



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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June 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Conducted an AMD Education/Outreach and Macro-Invertebrate Program with **35** Sullivan County Elementary 5th graders in LaPorte, PA with Watershed Outreach Intern, *Haley Gianonne*; Received a personal thank you from Corey Richmond, Sullivan County Conservation District Watershed Specialist and Brandy Walker, 4th & 5th grade teacher from the Sullivan County Elementary School on the exceptional quality of our program given to the students and just how much they all remembered during the end of the school day and their recollection of environmental concepts taught and learned from all of the guest speakers
- Finalized the AMD and Anthracite Mining Tour agenda for the Commonwealth's Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board on July 8th, coordinated by *Duane Feagley*, PA Anthracite Council, and EPCAMR, in partnership with *Wayne Lehman*, Watershed Specialist with the Schuylkill Conservation District, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, *Bobby Burns* from Keystone Anthracite, and the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office; Four AMD Treatment System sites are in Schuylkill County and the Brownsville Mining Site and Weston Tunnel AMD Remediation Project will be visited on June 8th in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field; **18** attendees are expected
- Conducted an AMD Education/Outreach and AMD Tie Dye T-shirt Program with the Greater Nanticoke Area 4th grade class of **180** students
- Senator *Camera Bartolotta* introduced legislation known as the "*Treated Mine Water Act*" that would help reduce the use of fresh water in natural gas drilling operations by promoting the use of treated mine water; Bartolotta's bill would help remove this uncertainty and promote the beneficial use of treated mine water in oil and gas operations by clarifying liabilities associated with this water source; EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed the bill and prepared comments to counter the bill's points related to the release of liability for the mine operator, the treated mine water will not be considered a solid waste, and the risk associated with the health and safety of mining impacted communities
- Forwarded around to our EPCAMR Partners in the region a questionnaire from the PA DEP BCR on obtaining stakeholder input on evaluating the reorganization of the PA DEP's Bureau to improve waters and remove dirty water from the Federal List of Impaired Waters;
<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/Watershed%20Management/WatershedPortalFiles/AMD/AMD%20Questionnaire.pdf>
- EPCAMR Program Manager *Mike Hewitt* and Executive Director provided several STEM Teachers from E.L. Meyers High School with a presentation for their STEM Program going into the Fall 2015 that is working with 3D Printers in the classroom; E.L. Meyers High School is interested in working on a

partnership with EPCAMR to try and produce scaled down versions of our 3D Mine Pool models for the Wyoming Valley

- The U.S. EPA released *EJSCREEN*, a powerful environmental justice screening and mapping tool that uses high resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially higher environmental burdens and vulnerable populations; *EJSCREEN*'s simple to understand color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience; Forwarded to the EPCAMR Staff as a resource tool; <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- Provided suggested topics of interest to the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Community for the upcoming August 12th, Aggregate Advisory Board related to limestone quarries, off-spec lime, limestone sand, foundry sand, and any educational materials or brochures on the various sizes of aggregate that could be shared with our community groups; Discussed setting up a tour at a limestone quarry for the PA AMR Community; Asked for a list of aggregate companies through the PA Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA); *Peter Vlahos*, President of PACA will follow up with EPCAMR before the next meeting
- Updated EPCAMR Volunteer Opportunities on www.VolunteerMatch.org
- Travelled to the McGlynn Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA to set up and schedule a meeting with *Sister Eleace*, Executive Director to develop a renewed partnership between EPCAMR and the Center's after school program to conduct some outdoor environmental education opportunities with our Staff coordinated by our Urban Outreach Specialist, *Denise Hernandez*
- Met with *Paula Longo*, Environmental Educator with Bear Creek Charter School to discuss conducting future environmental education programs and teacher training workshops with teachers from the Charter School
- EPCAMR Staff attended the **NCAC Annual Dinner** at the Hilton Hotel in Scranton, PA to receive their 1st Place Award in the *Environmental Action* Category for our creation of the EPCAMR Mobile Solar AMD Kiln that is used to process, dry, and recycle oxides from AMD with the use of a 45-watt solar panel system that keeps it off-grid; EPCAMR partnered with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and PPL to fund and construct the project; EPCAMR built a second smaller mobile kiln for Plains-Solomon Elementary and is building another one this Fall for Heights Elementary to teach the students about AMD and the work of EPCAMR; EPCAMR received a \$500 cash award and a free membership to NCAC
- Coordinated with Oregon University Professor *Veronica Malinay* and students who are in the Dalton, PA area for a Field Study of Water Impacts through their Landscape Architecture Program; EPCAMR Executive Director worked with Staff and local partners to put together a day long field tour of AMD sites, treatment sites, and historic places where significant mining disasters occurred in the Northern Anthracite Coal Region for July 1st; Provided them with a tentative agenda and outline for the tour
- Reviewed SB875; Provided *Tracey Carluccio*, Delaware Riverkeeper Network with talking points for a memo that she is producing to educate members of the House ERC Committee on SB875 related to the differences between AMD and liabilities as they pertain to watershed groups, volunteer groups, and the active coal companies under Surface Mining Permits and fracking; Signed on to an Opposition letter to SB875

