

EPCAMR



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June 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- John Welsh, Photographer and Video Documentarian, from Philadelphia, working on the Huber Breaker "Ashley's Breaker" project is setting up a meeting between Joe Robertson, Creator and President of Geoversive Envisioning, who (www.Geoversiv.com) teaches at Villanova University and is involved with programs regarding sustainability, energy & future <http://www.casavaria.com/geoversiv/>; It could be an interesting way to re-imagine the Huber site, for preservation and future use, as well as to get students, the community, and potential funders involved; We need a partnership like this in our area to stimulate this project at the Huber Site in Ashley, PA; Ray Clarke, from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society had asked me the other day if there were any Arts Grants that might assist with the construction of such a "theater-like building" that could house up to 50 people that could walk in on any given day to view historic film footage in black and black, artwork of regional artists that have come and gone into and around the Breaker over the years, historical Anthracite Coal Region footage that tells the story of our history, a meeting place that is authentic on the outside and modern on the inside with all the bells and whistles of modern technology that can utilize the internet, a wireless network, a screen, etc to showcase all the great work and museum like qualities that we want to express; This type of construction project and fundraising effort is just going to be one of many to keep moving forward on our phased approach to this site.
- Communicated with Lorelle Steach-PA EnviroThon Coordinator that EPCAMR would get an invoice to her once I pulled all the receipts for the **AMD Tie-Dye and Motivational Outreach Program** conducted at the 2013 PA EnviroThon held at Juniata College, last month

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR was informed by the LRCA that American Rock Salt Company has acquired land along the Lackawanna River for a Rock Salt Storage & Distribution Center and that they have applied to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a permit to discharge stormwater retention ponds into the River; Stormwater generated from these facilities can contain dangerously high sodium levels which severely impacts aquatic life; EPCAMR and its partners would be very interested in hearing how the company is planning on reducing the potential for the increased sodium levels that are commonly associated with rock salt; Therefore, EPCAMR had respectfully requested that the PA DEP schedule a public hearing on this environmental concern within the watershed; EPCAMR and LRCA, along with the SRBC have been working diligently and methodically to continue to move forward with addressing the AMD issues in the Lower Lackawanna River and adding an additional water quality issue to the mix could put us even further behind than what we are with addressing the AMD issues in the Lackawanna River watershed. The Lackawanna River stands to lose a lot of fish and a lot of water
- Attended the **3rd Anthracite Heritage Conference** held on Saturday, June 1, 2013, at the Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, PA and was a keynote speaker on EPCAMR's work on the **'3D Modeling and Mapping of the entire Northern Anthracite Coalfield's, including the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys'**
- Prepared a Letter of Support at the request of Ruth Roperti, PAEE President, for an **US EPA Region III Environmental Education Capacity Building Grant** to be administered by the PA Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE); Efforts are going to be made in the grant to reach out and work with non-traditional groups across PA on Environmental Education principles and outdoor activities
- EPCAMR completed background information on our organization, along with our logo, to submit the **Delaware Estuary Water Education Resource Guide 2013** Update to the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary at their request
- EPCAMR Staff's presentation to present at the SRBC Water Science Forum on October 7, 2013 was accepted; EPCAMR will highlight our work with the SRBC on developing **3D Mine Pool Models for the Anthracite Region Using EarthVision for the Lower Lackawanna River Watershed within the Susquehanna River Basin**

