

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation June 2010 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Completed and started distribution of RAMLIS version 10; Georeferenced 10 maps and updated 3 layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Program
- EPCAMR staff presented at the Joint Mining Reclamation Conference, and the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary School; Participated in a streamside cleanup & an AMD Tie Dye Workshop; hosted a work day and a dedication of the Avondale Mine Disaster Site.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.treatminewater.com .

Education and Outreach:

- Gathered spreadsheets sent by Arielle Avashai, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in Pittsburgh, dealing with room setups and facilitators in preparation for the Joint Mining Reclamation Conference (JMRC) in Pittsburgh. The AMR Conference Committee is a co-sponsor of the conference and as members of the committee, EPCAMR staff share conference organization responsibilities with OSM, the American Society of Mining Engineers (ASMRE) and the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI).
- Responded to JMRC scholarship requests via e-mail for those nonprofit and community group representatives that applied. Applicants needed to be from Pennsylvania and from a nonprofit or affiliated with a county conservation district.
- Attended, helped setup computer equipment and presented at the JMRC at the Green Tree Radisson in Pittsburgh. EPCAMR staff presented the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) and Mine Pool Mapping Initiative.
- Spoke with Joe Miller, associated with Florida Turbine Technologies, who was inquiring about hydroelectric and other “green energy” projects that had been installed on mine drainage projects in PA. Joe had been forwarded to us by the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office. Let him know that these types of projects have been installed on the Audenreid Treatment System and projects in the Babb Creek and Loyalhanna Watersheds. He would like to set up a meeting and site tour to see some sites with potential.
- EPCAMR staff made a presentation to Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary school students to teach them about macroinvertebrates and performed as skit based on the AMD Avengers and Pollution Posse comic book characters.
- EPCAMR staff and interns held a streamside and roadside cleanup along Schooley Ave. and Hicks Creek near the future Natural Stream Channel Design (NSCD) project site.
- Collaborated with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, on a video and book related to AMD Formation. The video will be information, yet humorous in the style of Bill Nye the Science Guy or Alton Brown’s Good Eats and plan to incorporate the AMD Avengers and Pollution Posse Characters as well as the AMD Generation 3D Model. The book will contain references and resources to support the video. Provided comments to the draft script and suggested a sulfur identification in

water activity that might be a pretty neat chemical reaction that could be portrayed in a humorous way.

- Prepared and sent JMRC scholarship reimbursement form to the list of applicants via e-mail and updated www.treatminewater.com to reflect the post conference scholarship reimbursement process. This form helps applicants gather their receipts and submit them to WPCAMR for the 50% reimbursement of expenses associated with the conference.
- EPCAMR staff and intern held a tie dye workshop at the first night of the Wyoming Valley River Fest.
- On June 19th EPCAMR staff met at the office after learning that there was a break in and theft of about \$3,000 worth of computer equipment. EPAMR staff spent the day contacting police, the insurance company, the Earth Conservancy and aiding Mesko Glass as they repaired the window. We were unable to participate in the second day of the Wyoming Valley River Fest because of this giant inconvenience and have apologized to the people who were running the event. A miscommunication with our insurance, through the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), led us to believe that this type of loss could be covered, but to the contrary, EPCAMR needed “business personal property” insurance as a supplement to the current policy to be covered. Contacted several insurance companies to see if we could get a quote for this “hole” in our umbrella insurance policy.
- Sent a copy of RAMLIS 10 beta to Tom Clark, SRBC, who is in the process of analyzing the anthracite region discharges one by one to produce the Anthracite Remediation Strategy report, a similar process to what was done in the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Tom responded with a request to help him find some more recent data on the discharges in the Solomon Creek Watershed. After a little research, I discovered that there was a Growing Greener Grant awarded to Luzerne County to come up with a strategy to remediate water quality in the watershed. The grant writer at the county did not know of any such grant, but a web search turned up some work done by a familiar consultant, Dietz-Gorley Consulting. Contacted John Dietz and he gladly provided the water quality data to us.
- Aided EPCAMR intern, Leigh Ann, as she was wrapping up some duties before leaving for a new job. She created a new set of photos and promotional pieces, laminated them and cut them out for the EPCAMR display board.
- Met with EPCAMR Treasurer, Cheryl Brobst, to setup new accounts and do away with the old accounts at the bank since the thieves stole our cash box with the check book inside. They disposed of the check books along the tracks near our office and these items were found by a “good samaritan” who hand delivered them back to our office.
- Uploaded several curriculum to www.curriki.org as a part of the Appalachian Coal Country Curriculum project spearheaded by the ACCWT. Documents included the EPCAMR Environmental Education Page with links to many good resources, “AMD in PA” Curriculum for grades K-12 and our own “What’s In your Water?” Curriculum. This website is dedicated to amassing resources to help teachers incorporate the massive amount of good information into their teaching regime and still meet state standards.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the Lehigh River Sojourn and stayed to accept a “Friends of the Lehigh River” award that was bestowed upon the organization by the Wildlands Conservancy for our continued partnership in dealing with AMD impacts to the Lehigh River. The award is actually an engraved stone that was taken from the Lehigh River and was a welcome reprise from the headaches that resent unfortunate events had caused.

