

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program June 2009 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff prepared for and moved the EPCAMR office to the Earth Conservancy
- EPCAMR staff coordinated the AMR & CMH conference
- EPCAMR staff attended a LCD Board Mtg., an EPCAMR Board Mtg., an Old Forge Borehole Project Mtg., and setup tie dye t-shirt workshops at 2 festivals
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.treatminewater.com

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff conducted an abandoned mine drainage (AMD) tour with representatives from the William Penn Foundation.
- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of May, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Updated the EPCAMR homepage at www.orangewaternetwork.org to reflect the new contact information for staff related to the move to Ashley and new directions to the office.
- Confirmed payment of registration fees via e-mail, once received from Robert, as the 2009 Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) and Coal Mining Heritage (CMH) Conference registrations begin rolling in. Answered several registration questions, informed specific registrants of registration errors and began assigning scholarships to watershed group members, watershed specialists and VISTAs.
- EPCAMR staff attended the June Luzerne Conservation District Board Meeting to update them of our move and the transition to EPCAMR as staff. They wished us well and said that everything that we were currently using for the program could go with us to the new office.
- Spoke with and e-mailed several AMR & CMH Conference presenters to help them put together a presentation title, blurb and a speaker bio for each presentation. This information will be placed in the program booklet.
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR staff cooperated in preparing an addition to our 319 scopes of work to include the production of videos and supporting documentation for 3 distinct products requested by the EPA and PA DEP 319 programs: 1) Making good decisions in selecting abandoned mine drainage treatment options (BMPs), 2) Wetlands permitting issues as required by the Clean Water Act, and 3) Origins and formation of acid mine drainage
- Aided the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) Anthracite Heritage Area (AHA) and Crooked Creek Watershed VISTAs in formulating their presentation to have a Coal Mining Heritage spin as requested by the AMR & CMH Conference committee.
- Updated the AMR & CMH conference website with confirmed speakers and new information on attractions such as the tour. Updated and posted planning documents to the pyritebad listserve and sent to the AMR & CMH conference committee.

- Attended a Duryea Borough meeting to support the Old Forge Borehole (OFBH) Project. Recent news articles show increased scrutiny in the borough council by former council members. Specifically, these residents believed that the project money should be spent to upgrade sidewalks and curbs in the borough. Chris Gillis and current borough council members explained that the grant funds were awarded for this project by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and that the funds were specifically for the OFBH project. Any other use of the funds would be a misuse.
- EPCAMR staff led an AMR & CMH Conference committee conference call to iron out details such as speaker confirmations, the tour route and specifics related to the schedule and budget. Took minutes on the call and sent them to the conference committee following the call.
- EPCAMR WOC and Intern setup a tie dye workshop at the Nescopeck State Park Get Outdoors Festival.
- Prepared for and attended the 3rd Quarter/Annual EPCAMR Board Meeting at the new offices of EPCAMR at the Earth Conservancy building. Showcased the new EPCAMR offices and prepared for the transition of LCD staff to EPCAMR.
- EPCAMR staff setup a tie dye workshop at the Nescopeck State Park Get Outdoors Festival.
- EPCAMR hosted an OFBH meeting at the new office and setup a conference call to bring in other project partners. The meeting focused on the progress of the project and the need for a hydrologic study of the watershed and mine pool. The Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) plans to submit a grant to Growing Greener to perform a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the Lower Lackawanna River Watershed.

Technical Assistance:

- Created 4 RAMLIS 9 CDs for distribution to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and the William Penn Foundation.
- Aided in the installation of the new ceiling and carpet in the office. EPCAMR staff and interns continued to paint.
- Created 7 posters, from several documents and powerpoints, for the Northeast Energy Expo for the Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation and Development Council (PNERCDC) which listed the schedule, exhibitors, sponsors and kids activities.
- Printed posters for the LCD to update their exhibit. This update removes EPCAMR staff and information from their exhibit.
- Hooked up the phone and internet cable modems to the phone and network lines that run to each office.
- EPCAMR staff and interns moved the EPCAMR office to the Earth Conservancy building in about 12 truck loads.
- EPCAMR staff picked up several items placed in a foundation grant to setup a technical assistance center at the new EPCAMR office.
- EPCAMR staff reworked the fiscal year 2009 – 2010 budget and scope of work for the 319 program grant into a 3 year grant (2009 – 2012) budget and scope of work at the direction of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 program staff. Also prepared an advance request letter to begin as EPCAMR employees starting with the new contract (July 1, 2009).
- Setup a framework for the exhibit areas from recollections of the visit to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) Living/Learning Center and gave the information to EPCAMR intern to design. Also produced a list of exhibitors to aide in assigning tables.
- Updated the AMR & CMH budget to reflect costs based on registration numbers to be sure that some added expenses will be covered by income.