Technical Assistance

- Reviewed Mike's version of **RAMLIS 13** CD Tool and began building some new AML and AMD impacted County data sets related to the US Census Tracts and associated economic data from http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/sdc/pasdc_files/researchbriefs/2012_Municipal_Est.pdf; factfinder2.census.gov
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR are working with Terry Schmidt, Skelly & Loy, Inc. to come up with a flow chart on "**Permitting Challenges in the Field of AMD**" as a part of a deliverable for our EPCAMR 319 Grant
- John Dziak, with the Greater Pittston Historical Society (GPHS) requested technical assistance in locating a copy of map(s) of the land owned by the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy (LVC) and the Sand and gravel company, near the Twin Shaft Disaster; The GPHS asked if EPCAMR could identify on that map the center spot of the area of the Twin Shaft Disaster; The Owner of the property is READING BM & N.R.R.: PO BOX 218, PORT CLINTON, PA 19549-0218; From our knowledge of that area having been "pancaked" with several layers of coal collapsing on top of one another, it is one of the reasons why the AMD in that area is so spread out in the marshy wetlands and subsidence prone area along the river; The GPHS is hoping to revitalize the group and develop a speakers list on relevant topics and John thinks that the LVC-EPCAMR-LRCA-SRBC AMD Project may be a hit if we can hone it down to only the Lower Lackawanna Area; Discussed water level conditions in the area of the Twin Shaft that was filled several years ago as well and the EPCAMR Staff provided John with a map of the area addressing his concerns and needs
- Worked with Aaron Stredny, Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District to teach him how to write a **\$2000 PACD Mini-Grant** to support plantings at EPCAMR's Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project in the Solomon Creek Watershed, Luzerne County; Will incorporate and a one-page Evaluation Sheet on Non-Point Source Pollution to all volunteer participants that are involved in the project over the course of the Summer/Fall 2013; Within a week, the Luzerne Conservation District was notified that they were one of the recipients of their Educational Mini-Grants
- Provided a copy of EPCAMR's MOA from **OSM TIPS** to Dr. Allan Comp, OSM-who coordinates the ACCT/WHWT Teams nationally that are working on SMRCA-related work to see if they can perform similar tasks and provide technical assistance that EPCAMR is currently offering in PA to our community groups, particularly in the realm of GIS, 3D Modeling and Mapping, and the development of Mine Water Resources from underground mine pool complexes for economic redevelopment
- Wilkes University had an interest in putting forth an Act 13 Grant Application to the CFA and wanted to partner with EPCAMR; EPCAMR provided a few Professors with ideas related to getting their students involved in water quality monitoring, flow monitoring, biological data collecting, and other research related to AMD and AML impacted streams in Northeastern PA; Awaiting a response from them on how to proceed and to see if they have any other ideas

Technical Assistance

- Chris Kocher, President-Wildlands Conservancy, our regional partner in the Lehigh Valley submitted a letter to EPCAMR formally asking us to sit on a the Upper Lehigh Advisory Committee to develop an **Upper Lehigh River Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan**; The William Penn Foundation will be using this Plan as a guide for future funding in the watershed; EPCAMR obliged since at this point it only involved a few meetings throughout the Summer
- Attended the *PAEE Non-Form Environmental Education Certification Meeting* at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, outside of State College, PA to review the Marketing Plan and entire Certification Program Guidelines for the soon to be released effort led by PAEE; EPCAMR Executive Director is on the PAEE State-wide Advisory Board and has been for nearly a decade

Project Coordination

- Met with Frank Nockley, Sr. to obtain permission to access his property to conduct the cleanup and stream restoration efforts on his property; Mr. Nockley was very impressed and pleased to participate and allow us to work on the tributary on his property; Informed the Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited of our upcoming **Nockley's Tributary Cleanup** in the Solomon Creek Watershed on July 1st and July 15th, in the Wilkes-Barre Area in order for them to inform their members who were interested in volunteering with EPCAMR on stream restoration projects in the Wyoming Valley; Rob Gaiteri, a volunteer with TU would like to conduct some outreach with the Wilkes University student volunteers that will be participating in the event; EPCAMR Staff coordinated the Cleanup effort and registered the project with American Rivers to receive free garbage bags and a membership for participating in the National Great American Cleanup for Rivers Month in June, although, the cleanup will be on July 1st and the 15th; EPCAMR Staff and Aaron Stredny, Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District walked the entire channel and had drawn a map of the larger debris piles and snags in the tributary to prep for the site cleanup; Coordinated and attended a photo-op with Susan Turcmanovich and John Yamona, from PA American Water to receive our "big \$8000 check" presentation at the site on June 12th; EPCAMR Staff spoke to the Pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church to obtain permission to locate the dumpster and chipper on their property for the period of the cleanup; Pastor David Szeto was more than happy to oblige and appreciated our efforts to clean up the area and reduce the flooding hazard to his Church and the Day Care that is housed in the lower level of the Church also; Put an order into LOWE's and FORESTRY SUPPLIES for supplies for the cleanup
- Tom Venesky, Outdoors Writer for the Times-Leader, covered a full two-page spread on EPCAMR work to complete the **Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan** and our upcoming Stream Restoration Projects in the Solomon Creek Watershed that were recommended in the plan thanks to some EPCAMR funding provided by the PA American Water company and PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., administered by the Luzerne Conservation District; Toured Sugar Notch Run with Tom and a photographer to get the story and was able to do some "single-line sampling" at the same time
<http://www.timesleader.com/news/outdoors-sports/596165/Study-provides-hope-for-trout-in-Solomon-Creek>