Technical Assistance

- Assisted the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) in preparing a **\$6500** grant to construct a replica Powder House on the site of the Miners Memorial Park, Ashley, PA that was submitted in May and was notified that the HBPS was awarded **\$2300** towards the project
- Continued developing the draft PA DCED Grant Proposal for the **Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation Project** with *Ray Clarke*, Chairman and Treasurer of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Ashley, PA for Phase II and III Construction proposals in the amount of **\$151,262**; Coordinated getting all of the necessary documentation together with *Mr. Clarke* and members of the HBPS Board; Secured **\$20,000** cash private contribution match from Adaptive, a privately held company in California that has ties to the Northeast part of PA
- Provided *Elizabeth Hughes*, Director of Communications, Earth Conservancy (EC) with an estimate on the costs/acre on establishing a riparian buffer in a conveyance channel for some stormwater work leading to a detention basin on one of their reclamation projects that they are submitting to PA DEP Growing Greener Plus for a grant; Explained to her how riparian buffers could remediate the effects of AMD and the benefits of tree plantings; EPCAMR is going to be a partner in the project that is being submitted
- EPCAMR Staff visited *Bill Yourey's* property in Donaldson, PA in the Southern Coalfields off of Middle Creek Road in the Northern Swatara Creek Watershed to conduct a field investigation of several areas that Bill is interested in seeing if they qualify for possible State or Federal funding for reclamation or AMD remediation, if the water quality was determined to be impacted by AMD; Concluded that the area may qualify for SMCRA Title IV AML Funds through PA DEP BAMR due to an open shaft and several large stripping pits that have been abandoned and contain illegal dumping and trash; The water quality from Bailey's Run and several other small tributaries were minimally impacted and when tested were quite healthy in terms of stream health and ecology; Informed Bill that we would come back down to sample the additional tributaries over the Summer since we didn't bring the testing equipment that would have allowed us to sample more sites in the field when we just anticipating a hike through the property of abandoned mine lands for a cursory review of the property on our first trip out to his property; Bill has graciously agreed to allow us on to the property at any time for future sampling; Forwarded his name to the Schuylkill Conservation District for additional follow up
- Assisted *Kristie Fach*, Program Coordinator, Wildlands Conservancy with further development of their **Black Creek AMD Restoration Plan Growing Greener Plus** grant in partnership with Weather Borough, Weather Borough Planning Commission, PA DEP BCR, TU, EPCAMR, and USGS; Mentioned the need for additional mine pool mapping for the watershed, should it be considered in the proposal and informed the partners that EPCAMR has also put in a Growing Greener Plus grant to monitor and evaluate mine pools across the EPCAMR Region, with the Black Creek being one of our priority areas to consider
- Offered technical assistance to the PAEE through the delegation of some of EPCAMR's Watershed Outreach Intern's time to assist with coordinating some administrative tasks, computer work, database management, graphics design, brochure development, web updates, publicity, outreach, and conference coordination duties for the 2016 PAEE Conference, which EPCAMR is involved with, since the Executive Director is a volunteer Regional Director for the NE Region of PAEE and involved with the EECapacity Project; Conducted some internet research to see if PAEE would qualify for the Combined Federal Campaign, how much work it would be to apply, and whether PAEE would likely get much out of it for Ed McCrea, President, PAEE; http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm1647c.pdf
- Provided *Cliff Denholm*, Stream Restoration Inc., with a letter of support and commitment to assist with a Dashed Training Workshop in the Anthracite Region, technical assistance within the online database, possible monitoring, and conversion of water quality data and flow data to be input into the database for SRI's Growing Greener Plus Grant

