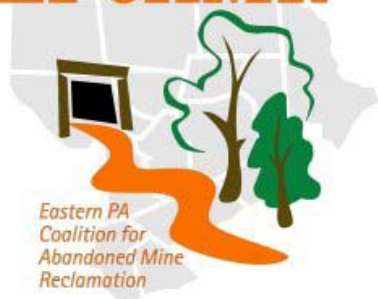


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation June 2006 Progress Report

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### Highlights:

- EPCAMR Staff conducted an AMD Tie Dye workshop, an educational display and a wshd. tour
- Continued to prepare for the AMD Conference in August
- Produced a new version of a AML related GIS CD and sent a copy of another statewide GIS CD
- Continued to update [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org)
- Attended the ACCWT Training, a COALS site visit, an LRCA Special Meeting, River Fest and a meeting with UGI

### June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>

- EPCAMR Staff met with Tom Yurish, Citizen Advocates United to Safeguard the Environment (CAUSE). CAUSE is a group that is very concerned with the reclamation of the old Hazleton City Landfill. Provided him with water quality data related to several discharges in the area and a layer of the underground mine pool complexes in the Easter Middle Anthracite Coal Fields.
- Aided in the setup of a new network printer, the Gestetner copier in the reception area. This should help the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) conserve ink when printing color documents and photos.
- Received a response from the Fund for Wild Nature that our Anthracite AMD Publication proposal was rejected. The explanation was that the FWN is a small organization and cannot fund all proposals that were submitted.
- Prepared EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator (WOC) monthly board report for May. Posted all EPCAMR Staff reports to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org).
- Added a link to the Water: An Endangered Resource Video (DVD) and added a streaming video feed to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) in the "Environmental Education" category, edited the "Technical Assistance" category and added a hyperlink to the homepage for redundant access to the main content of the website and out online donation store. The redundant link should help first time visitors navigate the site more easily. Also added new staff pictures to the "Contact Us" section of the homepage.

### June 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

- Attended the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team Workshop. The 3 –day workshop was hosted by EPCAMR at Penn State Wilkes-Barre for about 25 VISTA's throughout the northern Appalachian coal fields.
- Caught up on important dates and a backlog of e-mails left from only a few days out of the office.
- Followed up with Beth Dillon, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), to provide her with new mining files from the DEP which were posted to PASDA. These files will help with their assessment and remediation strategy of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

- Met with several DEP employees involved with the Clean Our Anthracite Lands and Streams (COALS) program to show them about 5 sites in the Wyoming Valley that EPCAMR was planning to cleanup. The COALS Program can supply garbage disposal and large machinery if needed, as long as a local partner supplies the local support and volunteers.
- Caught up on AMD Conference Coordination and continued to flesh out the agenda with information gathered at the steering committee meeting. Sent this updated agenda to the list-serve for comments.
- Updated the 2006 – 2007 Tentative EPCAMR Annual Budget to aide in grant writing and foundation proposals. The budget will be presented to the EPCAMR Board at the next board meeting.

### **June 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Received letters from the DEP Growing Greener Program that the match for our 2 of our grants was improperly documented. EPCAMR staff obtained more letters of commitment and support from project partners related to the grants and analyzed the projects for more in-kind that would be generated.
- Received an e-mail from Bruce Golden, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR), regarding our arrangements with the Atherton Hotel. Several of the rooms and times were in conflict. Setup a conference call with Bruce and Steven from the Atherton Hotel to discuss the changes.
- Archived the mess of files on the LCD Server to cleanup the folder and make this heavily used resource easier to deal with on a day-to-day basis.
- Troubleshoot a problem with the Luzerne County 2004 Color Aerial Photo not lining up in ArcGIS. The file was corrupt and needed to be re-downloaded and overwritten.
- Attended the Old Forge Borehole/St. John's Creek Meeting with EPCAMR GIS Technician at the Old Forge Borough Building. Representatives from Lackawanna Watershed 2000, Acker Associates, Bernie McGurl of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and EcoTech LLC were in attendance to talk about a pilot scale innovative treatment technology to treat the Old Forge Borehole and a look at the St. John's Creek, a tributary to the Lackawanna River that looses water to the subsurface mine pool complex.
- Copied a PA AMD/AML GIS Version 6.1 CD and sent it to Acker Associates as well as an aerial photo of the confluence of the Lackawanna River with the Susquehanna River. The orange staining in the photo shows the transportation of iron oxide several miles downstream of the Old Forge Borehole.
- In lieu of a conference call, I called Steven Romig of the Atherton Hotel to change conflicts between the schedule agreed upon by the AMD Conference Steering Committee and the hotel schedule mentioned in the contract with the Atherton Hotel.
- Performed regular preventative maintenance to EPCAMR Office computers to keep them running at an optimum level.
- Collected defunct computer hardware and electronic equipment, loaded it on the Dodge and took it to the Luzerne County Recycling Collection at Hanover High School.
- EPCAMR Staff setup a display and spoke to many Wyoming Valley residents about AMD/AML issues as a part of the River Fest festivities in Canal Park, Plymouth Township. With our AMD Tie Dye Workshop and coloring books, we were able to collect \$50 in donations which will go back into environmental education.

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**

- Ordered ink for the HP DesignJet 800 Plotter. The ink in the tanks had lasted about 8 months.
- EPCAMR Staff participated in a Conference call of the COALS Partners in Northeast PA to coordinate the cleanups that were being palnned for the next few months.

- Prepared minutes of the last EPCAMR Board Meeting and began a tentative agenda for the next board meeting scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Setup an Online Donation Store on [www.orangewaternetnetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetnetwork.org), following guidance from the EPCAMR Board, to begin accepting donations for our unique resources as a fundraiser for the organization. Also established another website to begin accepting credit card or check over the internet payments if in the future we decide to accept payment in that format. This secondary website is not active. Currently the guidance asks for checks to be mailed to EPCAMR.
- Compiled a database of Passive Treatment Systems in Schuylkill County from the Office of Surface Mining State-wide Database at the request of watershed specialist, Tom Davidock.
- Caught up with Dave Ross, UGI, to ascertain the progress that has been made in the Hunlock Creek Power Station Conversion to Co-Generation. Several of their staff and a summer intern have been tasked to study the EPCAMR GIS Database provided to them a few months ago. Set up a meeting with the UGI Staff members to familiarize them with the database.
- Sent a meeting reminder to the EPCAMR Board of Trustees to remind them of the upcoming board meeting and ask for watershed reports.
- EPCAMR Regional Coordinator and EPCAMR WOC installed a silt fence at the Avondale Hill garden to keep the newly delivered soil from eroding off the site.

### **May 28th – 31st**

- Created Version 3 of the UGI 30 Mile Culm Study CD and database by adding the new DEP mining files discovered on the PASDA Website. The files show the current mine spoil reprocessing locations among other types of current mining operations and link to the online e-facts database for more information.
- Met with Jim Dunbar and Brian of UGI's Hunlock Creek Power Station to talk to them about the function of the Version 3 CD mentioned above.
- Received a call from Forest City in Susquehanna County to inquire about a RAMP Project that had been installed about 25 years ago. The site had been damaged by the recent flooding and was creating a drainage problem in the area. After a little research I was able to put the secretary in touch with Bruce Bassler, from the NRCS Susquehanna County Field office, who had inspected the site during construction 25 years ago.
- Posted several articles the EPCAMR NewsFlash on [www.orangewaternetnetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetnetwork.org) and, with the aide of Bill Waters our Website host, was able to get the RSS Feeds on the website to be recognized by Internet Explorer 7 Beta.