

EPCAMR



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June 2011 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff and LRCA Executive Director-Bernie McGurl attended a meeting with State Senator John Blake to provide him with updated information on our Mine Pool Mapping efforts in the Lackawanna Valley and to seek assistance with our Borehole Awareness Campaign with local municipalities that in the past, have already blacktopped over several boreholes used for monitoring the underground mines historically; Provided Senator Blake with a GIS Map of the Lackawanna Valley and all of the locations where EPCAMR is currently monitoring the water elevation levels; He was very supportive and put us in touch with his Legislative Assistant Larry West to help us reach the municipalities
- Oriented Justyna Sacharzewska, our new Summer Intern to her position, workstation, and task list for the Summer, on her first day; She is only part-time; She is briefly familiar with GIS in ArcGIS 9.3 and will have to slowly migrate to the v.10 that we have to catch up on and is a recent Wilkes University graduate in Environmental Science who will be with us for around 20hrs/ week; Informed Jeff McNelly-ARIPPA that she'll be working on the Congressional Districts AML/AMD Compilation Statistics as a part of her Work Plan for the Summer
- Attended and participated on the Susquehanna River Community Connections Kayak Trip with PA DCNR and several local high schools and served as guest speakers to talk about our work on Bowman's Creek, Acid Deposition, and AMD
- EPCAMR Tree Trout AMD Education Presentation at Kistler & Dan Flood Elementary's 5th grade students to create and cut out the bugs (macros) identified several weeks ago in Solomon's Creek and Mill Creek
- Hosted the PAEE, PCEE Environmental Education Regional Discussion Group Meeting at the EPCAMR Office to talk about Non-Traditional Environmental Education Certification
- Attended the Annual Anthracite Section SME AIME in Hazleton to speak about the upcoming Conference, EPCAMR Dinner, and EPCAMR efforts in the region on our Mine Pool Mapping work
- Awaiting receipt of another "Macro Mayhem" banner from BRF Designs to use for future Environmental Education workshops
- EPCAMR signed on to two Choose Clean Water Coalition letters supporting our priority of ensuring continued federal investment in Chesapeake Bay watershed protection and restoration;

It was a letter to relevant US House and Senate committee leadership regarding important federal appropriations for clean water in our region; The second letter was related to our priority of protecting communities from water pollution created by gas drilling; This is a letter supporting the FRAC Act with individual copies being sent to the 12 Senators and 41 Members of Congress representing a portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, as well as the remaining members of the New York and Pennsylvania Congressional delegations

- EPCAMR was asked by PAEE to assist with coordinating the 2012 PAEE Conference that will be held in the Poconos

Technical Assistance

- Submitted a PEC RCAP Grant Proposal for **\$3000** on behalf of the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association to allow for EPCAMR to assist with the development of a qualified hydrologic unit plan for the Catawissa Creek Watershed that was recommended in the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan
- Provided field technical assistance to LRCA at the Duryea Breach in an effort to install a rather large v-notch weir across the AMD discharge channel to begin to measure flow volumes and loadings from the AMD; Installation failed because the notch was cut too high by the contractor and they had to start all over again; too much water pressure had been backed up against the weir to make the water level rise high enough to go through the notch and it compromised the weir
- Cheryl Nolan-Watershed Specialist for Lackawanna County Conservation District was seeking permission to use EPCAMR's Environmental Education Materials and videos on our website
- Informed Katelyn Koons from the Germantown Academy that the Huber Breaker does still in fact exist and has not been torn down yet
- Sent off a calculation to Paula Longo-Environmental Education Teacher with the Bear Creek Charter School on how to determine how much iron oxide to put into a stain project for picnic tables, benches, and split rail fences
- Don Rosenberger, a photographer inquired about the possibility of obtaining permission to photograph the Huber Breaker; He represents a small group of semi-professional and professional photographers that have a passion for photographing old facilities; They wish to be respectful of the property of others and only wish to take on these type of projects with permission; Forwarded their request to the Trustee for the Huber Breaker property since the HBPS, nor EPCAMR has authority to give access; www.donrosenberger.com
- Asked OSM, Wilkes-Barre Office what would be happening to equipment that may be either heading to Pittsburgh or decommissioned, so to speak, as the local office shuts down; EPCAMR is looking for a large format color map scanner for our mine pool maps

