

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program June 2008 Progress Report

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Capacity Building:

- Attended meeting with Representative Chris Carney's staff and other AMR groups on SMCRA; took notes on funding opportunities.
- Prepared and submitted \$3000 Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts grant proposal to Scranton Area Foundation; requested funding for elementary school skit costumes based on "AMD Avengers vs. the Pollution Posse" coloring book characters.
- Investigated potential summer internship through OSM; unfortunately, OSM is not funding internships this summer.
- Received confirmation of Summer Associate internship position through ACCWT for the Greater Pittston Historical Society.
- Participated in "Boomer Volunteer Engagement: Collaborate Today, Thrive Tomorrow" webinar through VolunteerMatch.org; gained fresh perspective on working with volunteers born between 1946 and 1964.
- Received \$9500 from Dept. of Environmental Protection's "Keep PA Beautiful" in recognition of work on watershed cleanups; researched tables, plants, and benches for Avondale site beautification with the award.

Watershed Projects & Monitoring:

- Attended NPS Liason Workgroup Meeting at Harrisburg Fish & Boat Commission office; learned about other AMD treatment endeavors in the state, as well as remediation efforts for non-mining-related sources of NPS pollution.
- Visited Avondale site with Dale Freudenberger of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor; discussed possibility of adding Avondale as a D&L site.

Education & Outreach:

 Packed and mailed iron oxide chalk samples and box to Savannah Lyons, VISTA leader of ACCWT.

Community Arts & Culture:

- Helped with children's program at Luzerne Conservation District backyard conservation workshops.
- Brought mosaic river art table to Susquehanna RiverFest in Wilkes-Barre; involved festival attendees in the process of creating the artwork, including approximately 50 children and 5 adults.

Networking:

- Wrote and faxed letters to 35 AMD-impacted municipalities in the Wyoming Valley watershed; offered assistance with watershed-related projects.
- Attended artist reception at Marywood University in for abandoned mineland environmental art program in Lackawanna County; met with Marin Braco, new ACCWT Summer Associate on the project.
- Toured Jeddo Tunnel and Old Forge Bore Hole AMD discharge sites with PA Fish & Boat executive director, Dr. Douglas Austen, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications, Tim Schaeffer, and Chris Gillis of EcoTech, LLC; wrote press release and submitted to local media contacts.
- Attended meeting of Nanticoke Historical Society; exchanged business cards with Chris Murley of Abandoned Mine Research, Inc.; indicated availability to help NHS find volunteers to help with historical projects and other Society work.