Project Coordination

- Continued to work on **Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Restoration and Assessment Plan (WRAP) Project** with LRCA; Meetings with landowners have been scheduled for the month to negotiate a common-level ratio to determine the value of the abandoned mine lands and other property in the area that is being considered for a Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA) Act 13 Acquisition Proposal, by the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy, in partnership with LRCA, EPCAMR, and the SRBC to treat the Old Forge AMD Borehole and potentially the Duryea Outfall; Coordinated with Bernie McGurl on getting on the Luzerne County Council agenda to gain a resolution of support for the Project submission and the Duryea Borough Council's support and resolution as well; Attended both meetings to present details on the Executive Summary of the Plan prior to seeking the necessary resolutions; Sent an Executive Summary to Sen. Lisa Baker and Sen. John Yudichak of the Plan to gain their support for the project in the hopes of receiving a letter of support from them as well that will help stress the importance of the project to Northeastern PA; Scheduled a meeting for the month of July with Sen. Yudichak on the project
- Reviewed the **SMCRA Lewis Mine Rehabilitation AMD Treatment System Project** grant agreement from the PA DEP Grants Center, Harrisburg and coordinated with Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental, one of primary contractors in the upcoming project with regards to putting together a Contract Agreement and Eric Rosengrant-PA DEP Moshannon DMO Inspector on obtaining additional water quality and quantity information for the initial start up of the project; Reviewed June 13, 2013 water quality data from the Lewis Mine discharge sent by Eric to EPCAMR; Began to think about a date in the Summer to get everyone to the site to begin the survey work and site preparations for the rehab of the system
- Submitted the E & S Plan for Administrative Review to the Luzerne Conservation District for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project**; The initial submission came back inadequate with a few minor revisions that were necessary and forwarded directly to our Engineer, Skelly & Loy, Inc., who quickly made the necessary changes and resubmitted the revised plans that were then approved by Heather Berlew, E & S Supervisor II at the Luzerne Conservation District; EPCAMR is awaiting our approval letter for the file; A \$200 refund was returned to EPCAMR due to the District's policy on supporting and waiving Growing Greener Projects funded utilizing State funds; EPCAMR is awaiting our formal extension beyond the June 30, 2013 for one year until June 30, 2014 on the project from the Grants Center as we were assured by our Project Officer, Dennis Palladino, PA DEP BAMR; EPCAMR has informed our engineer, Skelly & Loy, Inc. to stay in a holding pattern until we receive the official extension and delay work on the project accordingly
- Received a copy of Charlie Jones' Eagle Scout Proposal Submission that was approved by the **Boy Scouts of America, Troop #154**, Kingston, PA, who are partnering with the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, EPCAMR, and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Wilkes University, and the Earth Conservancy to work on the **ACCT Waterboxx Planting and Reforestation Research Project** utilizing 20 Groassis Waterboxxes on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, a reclaimed mine site in Wanamie (Newport Township, Luzerne County), and at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Wilkes-Barre/Hanover Twp.); EPCAMR has come up with a project that would allow his son to prepare and plant 20 of our 40 seedlings on the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park site in the Summer 2013; Planned planting is for August 3rd; Worked with Sarah-Jane Gerstman, EPCAMR's intern working on the Waterboxx Research Project to find the alternative site in Wanamie that could be monitored by Wilkes students for the 2nd year pending approval to access Earth Conservancy property on the reclaimed site to conduct the work

Project Coordination

- Coordinated with Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Borough, on the future installation of the flow meters, data loggers, and weirs on **Hazle Creek AMD Flow Monitoring Project** later this Summer; Jim will inform EPCAMR Staff when he needs our technical field assistance in setting them up since we are familiar with their installation and we installed some of the original v-notch weirs at the discharge locations to obtain flow measurements several years ago

