

EPCAMR



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June 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff worked with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District's 4th grade class (28 students) (Mrs. Kalie) to put on a comedy skit and activities related to abandoned mine drainage, mine reclamation, macro-invertebrate identification, and water quality using EPCAMR's costumes from *The Pollution Posse vs. The AMD Avengers* Activity Book created by EPCAMR Staff
- EPCAMR Staff set up our EPCAMR Exhibit and AMD Tie Dye Workshop station at the annual Wilkes-Barre Commons RiverFest event; Created dozens of AMD Tie Dyes for youth that attended the event with their families and sought out volunteers for future EPCAMR events and programs
- Jody Hazeltine, an EPCAMR volunteer who needed 15 hours of community service worked with the EPCAMR Staff to finish cutting out the outlines of the macro-invertebrates that were created out of recycled pizza boxes and card board boxes that will be used in future environmental education programs in the elementary schools; The master templates will be used by the students to trace onto other paper in order for them to create their own version of the bugs that they will be introduced to related to stream water quality; She completed the work within a week's time
- EPCAMR Executive Director and At Large Board Member of the PA Association of RC & DC provided some input and direction to the organization upon request of the Board;
 - Strategic Planning Session – Strategic Planning Session/Meeting sometime in October-I agree that this is necessary; Continue to follow through and update our Plan of Work
 - Establishing increased relationships with other State-wide Coalitions or Regional Non-Profits who support funding for RC & DC Projects
 - State-wide grant opportunities that have general regional focuses on education and outreach, tours, marketing, publicity that could then be re-allocated back to the RC & DC offices around the State to cut costs
 - Partnering with other State-wide efforts when it comes to Conferences and Workshops to increase the visibility of the PA RC & DC (ie., NAAMLN Conference <http://www.naamlp2010.com/> in September 2010 in Scranton, PA-Is the PA RC & DC a sponsor, exhibitor, giving a tour, speaker, partner?); Potential conflict with the Mid-Atlantic RC & DC Meeting?
 - Seeking ways to fund a part-time, full time position with the PA RC & DC
 - Expanding the website to links to partners who are directly involved in PA RC & DC and regional RC & DC Projects will expand your web presence and search capabilities
- Diane Czajkowski, a local artist was interested in obtaining some of EPCAMR's iron oxide to continue to create art pieces, specifically horses; She offered to provide EPCAMR with paintings of her work

- Provided Lynette Dooley with pre-test questions to provide to the students who will be attending the Wildlife Resource Adventure Camp coming up on July 18, 2010 that EPCAMR will be presenting at outside of Dushore, PA in partnership with the Endless Mtns RC & DC and the Pocono NE RC & DC

Technical Assistance

- Provided Taylor Borough two letters of support for two separate US EPA Brownfields grants; 1 for an Area wide Assessment and 1 for Taylor Borough
- Put out a message reminder about an Anthracite Living History Group meeting for the historical preservation group
- Worked with Mike to prepare a narrative report to the Foundation for PA Watersheds on our progress made on promoting *Datashed* to community groups in the EPCAMR Region
- Informed Erica Calderis of the ACCWT that EPCAMR was interested in a second OSM Summer Associate in mid-August once Shawn Jones completes his term
- Provided a \$300 invoice to the PA League of Women Voters for the design time and printing costs to create a brochure that EPCAMR is in the process of finalizing for the Plymouth Township Planning Commission that will show an overlay of the Marcellus Shale layer and some of EPCAMR's RAMLIS data layers to inform the public of the state of affairs within the Hunlock's and Harvey's Creek watersheds

Project Coordination

- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for May 2010
- Began working on Mine Pool Mapping and Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design AML Restoration Project Progress Reports and Reimbursements
- Reviewed the final draft RFP for the ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Award Mini Grant Application Packet with WPCAMR Staff
- Reviewed June flow data from the Hazle Creek AMD discharges on the Upper Lehigh from Weatherly Borough volunteer Jim Wetzel; Discussed having Trout Unlimited come in and do a bio-assessment survey of the watershed

Conference Coordination

- Assisted WPCAMR in co-coordinating the 12th Annual State-wide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference that was jointly organized by OSM, ARRI, and the ASMR, along with the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; Conference was held at the Radisson Hotel GreenTree, Pittsburgh, PA; Well over 375 people were in attendance and nearly 35 exhibitors; details of the Conference can be found on www.treatminewater.com

Community Cleanups

- EPCAMR Staff conducted a roadside and streamside community cleanup along Hicks Creek parallel to Schooley Avenue in Exeter Borough under the Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant that we received from the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management; 45 bags of trash were collected (~1350 pounds) and around 300 pounds of scrap metal, including a Volkswagen bug were removed from the stream channel
- EPCAMR Executive Director met with Joe Carey, Team Life Coordinator from WEGMANS, located in the Wyoming Valley, who is interested in getting employees out into the community to help with local efforts; Prepared a letter and forwarded it on to WEGMANS Store Manager, who Joe will be following up with requesting financial assistance, volunteers, and supplies for an upcoming cleanup on July 12th 2010
- PA DCNR Environmental Education Specialist Carly Hitzfield from Nescopeck State Park sent along over a dozen packets of wildflowers for EPCAMR to disperse the seeds at the Avondale AML Beautification Community Gardens location
- Talked with Lisa Rankin-a volunteer from Travelocity who is interested in assisting EPCAMR on our illegal dump site cleanup on July 12, 2010; She is also going to assist us with working with Travelocity employees becoming interested in donating to EPCAMR through their matching program with Sabre Holdings

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Worked on preparing a letter to the Luzerne Conservation District explaining and providing reference copy documentation of grant funds received to EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District to cover any alleged budget shortfall to the District prior to our departure from their employment in June 2009; EPCAMR provided enough documentation to show that our organization was in the black prior to our departure
- EPCAMR Staff attended the Lehigh River Sojourn event in Allentown for the day as honorary guest members of the Wildlands Conservancy who awarded EPCAMR with one of four of the prestigious ***Friends of the Lehigh River Award*** for 2010 due to our decade long relationship with the Wildlands Conservancy in protecting the Upper Lehigh River watershed and continuing to remediate AMD in the Upper Lehigh River drainage; EPCAMR received an engraved river rock that was eroded by the forces of water on the Lehigh River as a gift
- Continued to interview recruits for an OSM/VISTA ACCWT Watershed Development Coordinator position with EPCAMR; Conducted phone interviews with 7 potential candidates
- Provided Bernie McGurl with the Independent Sector website that puts a value on work done by volunteers for community organizations by State, trade, and skill sets; http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time
- EPCAMR's Office was recently a victim of a robbery on June 19th where over \$3000 worth of computer equipment was stolen, GPS units, a flat panel LCD computer screen, our petty cash box, checks, and other supplies were taken; A rear window to our office was smashed in with a 5 pound piece of coal to enter the office; A Police Report was immediately filed, pictures were taken, an inventory of our equipment was reported, and our insurance carrier was contacted