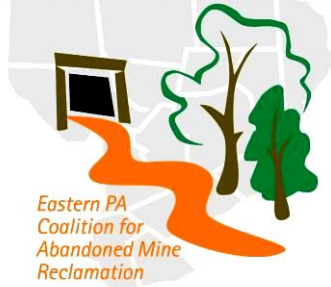


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

February 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Meeting with *Mike Corcoran*, **Wilkes-Barre Area School District Science Coordinator** to plan the “**Trout in the Classroom**” trout fingerlings release and Watershed Education Program at Frances Slocum State Park in April with the entire 5th grade class from **Heights Elementary**, over **400** students; EPCAMR assisted in the development of the program stations for the day and provided the suggestion to release the fingerlings near the spillway of the Dam at Frances Slocum so that should a high water event arise, the trout may exit the spillway and flow down into Abraham’s Creek, where they will find very suitable trout habitat and less predatory pressure from the lake fish species
- Conducted a final interview with *Dana Sword*, Senior at **Bloomsburg University** for a Summer Watershed Outreach Coordinator Internship with EPCAMR
- Attended the **Luzerne Foundation’s “Non-Profit Forum”** at the Genetti’s Hotel, downtown Wilkes-Barre, PA to provide the Foundation’s Board of Director’s with a 5 minute elevator speech on EPCAMR, what we do, who we are, to create awareness of our organization in the greater Wilkes-Barre area community, and what our needs are
- Meeting with Chris Sheperis, Constituent Outreach Director from Senator John Yudichak’s Office to discuss some projects in the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Lower Wyoming Valley; Provided him with a copy of the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan; <http://epcamr.org/home/watersheds/wyoming-valley-watersheds/solomon-creek/>
- Meeting and Tour of the EPCAMR Office with **6** Penn-State University Masters Architectural Design Students from State College, PA and **2** Professors interested in more about the Huber Breaker Operation in Ashley and the underground mining in the area
- Participated in numerous conference calls with State Senators from across PA educating them on the SB 411 and the concerns that EPCAMR has with the bill; Provided information to EPCAMR President to share with Senator John Blake; Conference call with Will Dando, Chief of Staff for Senator Richard A. Kasunic on SB 411
- EPCAMR Interns Gabby Zawacki and Holly Halecki created a digital scrapbook for many of our previous years of publicity and newspaper clippings into an online software program called ISSUU; www.issuu.com/epcamr

- *Jim Whitt*, a pottery artist from Loves Park, IL has been purchasing EPCAMR's iron oxide to develop his own glaze to use in his recipes for his pottery art; Jim sent EPCAMR two samples of his work and will be shipping us a free pottery piece for us to showcase to the public
- The 2014 Arts on Fire Festival takes place June 6, 7 & 8, 2014 at the historic Iron Furnaces at 159 Cedar Ave. in Scranton and is currently seeking industrial artists (metal, jewelry, glass, ceramics, iron, steel, recycled materials) as vendors. This exciting festival is held at the unique Scranton Iron Furnaces and features an iron pour, artist and artisan vendors, food, and music; EPCAMR may consider displaying some of our iron oxide recycled materials and products; <http://www.artsonfirefestival.com/AOFIndex.html>
- Meeting with *Frank Bartoli*, NEPA Inclusive in Wilkes-Barre, who works with people with disabilities and provides therapeutic art programs and has a desire to see if they can operate their own small businesses and make income off their art work, who was interested in obtaining some of EPCAMR's iron oxide for future projects with his clients

