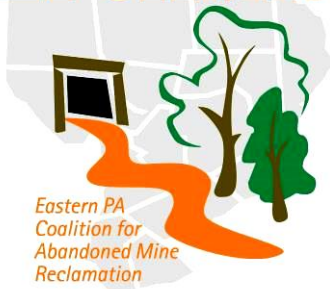


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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June 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR supported SB 1346, a bill that would provide a tax credit for waste coal plants to economically compete with the other energy industries while still reclaiming thousands of acres of abandoned mine lands through the member ARIPPA Plants across PA; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-supports-waste-coal-tax-credit-senate-bill-1346-that-will-continue-to-remove-culm-banks-through-arippa-plants/>
- Provide a link of PA's definition of Environmental Justice to the PAEE PA State Consortia Community of Learners; http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa_environmental_justice_areas/20991; Posted the Community of Learners Bio booklet on the Facebook Group page for others to have as a resource; Put a link to EE Resources on the Facebook group as well; www.eeresources.net; Continued to request that the remaining Community of Learners request to be added to the FaceBook Group to increase our communications with one another and exchange information, links, resources, and events more easily; Followed up with Ray Gant, from the Philadelphia Area, who is the founder of the *Ray of Hope Project* (<http://www.therayofhopeproject.org/>) that does a lot of effective community outreach & networking with underserved communities; Had a wonderful discussion on the phone about each other's work, our similarities, and then about what our PA Consortia was looking for in a speaker for one of the future webinars that we are planning; We're looking for him to provide us with 15 minutes of his time to provide our group with some insight and suggestions for improving everyone's collective community outreach efforts and networking within our underserved communities; He is open to the suggestion and would need some more details in terms of time, date, etc.; He has also mentioned that he is close to the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education where Camilla works and should we need him in person to be at future meeting, he might be able to make it to that location; He is a very powerful speaker that has brought many people together empowering local communities
- Submitted comments and edits for a EE Collaborative Writing Assignment to *Vivian Masters* on EPCAMR's AMD Avenger's vs. The Pollution Posse Activity/Story Book that we authored in 2002 as a part of her Storytelling in EE Chapter for an online course that we're participating in with Cornell University
- EPCAMR signed on to a letter to STOP the Cuts in the State Budget that was submitted by the PA Growing Greener Coalition's Executive Director, *Andrew Heath*, with dozens of signatories

Technical Assistance

- Received an update from *Tom Clark-SRBC* on EPCAMR's reimbursement for our *Mine Pool Mapping Project* in the Anthracite Region under our contract agreement with them to produce the 3D Mine Pool Models and Volume Calculation Estimates throughout the region using the best available maps and historic data collected by EPCAMR

- Earth Conservancy requested EPCAMR's assistance in hiring temporary seasonal positions for the month of June to mark trails on their abandoned mine lands and to take pictures of the scenic vistas along the trail routes in the Southern part of the Wyoming Valley; Resumes and cover letters are coming in pretty regularly for these short term seasonal positions; EC will pay EPCAMR to oversee the seasonal positions and workload and will purchase the necessary equipment and spray paint for the project; Worked on getting EC added as an additionally insured to our Certificate of Insurance through POWR, however, were denied by the underwriter due to what they deemed to be too much exposure and therefore sought another quote from *Yeager Insurance, LLC*; Received several resumes and am awaiting a response from the new insurance agency before calling the potential candidates in for interviews; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/2-seasonal-part-time-epcamr-trail-marker-maintenance-hikers-wanted/>
- Contacted *Lighthawk*; <http://www.lighthawk.org>; EPCAMR could definitely use a flight path over the Anthracite Region's streams and rivers impacted by AMD...flowing orange and such, along with the mine scarred lands and reclaimed sites in view to help tell our story and market our work and outreach efforts to the public and government officials on all levels
- Received a new updated brochure on the Replicator 2X, 3D Printer from MakerBot; The Replicator 2 went out of production and this is the new model, which is also **\$800** more expensive; *Grant Parker* provided EPCAMR with an adjusted quote for our use in future grant applications

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Executive Director was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Plymouth Historical Society's President, *Steve Konrad*, at their Open House for his contributions to the preservation of the historic **Avondale Mine Disaster** location in Plymouth Township and for EPCAMR's financial contributions and community service coordination in the creation of a Community Trailhead at the site located in Plymouth Township, just below Avondale Hill, Plymouth Township, PA
- Worked with *Ben Lorson*, PA Fish & Boat Commission to draft up a Summary Narrative to provide to Ashley Borough on the proposed **Dam Removal and Trout Stream Restoration Project** that is in the works through some mitigation funding from PA DOT that is anticipated to begin in the Fall 2014; Followed up with *Frank Siroka*, Ashley Borough Councilman to set up a meeting with him at the EPCAMR Office and then to hopefully appear before Council to update them as a whole on the proposed project to gain their full support; Retrieved two UGI Pole numbers that will need to be temporarily relocated during the project to include the cost of removing them in the budget for the project and submitted the numbers to *Ben Lorson*
- Followed up with *Bob Hedin* and *Neil Wolfe*, Hedin Environmental to see where we were in the approval process with Marc Lewis on the revised construction plans for the **Lewis Mine AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation**; Informed that Marc Lewis was on vacation and wouldn't return until June 23, 2014, so we'll know more towards the end of the month
- Requested that *Charles Medico*, President of Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC provide EPCAMR with a copy of the fully executed MOU for the **Old Forge AMD Treatment Project** for our files
- Coordinated and cleaned up the abandoned mine parcel along Line Street where illegal dumping has been rampant for several years in partnership with Wilkes University, the Nanticoke Neighborhood Crime Watch Association, City of Nanticoke, and Pollock Enterprises; Over **50** volunteers attended