Conference Coordination

- Coordinated with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator and Brandi Hunter-Davenport, PACD Director of Education to obtain PACD Speaker Abstract, Bios, a tri-fold brochure specifically for the PA AMR Conference, development of the Conference Program, and to work on a Post-Conference Survey on Survey Monkey for the upcoming **15th Anniversary PA AMR Conference** in August; Reviewed Scholarship requests as they come in; Tried to get permission to link to some recent studies conducted by Geisinger's Environmental Health Institute and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health related to AMD and Community Health Issues and was informed that EPCAMR would have to pay to publicize the information, even though we were a partner in the Projects, so we respectfully declined to utilize the research; OSM cannot present on Global Reforestation, but is possibly looking to secure a presenter on Appalachian Region Reforestation for the Conference if there is a slot available
- Invited US DOI Director Joe Pizarchik, as a morning keynote speaker on August 9th, for the **PA AMR Conference** and am awaiting some type of confirmation of his availability from Fred Cruise, his scheduler; Invited PA DEP Secretary Abruzzo to the Conference as well through the completion of an External Invitation Form and later found out he couldn't commit, so we then invited Glen Rider-PA DEP Bureau of Restoration & Conservation to talk about the shuffling within the PA DEP and BAMR and the District Mining Offices who accepted; Informed the entire PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; Continued working on the Pre-Conference Workshop webpage (Cindy Leonard will now be speaking instead of Peggy Outen from the Bayer Center for Non-Profits) and other pages and elements of the Conference Coordination; Worked on getting an Abstract and Bio from Larry Ruane, PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program; Pushed out two articles to Dave Hess, to put into his Environmental Digest newsletter, one on sponsors and exhibitors, and the other on completing the Watershed Heroes Cards; Reviewed our Conference Contract with the Ramada Inn Conference Center and made some necessary changes and edits to send back for the final contract regarding the removal of certain taxes and charges
<http://2013.treatminewater.com/pa-amr-conference-seeking-sponsors-exhibitors-for-15th-anniversary-conference-august-9-10th/>
- Worked with Jeff McNelly, Executive Director, to line up speakers for the June 11th, **ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Fundraiser and Technical Reclamation Talks** in State College, PA as a part of their Golf Outing; EPCAMR will be providing our AV/Laptop/Screens for the Program; Speakers are: Keith Brady-PA DEP Beneficial Use of Coal Ash in PA; Tom Clark-SRBC- Beneficial Use of Coal Ash at the Bear Run AMD Treatment Project; Robert and Mike-EPCAMR- Lackawanna Valley 3D Mine Pool Mapping and Its Potential Application to the Co-Gen Industry; Andy McAllister-WPCAMR- Legislative issues and updates regarding abandoned mines; Received a check for **\$140** from ARIPPA as a donation following the event from Cristy Doyle, ARIPPA's new Administrative Assistant

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Worked with Mel Talmadge to review potential volunteer applicants from the www.VolunteerMatch.org EPCAMR Account Summary that were interested in becoming volunteers with EPCAMR and to create files on them; Extended the deadlines on most of the volunteer opportunities until 12/26/13
- *Sharon Burneo*, is interested in becoming a Fossil Hunter for EPCAMR; There are plenty of fossils to be found within 50 miles of San Diego, CA. Maybe you can review this article and do a search of places to seek and find some of the fossils native to CA; EPCAMR forwarded her links to local fossil hunting areas and suggested that we can then later work out how to get some of them to EPCAMR for our collection to be used in our environmental education Programs. We already have an elementary education program for 2nd graders called "Digging up the Wyoming Valley", tied into fossils of plants, animals, and dinosaur bones!
<http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php?/topic/3695-fossil-collecting-in-california/>;
http://articles.latimes.com/1987-06-28/local/me-245_1_san-diego-zoo
- Contacted by Susan Turcmanovich, who works for PA Water and also as a teacher at Misericordia University and was interested in knowing if EPCAMR offers internships to Public Relations college students; EPCAMR informed her that we in fact, do offer non-paid internships to students, and that we would work with the University, should they provide the students with internship credit hours or funding through a cooperative or work-study type position, since we don't have a formal MOU or MOA as we do with other local Universities and Colleges; Suggested that the student send his resume along to EPCAMR for consideration
- EPCAMR worked with our Volunteer Graphics Designer, *Tatiana Ronu*, to come up with an 11" x 17" poster with denim jeans, jackets, shorts, etc. on it; All kinds that are specifically acid-washed or lightly colored; We are looking for recycled white t-shirts too or t-shirts with/without print on them that are lightly colored. All sizes. We want to think about starting a recycled iron oxide clothing line for EPCAMR to help us out in bringing in additional donations to support our cause. We want to use the poster and image file to put on our site to see if we can get people to donate these lightly used recycled clothing for our starter project. Noone has ever done this before. We think we can get some awesome orange, red, and yellow colored recycled jeans, shirts, etc. out of the effort; This is something we may want to unveil in the Fall 2013
- Followed up with *Guinevere Whittington*, who is a high school student from Florida, and interested in becoming an EPCAMR Volunteer Rock Collector; Her mother, Tabitha corresponded with EPCAMR and said that Guinevere along with her younger brother, would be able to get us some Florida Limestone, Coral, Trilobites, Aragonite, Phosphate, Quartz, Calcite, Kaolinite, Montmorillonite, Coquina, Chert, Anhydrite, Solidified Wood, Gypsum, and some gem stones; Mel will follow up with a VRF form and ask for photos of the students
- Worked with Mel to get all the necessary VRF paperwork together for *Roxanne Li*, who is another volunteer interested in working with EPCAMR, currently working for the CEO, and originally from San Antonio, TX; She'll be volunteering two days a week for several hours at a time in the afternoons with EPCAMR; EPCAMR Staff will be training her to become a Water Quality Monitor and get her certified in AMD Monitoring, Macro ID, and Visual Stream Habitat Assessment; Roxanne already photo-inventoried the Nockley Tributary prior to the cleanup on July 1st