Technical Assistance

- Meeting with *Joe Gourniak*, Area Sales Manager-**Synagro** to discuss future markets and contacts within the Anthracite Coal and Reclamation industry for their recycled biosolids fertilizer Granulite; Introduced him to *Mike Dziak*, EC CEO to discuss future demonstration plots on abandoned mine lands within the Wyoming Valley; Provided Joe with a list of PA DEP BAMR Projects in order for him to contact operators directly
- EPCAMR Staff was allowed on the Huber Colliery property, owned by Paselo Logistics, LLC to obtain a mine pool elevation reading and measure size of the 6 Compartment- Huber Shaft that was uncovered during their scrap recycling of the property
- Received technical specifications and consultant company profile from *Brent Roush*, General Manager, **JMF Underground, Inc.**, a Mechanicsburg, PA Company that performs horizontal directional drilling and forwarded it on to LRCA for cost comparisons for the Old Forge AMD Borehole Remediation Project; Received a general drilling quote from *Jeff Schwoebel*, CEO, from **REI Drilling**, Salt Lake City, Utah for the same project; Asked Brent to come up in the Summer for a tour of the site to further discuss the project
- Forwarded *Scott Spinucci*, EPCAMR member a template of our Inventory Control Sheet for him to document his assets and Straight Line Depreciated Value on his camera equipment
- Requested that Mike find out how much the InDesign software package was on TechSoup; <http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign.html>
- *John Clune*, Supervisory Hydrologist from the US Geological Survey in Williamsport, PA touched base with EPCAMR to get a heads up on some of the regional AMD projects that are going on in his service area
- Provided *Ed Gerst*, Air Quality Specialist with the PA DEP, Harrisburg, PA with the townships, county, and location description of 3 soil and leaf sample locations that he had gathered last year for his Masters Research on Mine Soils at Penn-State
- Provided *Mark Rakhmievich*, OSM/VISTA for the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership and the Greater Hazleton Rail Trail technical support on his League of Women Voter's Mini-Grant and provided a Letter of Support for his proposal to do some work along a trail in the Hazleton Area
- *Mike MacLeod*, Hawley area, signed up to become a Community Volunteer Community Development Fundraiser with EPCAMR; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with him and is setting up a meeting in the Summer to discuss future opportunities

- Continued discussions with *Greg Czarnecki*, Executive Director for the Wild Resource Conservation Program, Harrisburg, PA about setting up a Staff meeting with PA DCNR Staff and State Foresters to review EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Work to see if there is any overlap with State Forest Land boundaries; While we know that AMD is not present in all State Forest Lands nor are abandoned mine lands on all State Forest Lands, we are still working in these watersheds where if we were performing biological stream surveys or upstream sampling and flow measurements, we would definitely want to provide the State with the data that we collect

Project Coordination

- Worked with *Mike Lower* to review and approve Scope of Work and Budget changes to the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Construction Project**; Received completed copies of the Joint Permit Application to be submitted to Exeter Borough for signatures prior to submission to the PA DEP for review; Trip to Exeter Borough to drop off Applications for signatures on 3-25-14 and returned to pick them up on 3-26-14 and delivered them personally to the PA DEP in Wilkes-Barre, PA; Received a signed amended contract from *John Gunnett*, COO of Skelly & Loy, Inc. after having EPCAMR President review and sign the changes to the Scope of Work and budget amendments to move funds around from the Construction Category to cover the unanticipated Consultant costs
- Scanning, Digitizing, Cataloguing, and Georeferencing continues on the **Mine Subsidence Insurance Grant Project**; Nearly **5000** maps have been scanned at **400 dpi** in only **6** months

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in two PA AMR Conference Calls to continue planning the 16th Annual PA AMR Conference in State College, PA to be held on June 26th & 27th, 2014 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in collaboration with ARIPPA, who is celebrating their trade association's 25th Anniversary; www.treatminewater.com has updated details on the Conference Planning, Agenda, Sponsors, Activities, and Speakers; Paid Cole Transportation (<http://www.coletransportationinc.com/index.htm>) for the school bus charter to Penn's Cave; EPCAMR worked on the conference website and edited suggestions made by the Committee; Continued to pursue speakers to fill the agenda for the Conference; Reviewed a sponsor letter drafted by Mike and Leigh Ann for potential Silent Auction Sponsors for the PA AMR Conference; Reviewed the Ramada Inn Conference Center contract and the Golf Outing contract stipulations from ARIPPA; **Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost Inc.** donated a mushroom block for the Silent Auction
- Printed a State-wide Map of PA for an exercise at the upcoming meeting that will allow all Consortia Members to place a location on the Map of where they are located and printed off two sets of worksheets and survey posters for Akiima Price, a facilitator who will be at the meeting discussing EE Capacity; Provided a Staff Photo and Bio to *Allison Petris*, AmeriCorps Volunteer for PAEE who is putting together a Community of Learners Network Booklet; Attended and facilitated the PAEE PA Consortia Community of Learners Meeting in Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA on 3-12- 13, and the PAEE State-wide Conference on 3-13 thru 3-14-14; Participated in a Conference Call Debriefing of the PAEE PA Consortia Community of Learners Meeting; Attended a regional sub-committee meeting of EE partners from the NE Region led by *Scott Cope*, PAEE Regional Director and Wildlands Conservancy Staff
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District's 50th Anniversary Banquet and Dinner on 3-29-14 where EPCAMR was awarded the **2014 Watershed Stewardship Conservation Organization of the Year Award**
- Assisted Ruth Roperti, Past President of PAEE on a PA American Water grant application to host a Project WET Workshop at the EPCAMR Office, should the grant get funded, since EPCAMR is in the PA American Water service area and were previously funded by the corporation

