

EPCAMR



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Technical Assistance

- Posted news articles about the Knox Mine disaster, Marcellus gas drilling, and illegal dumping on EPCAMR's FaceBook page.
- Reviewed Dirty Jobs application requirements and formatted Robert's start draft of the application in a new word document to include video application ideas.
- Looked over FAQ's on Discovery Channel's Producer's Portal site and added them to Producer's Portal info word document.
- Transformed a newsletter calling for volunteers into a flier to send or fax to interested groups so they can make copies to hand out.
- Created a word document as a template for emails regarding cleanups directed to various recipients.
- Helped Mike bring a double sided desk over from the storage space, cleaned and polished it- looks almost new.
- Finished putting updated address labels on EPCAMR brochures and started putting updated return address labels on envelopes to save money and paper by updating what we have, rather than buying new envelopes.
- Made copies and prepared packets to handout for the 1st Quarter board meeting.
- Located the DCNR website that lists native plants that can be used to plant at beautification sites.
- Made aerial photo diagrams for the Schooley Ave. and High St. illegal dump site cleanup sites.
- Revised fliers for both illegal dump site cleanup sites to include the labeled aerial pictures so people know the areas that are being cleaned up.
- Broke down costs for the PAFBC grant by looking up prices for different items that will be needed. Used <http://www.acornnaturalists.com/index.aspx> for majority of the items listed in the grant.

Meetings and Trainings

- Met with SRBC to show them the Mine Pool mapping that EPCAMR has been working on. SRBC's interest in this is water storage for consumptive use. They would like to obtain water, store it in the

mines/mine pools and have the water to sell to industry. Also, they were interested in how the pools themselves could be manipulated in the sense of plugging up or creating a valve on the discharge, allowing the pools to fill up and regulate the amount that comes out. The natural gas industry wants to pump water from streams, and in low flow times this creates an issue because they can only take so much water without disturbing the stream's natural ecology. This is where the stored water from the mine pool comes into play. Either the gas companies can take water from the clean streams and then the stored water can be treated and released back into the stream to make up for what is taken out, or the gas companies would buy the stored AMD water from SRBC and treat it for frac water. They are looking for as close to neutral pH water as possible, with low iron/nutrient loading for use. However, to experiment the ability to manipulate water levels in the pools, ideally they would have only one or 2 boreholes or discharges that the water levels can be measured, and be located in an area with little to no population to avoid any harm or damage from possible subsidence. SRBC seems mostly interested in the Northern Coal fields where the gas well drilling is growing. They were very interested in knowing which mining companies had already approached EPCAMR for data regarding AMLs (Abandoned Mine Lands) and usage of mine water. Also, they seemed very willing to help seek funding to continue the mine pool mapping, especially into the northern and eastern middle coal fields. They seemed like they would help talk to legislators about funding and other ways area legislators can help our cause through the Federal Appropriations process within the Legislature. It was a goal of the SRBC in their Comprehensive Plan to further develop a working relationship with EPCAMR on such a collaborative watershed effort for the Anthracite Coalfields within the Susquehanna River Basin.

- Was introduced at the 1st Quarter Board meeting, and observed how typical Board meetings are conducted.
- Went with Robert and Mike to W-B Area Career and Technical Center to review a grant that was awarded to the Horticulture Teacher, Mrs. Janice Leiby who is partnering with EPCAMR on the Avondale Mine Disaster Community Gardens and Trailhead. Now and throughout the summer, she and some of her students will be planning, designing, and planting the area at the entrance to the Avondale Mine as a memorial and historical marker along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail (a trail that is a part of the Rails to Trails program).
- Went with Mike to the Schuylkill County Conservation District building to meet with various non profits/ watershed groups about how to create a QHU Plan that BAMR is now requiring watershed groups to establish as a prerequisite to apply for funding. EPCAMR is involved by being a "watchdog" or intermediary between the state (BAMR-Mike Korb & Todd Wood) and the watershed groups (Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Northern Swatara Creek Watershed Association (NSCWA), Shamokin Creek Restoration Association (SCRA), Schuylkill Action Network (SAN), Foundation for PA Watersheds (John Dawes)), and others: Schuylkill Conservation District, NRCS (Dennis DiOrio)Pottsville DEP's District Mining Office (Dan Koury).

Project Coordination

- Called the Hicks Creek Watershed Assoc. and spoke with Karen Szwast who said to email her when we get a definite date and she will put out a newsletter about it.
- Focused on making more calls and contacting churches and organizations for cleanups.
- E-mailed local college radio stations asking if they would read a PSA for us on their stations.
- Elaine Kelly from Our Lady of Sorrows returned my call and said that she will pass on info for the cleanups.
- Left voicemails with different churches and schools asking if they have clubs or youth groups that would be interested in volunteering.
- Finished and sent out the PAFBC Sportfishing Grant. Hopefully Trout Trees will be sprouting up in neighborhoods throughout the valley by next spring.
- Heard back from Drew McLaughlin with a great response that the city will cooperate fully by volunteering a dump truck or pickup truck to haul the garbage collected at the cleanup. Further details will be exchanged as they develop.
- Emailed a list of people (Key Club, and Science Teachers) from the WA secondary school about interest in volunteering for the Schooley Ave cleanup.
- Emailed Dave Srebro with the Boy Scouts, and Kelly Swope from the Girl Scouts. Continuing contact with Kelly who responded positively in our first phone conversation, and included the new fliers for both cleanups in those emails.
- Received a reply from Dave Srebro stating that he will pass the information about the cleanups to the person who serves scouting in Luzerne County to get the word out to those scouting groups.
- Left a message for Elaine Kelly to obtain her email address (if she has one) to make the flow of information regarding the Schooley Ave. cleanup easier and faster.