- Provided Tom Clarke-SRBC with copies of the original digital file copies of the schematics of the Old Forge Borehole; Informed Tom that EPCAMR would be working on the submission of a quarterly report for the mapping we've done for the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields for SRBC
- Informed Bill Best, President of the HBPS that they will need to begin to look at finding someone to transition to the HBPS website once our OSM/VISTA is gone to keep up with the notices and meeting events calendar
- Michael Watson, a current graduate student at Rutgers University in Camden, NJ who grew up near the coal region with a family history that is deeply rooted in Schuylkill County has been working on a writing project over the last few years exploring the historical significance of Pennsylvania's abandoned industrial sites, mainly focusing on mining; He appreciates EPCAMR's and HPBS's attempts to preserve the historic Huber Breaker as it is one of the few remaining in a region that literally and figuratively fueled our nation's industrial revolution; EPCAMR followed up with him to come up and conduct an interview with us and members of the HBPS
- Provided Mike with an excellent website for information on the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields; <http://www.northernfield.info/index.php>

Project Coordination

- Conducted the monthly Lackawanna Valley Watershed Borehole Elevation Monitoring with Mike at **13** locations
- Conducted the monthly Wyoming Valley Watershed Borehole Elevation Monitoring with Mike and Justyna-EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern at **24** locations
- Assisted the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with painting, scraping, and clearing brush along the main perimeter fence of the AML property for the future construction of the Anthracite Region Huber Miner's Memorial
- EPCAMR revised our more comprehensive watershed assessment proposal for the Nanticoke Creek AMD Remediation Treatment System Project to a quarterly monitoring phased program and re-submitted to Earth Conservancy for consideration since they will be moving towards the construction of an AMD Wetlands Treatment System along with a Maelstrom Oxidizer for the Askam AMD Boreholes soon
- Worked on Mine Pool Mapping Report Narrative writing; Requested info from John Dietz on Economics of Mine Pools for inclusion in the report or at least as references to his work in the Shamokin Creek Watershed
- Submitted our PA Fish & Boat Commission Tree Trout Grant Expense Report and submitting it to the agency for our file as we prepare our final narrative report on the grant
- EPCAMR Staff discussed with WPCAMR Staff our communications on putting together the AMD Treatment Systems Video and accompanying booklet/poster of the many different types of

treatment system options available state-wide for AMD Treatment; EPCAMR is awaiting the final production of the video that will be aired at the 13th Annual AMR Conference and has begun pulling together information from Bob Hedin and others, AMD Treat, etc. on designs and graphics for the poster booklet that EPCAMR will be creating

Conference Coordination

- Conducted an PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to move the agenda along and get everyone up to speed on the Conference; Updated the committee on the Speakers List and the Presenters List, Bios, Abstracts, Pre-Conference Tours, and Invited Speakers
- Worked with Mike to develop a Google Map version and several options for the Pre-Conference Tour and sent it along to the Pre-Conference Tour Committee for review and approval
- Meeting with Jessica Wolfe, Harvard University graduate student at the EPCAMR Office to review her completed thesis work on “Energetic, Extractive” redevelopment opportunities for the Huber Breaker, Ashley, PA; <http://www.jessicagwolff.com/>
- Worked with Wren on a Call for Artists invitation for the Silent Auction Fundraiser at the EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Dinner; Sent along the final camera ready Dinner Invitations, Brochures, and Sponsor Reply Cards to be printed and created by Corcoran Printing, Wilkes-Barre
- Worked with Laurie Popeck with Clean Creek Products, who was able to work with Stream Restoration Inc., to donate 150 iron oxide and manganese oxide glazed 4” trout fish magnets with EPCAMR across their sides & the #15 in the tail for our 15th Anniversary Dinner

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the May 2011 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement & Progress Report; Reviewed Mike & Wren’s monthly Board Reports
- Continued working with EPCAMR Staff on the development of EPCAMR’s 15th Anniversary and 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser Event, webpage, and online store registration process payment links; EPCAMR Staff sorted & categorized our entire online contacts database by categories including potential Dinner Sponsors and sent out solicitations for the upcoming Dinner & provided the contacts by County out to the EPCAMR Board for assistance with soliciting sponsorships
- Continue to fill Iron Oxide Pigment Orders and other items listed on our EPCAMR Online Store
- Filled out State Workers Insurance Fund information, Annual Premium payment, and filed it with our EPCAMR Insurance Folder
- Informed recipients of last year’s ARIPPA EPCAMR-WPCAMR Grant award winners that all of their project information, final reports, and grant stipulations had to be completed to be eligible for the upcoming 2011 round that is open; Only \$5000 is available this year