Permitting Challenges Flow Chart that Terry Schmidt, Skelly & Loy is working on with EPCAMR/WPCAMR for our PA DEP 319 deliverable by 9-30-2013
- Received confirmation from Donna Carnahan-PA DEP 319 Program Manager for EPCAMR's grant agreement that we do not need to submit an application for the latest grant round of Growing Greener because the Department will just amend our existing grant for 2014-2015