- Provided *Pat Kennedy*, Board Member of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, a copy of EPCAMR's template for Intern Activity Descriptions to give him an idea of what types of tasks that he might want to add to it so that EPCAMR can assist them with projects that we are partners on in Ashley, PA
- Forwarded a copy of the PA Local Government Guide to Act 13 Funds to *Elizabeth Hughes*, Director of Communications, EC and *Bernie McGurl*, Executive Director, LRCA, should they want to apply for future grant funds
- Provided *Cathy Haffner*, Wildlife Biologist, PA Game Commission with links to abandoned mine land GIS layers, at her request, to be included in the updated State Wildlife Action Plan; EPCAMR Executive Director has been a member of the State Wildlife Action Plan Committee for years
- Provided *Rusty Bennett*, President, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, with EPCAMR's address for him to mail in his ARIPPA/EPCAMR AMD/AML grant application that they are proposing to spread lime over food plots that border the stream above Stoney Brook and let the lime help the soil out and then wash into the stream to help that with the PH adjustment and increase in alkalinity to the stream
- Provided *Hank Edenborn*, a wildlife biologist with the Department of Energy with information on the Glen Lyon Mine Shaft; Hank studies naturally cold locations in PA and has been monitoring the temperature in the Glen Lyon Mine Shaft, a collapsed mine opening near St. Albert's Cemetery in collaboration with the PA Game Commission; EPCAMR has been involved in this effort too on research with the PA Game Commission on the effects of white-nose syndrome on the bat population in the underground mines; This is a very large bat hibernaculum; Provided him with some available history about the location in the West End Colliery; The area is well known locally as the "Ice Caves" and EPCAMR directed him towards members of the Newport Township Community Organization that partners with EPCAMR on cleanups in the area to get the story on the reference and how it came about; <http://www.newporttownship.com/>
- Participated in a conference call with Hedin Environmental and the Earth Conservancy about some of the technical assistance results on the rhodamine test conducted by SRBC, the flow and chemistry of the AMD from the Askam Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment system, pond size, and the efficiency of the aeration system
- EPCAMR Staff sought letters of support for our EPCAMR Growing Greener Plus for our Monitoring, Assessment, and Evaluation of Source Mine Pools and AMD discharges throughout the Anthracite Region from our partners in preparation for a grant submission
- Reviewed EMARR's AMDTS Raw Water Upgrade DCED CFA Application
- Forwarded a potential grant source for the Mill Creek Watershed under the FY2016 Brook Trout Conservation Funding Opportunity with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to *Gabby Zawacki*

Project Coordination

- Received the E30 & E40 EcoRaster pallet of grids from Greenway Pavements, for the trail development at the ***Huber Miners Memorial Park Reclamation Project***, Ashley, PA; Received the Installation and Maintenance document for the EcoRaster grids; Worked with *Beth Coleman*, Greenway Pavements to develop a flyer that included the HBPS and EPCAMR logo for a Fall "Beyond Paving" Workshop with installers and contractors at the Park site; Worked with **24** Wilkes University students on June 29th to spread topsoil near the Memorial, spread rock along a bank behind the Memorial, pull weeds, spruce up the flower beds at the Park, and remove gravel and dirt from paver walkway in preparation for the EcoRaster grids for **3** hours; The value of the students volunteer work totaled