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- EPCAMR ordered a ½ sheet cake from WEIS Markets in State College, PA to honor and celebrate ARIPPA's 25th Anniversary at our **PA AMR Conference** on June 26th, 2014; Provided editorial comments to Anne Daymut, WPCAMR on the draft Conference Brochure while converting the file into an updated Adobe InDesign format; Provided the PA AMR Conference Committee with our list of requests for Scholarships for approval on our

Conference Call; **20** Scholarships will be approved for the lodging scholarships that we'll be providing for them to attend one or both days of the Conference; Notified all of the Scholarship Recipients that they were awarded their request for scholarships via e-mail; Robindale Energy became a **\$1000** Silver Sponsor of the Conference; <http://www.robindaleenergy.com/>; Convened another Conference Call with *Jennifer Brookes-Stahl-Banquet* Manager for the Ramada, to confirm up final details on the Conference Rooms, Meeting Rooms, Food Services, and Exhibitors; Worked out how the Silent Auction will work and the door prizes; Mailed out check to **WVIA** for WaterWise DVDs; Coordinated the PA AMR Conference on June 26th & 27th, 2014

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Armir Koka*, Philadelphia area, signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; He has experience in editing, shooting film, and outdoor photography; www.phillyvideophoto.com
- *Michael Kinney*, Williamsport, PA, signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; He has experience in aerial photography, underwater photography, GOPro Camera filming, quad copter drones, HD film, and slow-motion editing; www.youtube.com/user/naturentime
- *Jessica Krzywicki*, Nanticoke, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; She has a background in photography
- *Sarah Schultz*, Hazleton, PA works at a group home and her residents absolutely love gardening and being outdoors; They already have one landscaping volunteer opportunity on their resume and are actively seeking more; EPCAMR is putting them in touch with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to see if they can work together on the gardening project at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley
- *Angela Buzzinski*, Wilkes-Barre, PA, signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; She has a background in photography
- *Chris Prestridge*, Hanover, PA, was interested in Summer Opportunities with EPCAMR and submitted his resume; Was looking for a paid internship, however, EPCAMR has no funding to cover additional paid internships
- *Eric Hernandez*, Wilkes-Barre, PA a Senior at Meyers High School, is interested in working on a stream monitoring project in the Solomon Creek with EPCAMR to obtain his 30 hours of community service to graduate; EPCAMR is working with him and his Advisor through the Watershed Education Program to put together a monitoring plan in the area where we will be removing the dam on Solomon Creek in Ashley and doing a stream restoration project for trout habitat improvement at a Borough Park
- *Kerry Michalek*, Kingston, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR when we do AMD Tie Dye Workshops
- *Holly Halecki*, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA and former EPCAMR Intern, signed up to continue to be an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer
- *Patricia Borns*, Coral Gables, FL, a videographer and journalist with a DSLR rig is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Volunteer, however distance may be a factor unless she visits PA often; <https://vimeo.com/41972779>
- Finalized details with *Joe Dal Santo*, Kingston, PA who is a recent high school graduate looking to obtain his Eagle Scout Certification from the Boy Scouts of America; Joe will be planting a dozen black gum seedlings in Waterboxxes at the **Espy Run AMD Treatment System** on Earth Conservancy property on June 20, 2014 with members of Troop #154

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts; Completed April and May's Monthly Board Report; Meeting with President-Bernie McGurl to sign checks; Completed the June Board Report; Prepared for and conducted the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting on June 19, 2014
- Interviewed *Samantha Schafer*, Lake Harmony, PA for our GIS Technician position under our MSI Mine Mapping Grant and hired her part time starting in June; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-hires-samantha-schafer-emmaus-as-a-part-time-gis-technician-to-work-on-the-mine-subsidence-insurance-mapping-project/>
- Informed by the PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration that EPCAMR will not need to reapply for funding through the Section 319 or Growing Greener Program until the Summer 2016; This is wonderful news for EPCAMR; Working up Progress Reports and Reimbursements for April, May 2014 with Mike
- Met with *Tim Bilski*, **Verizon Wireless** Non-Profit/Government Account Executive, who informed EPCAMR that we can get a Non-Profit Bundle for our phone, internet, and wireless networks cheaper than the Verizon LAN service that we currently switched to recently; The Wireless Division is separate from the LAN service Division and the LAN services are more expensive
- Prepared a Letter of Support and Nomination for the North Branch Land Trust, a regional partner of EPCAMR's for the Land Trust Alliance's National Land Trust Excellence Awards; <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about/who-we-are/awards/national-land-trust-excellence-award>



EPCAMR Staff and Volunteers at the Hanover #9 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project location in Nanticoke, PA planting dozens of large trees on the site along Espy Run, in partnership with the landowner, the Earth Conservancy, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, NE Office. From left to right: Palmira Miller-PEC NE Office, Charlie Mangan-EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer, Mike Hewitt-EPCAMR, Robert E. Hughes-EPCAMR, and Jackie Dickman-EC.