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Pamela Urbanski*, from Kingston, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Volunteer Canvas Artist, along with several of her youth group high school students that are very artistically talented and are interested in working on our “The AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse” Activity Book backdrop scenes on our already jessoed canvas pieces
- *Chad Hashagen*, Wapwallopen, PA was interested in completing his Community Service Requirements for a minor infraction that he had worked out with the Alternative Community Service Program in Snow Hill, MD, over a Spring Break incident; Chad worked 45 hours with EPCAMR and completed various volunteer tasks and projects that allowed him to satisfy his requirements for the Program and finish some backlog work for EPCAMR at the same time; EPCAMR provided a Letter of Verification to Mallory Eckman, his Program Coordinator showing that he satisfied his requirements
- *Todd Stires*, Lake Scranton, PA currently a student at Penn State University working towards a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, with a minor in Watershed and Water Resource Management and Wildlife and Fisheries Management was interested in obtaining an internship with EPCAMR and was directed to the EPCAMR website by his class Advisor Dr. Rob Shannon, as part of determining the type of work he may be interested in pursuing after graduation; Local reclamation is the heart of where he'd like to focus his career ambitions; Set up a meeting with him to discuss future internship possibilities
- Received another potential unpaid internship resume from LRCA for *Ashwan Baikadi*, from North Abington Twp., PA, who has a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland; EPCAMR will follow up with him when something becomes available, however, travel from the Abington Heights area of Lackawanna County may be a limiting factor for him to drive such a great distance to intern or volunteer with EPCAMR
- *Bill Wellock*, who works for the Citizen's Voice as a reporter, requested information on how to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and Mel obliged and sent him our VRF to complete; Bill followed many of EPCAMR's stories in the Citizen's Voice that were covered by other reporters and wanted to get involved in local environmental projects in the Wyoming Valley

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the May EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- Received Paul Lohin's resignation from the EPCAMR Board on June 4, 2013; Paul also has resigned from the Schuylkill Headwaters and the Schuylkill Conservation District after many, many years of service to each of our organizations

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Received information from the State Workers' Insurance Fund related to our Workers' Compensation Program and their designation of Health Care Providers should there ever be any work-related injuries; The following information was provided to all Staff on June 6, 2013:
 - (1.) Notice to Employees In Case of Work-Related Injuries
 - (2.) Notice: Medical Treatment for Your Work Injury or Occupational Illness Rights and Duties under Section 306(f.1)(1)(i) of the Workers' Compensation Act (needed to be signed by each Staff member)
 - (3.) Instruction for Prescription Benefit Claims through KeyScripts Benefits Management
- Prepared an extension letter on June 19, 2013, to the PA DEP for our **Section 319 Program Conservation District Mining Program Grant in Eastern PA** from June 31, 2013 through September 30, 2013; PA DEP Section 319 will be providing EPCAMR with an additional **\$36,000** in grant funds through a grant amendment to continue to support our coordination efforts and technical assistance being provided state-wide to the PA DEP and our coalfield communities; Received our official grant extension on June 25, 2013, just a week later
- Renewed EPCAMR Staff's Health Care Benefits Premium Renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield on June 21st, 2013, which was the deadline for renewal-Total Increase in Premium over last year was only \$36; Beginning with an open enrollment period that starts October 1, 2013, small group employers will be able to shop for and buy insurance on the Exchange (also known as the Marketplace); Health Care Reform under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires that employers notify employees of exchange coverage options; The Department of Labor (DOL) recently released sample language to EPCAMR to help prepare these notices. The DOL also released an updated COBRA election form; <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/newsroom/tr13-02.html> and <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102690018265-336/Model+COBRA+Continuation+Coverage+Election+Notice+2013-05.pdf>
- GuideStar informed EPCAMR that we have achieved the **Bronze Level** of participation because you have submitted all of the basic information required to participate in the GuideStar Exchange Seal; We'll be working to get to the Gold Level as soon as we figure out what paperwork is necessary to meet the guidelines to continue to lead by transparency http://www.guidestar.org/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2156124&hq_l=5&hq_v=688c60347e;
- Paid EPCAMR's SWIF Workmen's Compensation and posted the Physician's Panel Notice in the EPCAMR Office