- Finalized the Final Reporting Requirements, CD, and documentation of Matching Funds and Expenditures with *Liz* and *Gabby* for the **PA DEP Environmental Education AMD & Pottery Education Grant**; **\$29,311** in matching funds were contributed by the EPCAMR Staff and community partners towards the **\$3000** grant
- Reviewed a document forwarded to EPCAMR from *Susan Turcmanowich*, PA American Water on the Laurel Run-Mill Creek Canal system for inclusion in our development of the **Laurel Run Coldwater Conservation Plan**; The reference was from a historic book on the Spring Brook Water Company and the EPCAMR Staff are looking into finding out the source document for proper citation purposes; Received updates on the project from *Gabby* and *Liz* who asked for assistance with following up with *John Levitsky*, from the Luzerne Conservation District who knows some private landowners in the headwaters and someone from the City of Wilkes-Barre to figure out proper access into the basins along Laurel Run near the North Cross Valley exchange; Purchased 2 TDS/Conductivity meters to use for field work
- Forwarded to *Gabby* and *Liz* on Staff, information on possibly acquiring seedlings from the Howard Nursery in Centre County, from the *Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation* through the PA Game Commission's Seedlings for Schools Program for our **Waterboxx Phase III Research Project**; www.wildlifeforeveryone.org; Followed up with *Loren Cole* to see when the shipment of the additional supplies were going to be in that would allow us to distribute the Waterboxxes to our partners and allow for the distribution of the seedlings; The delay in shipment from Holland has caused a suspension in the project due to not being able to give out the Waterboxxes without all of their supplies over the early Summer; Project may be delayed
- Forwarded EPCAMR's request for a 1 year extension letter for our **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** to our PA DEP BAMR Project Officer *Gregg Davis* again, because when it was originally submitted on April 10th, 2015, it somehow didn't make it down to the Grants Center for the first request for an extension; EPCAMR has put the project on hold beyond June 30th and our sub-contractor, *Skelly & Loy*, until we receive a waiver and approval to proceed beyond the deadline for the project; Informed *Skelly & Loy* that EPCAMR would be putting the project on the backburner until the official extension is granted by the PA DEP
- Contacted *Tim Altares*, PA DEP Central Office Distributor of information on Centralia, PA; EPCAMR was looking to see if there was any funding available to possibly map the underground mine fire in Centralia in 3D utilizing EPCAMR's expertise in underground mine mapping with *EarthVision* under the OSM TIPS Program; *Tim* wasn't aware of any available funding, but offered assistance with any information or resources related to Centralia that we might request in the future should funding be secured to take on the **Centralia Mine Fire Mapping Project**; Provided a tour of Centralia to two fellow colleagues from Western PA and checked on the locations of 3 previously placed "No Dumping Signs" installed by EPCAMR following our last cleanup in the Summer and found that all 3 had been stolen and removed
- Coordinated a field investigation with *Josh* and *James*, members of *Larson Design Group's* Environmental and Bridge Team in Ashley Borough, PA to conduct an assessment on the **Sulphur Run Culvert Flood Protection Project** in the Solomon Creek Watershed that EPCAMR will be using to develop a Growing Greener Plus grant proposal to remove some severe sedimentation and localized flooding issues within the Borough at three locations of significance and to replace an open culvert system to a closed culvert

system along Stewart's Alley; EPCAMR is working in partnership with Ashley Borough on the grant that requested that we sponsor the grant and prepare the application on their behalf

- EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern *Haley Giononne* and Executive Director travelled to Scranton, PA to take a 3 mile bike tour along the Lackawanna Heritage Trail with *Owen Worobyzst*, Trail Manager to the site of the first ***Nay Aug Avenue Natural Playground*** along the Lackawanna River; EPCAMR is one of many partners in the project and has provided all the iron oxide pigment that will be mixed with a wood stain and sealant for all of the wooden elements of the Park; <http://wnep.com/2015/07/27/new-nature-playground-opens-in-scranton/>; <http://wnep.com/2015/06/10/new-environmental-playground-nearing-completion-in-scranton/>
- Met with *John Ackerman* from Twin Oaks Environmental Consulting to develop two budgets for two Commonwealth Finance Authority grants being submitted that will include EPCAMR Staff to provide technical assistance and monitoring of a pilot mobile ***AMD RainMaker Treatment System Technology Project*** and an evaluation of iron oxide for resource recovery from the South Wilkes-Barre AMD boreholes that will precipitate from the AMD RainMaker Treatment System pilot project
- Asked Carol Kafer from Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association for any list of local contractors she knows about in the Dushore or Sullivan County area that we could make aware of the bid showing for the ***Lewis Mine AMD Rehab Project*** in Cherry Township, PA; Received a list from her and provided it to Ben Hedin, Hedin Environmental for inclusion in the list that will go out shortly before the July 7th Bid Showing; Checked with the Sullivan Review about costs to place an ad, however, Hedin Environmental was able to get an ad placed and a list of contractors developed for the Bid Showing with the assistance of the EPCAMR Executive Director

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the final monthly conference call to coordinate the ***17th Annual PA AMR Conference*** with the Planning Committee; Provided the final scholarship list to the Committee for approval and all were approved; Reviewed the final Conference Program booklet prior to it going to print; Discussed last minute details and Session Moderators; Provided final Exhibitors count to WPCAMR to pre-arrange the tables in the Conference Registration area; Reviewed and finalized the Banquet Event Orders in the contract agreement with *Arnold Southerland* from the Ramada; Followed up with *Jennifer Brookes-Stahl*, Conference Coordinator for the Ramada Conference Center about tentative counts for the event and with regards to break foods and refreshments; Provided WPCAMR with a copy of EPCAMR's Tax Deduction Letter template for their use should donors want a write-off for providing silent auction items for the Conference; Sent out the Moderator Guidelines to Conference Committee moderators; Finalized the Golf Outing with ARIPPA and the Ramada; Travelled to local Goodwill and second hand stores to purchase picture frames to upcycle them for the silent auction; Printed, wrapped, and framed silent auction pictures and items; Met with Ryan McCampbell, Bloomsburg University student and speaker at the Conference to discuss his presentation prior to the Conference so that he can potentially add additional elements to it
- EPCAMR Staff travelled to State College, PA on June 24th through June 26th and coordinated and convened the ***17th Annual PA AMR Conference***, Pre-Conference Tour, Set up of Exhibits, AMR Film Festival, Golf Outing, and Registration; All presentations are uploaded on www.treatminewater.com

- PennEast Pipeline LLC, awarded EPCAMR a **\$5000** grant for our **Wyoming Valley Underground Mine Mapping Education and Outreach Program** through their PennEast Pipeline Community Connector Grant Program to provide free sets of surface and underground mine maps to each of the municipalities that lie downstream of the proposed Penn East Pipeline in the Wyoming Valley to Shickshinny and Mocanauqua (the southern tip of the Northern Anthracite Coalfields) that may cross the Susquehanna River in Jenkins Township and West Wyoming before heading up to Dallas Township; Many municipalities lack this vital information on what lies beneath their political boundaries in the region when it comes to abandoned mine lands and underground mining and mine pools in the Anthracite Region
- Reached out to the membership and volunteers within the NE Region of PAEE to announce plans for the **2016 PAEE Conference** that will be held at Pocono Manor, in the Poconos March 14-16th, 2016; Asked the membership if they were interested in volunteering on one of several committees; www.paee.net

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Conducted our monthly EPCAMR Staff Meeting to get caught up on projects and proposed grants
- Completed reimbursement reports and progress reports for the first quarter of 2015 and submitted for reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program; Began working on April and May 2015 monthly Progress Reports for submission near the end of June 2015
- Continued to work with *Tim Bilski*, Verizon Wireless to get our credits to our account for returning equipment that was defective when installing our wireless account and phone lines in the EPCAMR Office
- *Gabby Zawacki*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist, began updating outdated sample packets from our AMD HACH Kits that have been discontinued, however, the supplies can be replaced and purchased
- Followed up with *Brenda Stambaugh*, new PACD Executive Director to congratulate her on her new position