

Joe Looker OSM Watershed Intern EPCAMR LCD 570-674-3409

ilooker@epcamr.org

MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2007

Week of 6/1 to 6/10

Presented an AMD tour to 70 fifth grade students from Dallas Elementary. Toured AMD sites through the South Wyoming Valley. The children learned about coal mining, how it impacts the environment through AMD, and how to mitigate the impacts. The children helped with measuring stream flow and testing water pH at the tour sites to show how some drainage is acidic and some is alkaline.

Picked up t-shirts from our supplier for upcoming AMD iron oxide tie-dye t-shirt events. Went to A.C. Moore's to purchase over \$300 of art supplies for upcoming Summer Splash Arts Programs where the children will be utilizing iron oxide pigments to paint and stain several different types of art projects.

Attended the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies meeting at Geisinger Center for Health Research in Danville, PA. This coalition brings together data from EPCAMR/WPCAMR, watershed groups, local colleges, and the medical community to pool resources to study, interpolate, and report the possible impacts between poor health and poor environmental practices. The Center for Health Research utilized EPCAMR's RAMLIS GIS program to correlate environmental impacts with their patient data base.

Started working on OSM Fourth Week Reports. The three reports consist of a work progress, an in-kind, and a partner to date report. Made more pieces of colored sidewalk drawing chalk out of different shades of recovered AMD iron oxide for upcoming Summer Splash Arts Program with low-income youth from the greater Wilkes-Barre Area in July.

Presented a Wyoming Valley watershed Tour on AMD to 71 fifth grade students from Dallas Elementary. Toured AMD sites throughout the Southern Wyoming Valley. The children learned about coal mining, how it impacts the environment through AMD, and how to mitigate the impacts. The children helped with measuring stream flow and testing water pH at the tour sites to show how some drainage is acidic and some is alkaline. The children also participated in a small cleanup project along the way in conjunction with National River Cleanup Week.

The District held a Conservation Day. Ran a tie-dye t-shirt booth and taught people about AML and AMD. People also hiked the nature trail, learned about composting and recycling of rainwater.

Week of 6/11 to 6/17

Completed the fourth week progress reports required from OSM for the internship. The reports included a progress, in-kind, and partners to date. Made over 150 pieces of sidewalk drawing chalk using plaster of Paris colored with recovered AMD iron oxides for the upcoming Summer Splash Arts Program for low-income youths.

Met with the Township Manager for Newport Township Rich Zika. Overviewed our topographic maps and aerial photos of AMD and AML impacted areas of Newport Township. Showed Mr. Zika our RAMLIS GIS CD and he requested a copy for his township. Overviewed all the services provide by the district with special emphasis on how the AMR division can aid his township with the process of recovering and mitigating AML and AMD impacted areas of their community. Wrote and hand-delivered an In-Kind letter to Lowes Edwardsville Store Manager Damian Rudnitski to see if they would like to donate any painting supplies for our Painting with Iron Oxide Pigment AMD Community Outreach Program.

Set up 36 fishing rod and reels for our 6/15 and 6/16 Fish for Fun Smart Angler Programs. Went to D&R Sporting Goods in Nanticoke to purchase bait and supplies for the program and received an inkind discount on the purchases from D&R.

Attended the Nonprofit and Community Assistance Center Community Awards Program Dinner where our department won first place for the Avondale Hill Restoration and Mine Fire Memorial where 110 miners died in 1869

Presented a Smart Angler Fish for Fun program to 55 low-income youth from the Wilkes-Barre Boulevard Town Homes and the Mineral Springs Housing Authority.

Presented a Smart Angler Fish for Fun program to 33 low-income youth from the Nanticoke Housing Authority.

Week of 6/18 to 6/24

Made contact with Hedin Environmental and they will be donating AMD iron oxides pigments and mixing directions for our Painting with Iron Oxide community outreach program. This is a valuable partnership for EPCAMR not only for the in-kind donation but also as a connection with a commercial company that removes iron oxides from AMD treatment sites which aids in remediation of AMD impacted sites. Hand delivered a map made by our department to Representative Boback's office in Sweet Valley. Performed a wetland determination assessment on Hicks Creek. Utilized tree, shrub, and ground flora species identification, GPS, and stream flow measurements for the assessment. Took digital

photos of site locations. Attended the Hicks Creek Watershed Association meeting in Exeter to discuss our Hicks Creek Growing Greener Grant Stream Channel Restoration and Stream Bank Stabilization Project.

Set up a workstation computer for the newly hired Dirt Road and Gravel Program's summer intern. Installed ArcView GIS on my work computer. Researched the primary flora data and converted common names into Latin genus species names and coded them to determine if they were wetland or non-wetland species.

Finished working on the wetland determination assessment. Used ArcView GIS to produce a map of the Abrahams Creek Watershed area for the District's Watershed Specialist.

Organized equipment for the community outreach AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Program display table at Riverfest 2007 held in Nesbitt Park. Purchased supplies for the Riverfest community outreach AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Program at the Wilkes-Barre Walmart.

Ran the community outreach AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Program at Riverfest 2007 held in Nesbitt Park Kingston, PA. The Riverfest had a large turnout and many people attended our display stand and dyed t-shirts.

Week of 6/25 to 6/30

Organized and put in storage the outreach gear used during my booth at Riverfest 2007. Made copies and spent the day organizing paperwork and getting caught up with general office tasks of our department.

Attended the Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop held at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, PA. Mike gave a presentation on our RAMLIS GIS program. Our brother organization, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, gave a presentation on SMCRA Title IV funding. Attended an interesting seminar on the recently discovered Legacy Sediments Paradigm due to colonial mill dams so prevalent during the early years of American history.

Performed general office tasks from 8 to 12 at the District then commuted to Bloomsburg to attend the internship seminar class.