Technical Assistance:

- Worked with Shawn Jones, EPCAMR Intern, to teach him how to georeference the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Mine Map Folios for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. Worked up a “cheat sheet” with some general rules and tips on what specific features represented and what to line up with aerial photos. The map symbology is not standard from coal field to coal field or even colliery to colliery, but there are general guidelines that can be followed when reading the

maps and lining them up as explained by Roger Hornberger. Also created an excel spreadsheet to track progress and confidence in the georeferenced map (ex. The number of control points identified).

- Provided technical assistance to Earth Conservancy dealing with tier large scale map scanner. The computer that EPCAMR provided was no longer communicating with the scanner. Deduced that the 15+ year old scanner was not functioning properly and was only communicating about ½ of the time. EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy would both like a scanner and decided that we would pursue funding to purchase one for the building that both organizations could use.
- Added projects and tasks to Many Moon, project management software from google, related to several projects where EPCAMR staff are collaborating together or with staff from other organizations. Specifically the program has helped as we develop the “AMD Formation” Book Informational Video and Book with WPCAMR. The only limiting factor is with Google Documents, which sometimes changed the format of word documents and limits the size of files that can be posted. The AMD Formation draft script quickly exceeded the size limits and had to be e-mailed.
- Received 3 additional Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment (CHIA) maps from the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office to review and incorporate into the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative Report.
- Received an update to EarthVision through the OSM Technical Innovative and Professional Services (TIPS) Program.
- Update the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) GIS Tool to Version 10 with new GIS files from the PA Department of Transportation (PA DOT), PA DEP, and files from the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) server. Also added the Susquehanna River Basin’s (SRBC) Anthracite Water Quality Sampling Database to RAMLIS to update the tools sampling Anthracite Discharge Sampling data from the older USGS Database. Updated the “Read Me” document and researched the supposed ability of ArcGIS to use relative paths to data, which would allow users of the software to utilize the CD from drive paths other than D:/. The ability still is under question.
- Received a GIS Course Syllabus from the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) on which I was listed to provide training on Google Earth and other Open Source GIS software such as Map Window. An introductory presentation on GIS for Watershed Groups was made to the ACCWT at their spring training by EPCAMR staff, but this will require some inquisition as to our role in this endeavor.
- EPCAMR Program Manager and Intern traveled to Ebervale, PA, with Peter Haentjens of the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery (EMARR) Inc., to look at a historic collection of underground mine maps owned by Pagnotti Enterprises Inc.. EMARR was interested in obtaining copies of the maps that pertained to the Jeddo Mine Complex. Many of these maps were already scanned and incorporated into the OSM Mine Map Folios. The maps ranged from mines in the eastern middle coal field to mines in the western middle and southern fields. Joseph Michel, former city engineer in Hazleton, also has a large collection of maps from the Diamond Coal Company and he is currently working with OSM in Pittsburgh to have his maps scanned into the Mine Map Folios.
- EPCAMR staff worked with Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical Center teacher and students to put some finishing touches on the Avondale Mine Disaster Site Beautification Project. Finished installing the fence and spread the rest of the mulch and rock around the site to prepare for the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony the next day.
- Organized several files and updated the EPCAMR Operating Budget to prepare for the close out o several grants: the Datashed Grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, the Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant from the Pa DEP Bureau of Waste Management.
- Converted 36 PowerPoint presentations to PDF and uploaded them and 1 video file to OSM’s FTP site for Arielle Avashai to pick up and post to the conference website.

- Attempted to create a downloadable web version of RAMLIS 10 with the new Layer Pack (LPK) ArcGIS format with limited success. Used the new web forum at www.ArcGIS.com to get help with troubleshooting the errors that pop up. Also attempted to make a Google Earth (KMZ) version of the tool with limited success. It seems that there are limits to how complex the layer structure can be. The KML web version of RAMLIS version 9 was accomplished with a GIS script posted by the City of Portland and included only a few layers of the tool. With the new tools in ArcGIS 9.3, the software, in theory, should work as I need it and will keep the symbology of the tool and can produce LPK and KMZ files to post to the web.
- Produced a narrative and invoice for work completed related to the Datashed Program and a grant funded by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FWP). Submitted the information to Gwen Johnson, FWP.