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Sent images of stock EPCAMR photos of our iron oxide processing operations and AMD Solar Kiln photos to **ITT Technical Institute Instructors**, *Jason Smith* and *Jack Trapani*, for their students to utilize; Attended a presentation by **10 ITT Technical Institute** students at the Dunmore Campus to accept and be presented with their class projects that they completed to provide EPCAMR with some marketing materials they designed in class for our AMD Solar Kiln and on EPCAMR's general outreach to the community
- Meeting with the *Rev. Shawn Walker*-City of Wilkes-Barre and *Scott Spinucci*, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer in Wilkes-Barre to discuss future volunteer opportunities within the City
- EPCAMR Staff created a new online EPCAMR Volunteer Form that makes it very easy to sign up and become a Community Service Volunteer as well as allows the volunteer to pick and choose which activities that they would like to participate in throughout the year, just by checking a box;
- *Rick Robins*, Mountain Top, Luzerne County, PA signed up as an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer
- Assisted *Becca Lindner*, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer with updating her resume to apply for a position with the Luzerne Conservation District
- *Lizbeth Rivera*, Wilkes-Barre, PA offered to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer Administrative Assistant-Clerical Support
- *Caitlin Dickson*, a Senior at **Bloomsburg University** signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and is interested in water quality and biological monitoring and habitat assessment evaluations
- Received some posters from *Shalisha Bynoe*, an EPCAMR Volunteer Photography/Graphics Design artist based on our Actions Speak Louder than Words Campaign
- *Kaitlyn White*, EPCAMR student Community Service Volunteer from the Commonwealth Academy Online Cyber School, who lives in Swoyersville, PA completed 3 posters as a part of our "Actions Speak Louder Than Words" Outreach Campaign
- *Elizabeth Rosser*, Mountain Top, PA submitted her resume seeking an internship for the Summer 2014; She's a 2013 graduate of Temple University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and has some familiarity with grant writing and working in the Philadelphia Area around New Kensington to build sustainable neighborhoods; EPCAMR Executive Director will follow up with her in the Summer 2014
- *Taylor Morelli*, signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and was interested in our upcoming Avondale Mine Disaster AML Site Cleanup in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County, PA
- EPCAMR nominated the *Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association* for an "Orange Rock Award" to be decided and voted upon at the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium, sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the West Branch Steering Committee
- *Carly Cirangle*, Scranton, PA, and Senior at the University of Scranton, offered to volunteer with EPCAMR as a Community Service Volunteer and provided EPCAMR with Human Resource support by organizing our Personnel Files and creating a FREE online open source Human Resource Management database system called **OrangeHRM**; Carly was recently nominated for an Ag/Forestry Program in the Peace Corps and is was in need of some community service hours that EPCAMR was willing to provide
- *Emma Ross*, Scranton, PA, a high school Senior, signed up to become an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt and Painter/Scrapper Volunteer with EPCAMR, whenever we do a program in the Scranton area or if a project comes up

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts; Meeting with President-Bernie McGurl to sign checks
- Completed and submitted the February 2014 PA DEP 319 Progress and monthly EPCAMR Board Report and February 2014 Reimbursement
- **Verizon** installed new service phone and internet lines in the EPCAMR Office; Cancelled PTD Prolog Services
- EPCAMR Staff had a meeting with Janice Perry, Investment Advisor, at First National Bank regarding the changes to our IRA Account merger from Capital Bank and Trust to Cetera Investment Services, LLC
- Sent Bernie a copy of the blank template EPCAMR Letterhead for future responses on behalf of the EPCAMR President; Sent a joint letter back to WPCAMR's President *Denny Beck*, in response to their concern of EPCAMR using WPCAMR's name in a document where we were opposing SB 411 without their permission or consent, although the letter clearly stated that we did not insinuate that WPCAMR supported nor opposed SB 411
- Completed a Mid-term evaluation for *Holly Halecki*-EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern from King's College and submitted it to the Assistant Director for Internships, *Kelly Lettieri*
- Conducted a 90 day evaluation on *Bridgette Robinson*, EPCAMR GIS Specialist and reviewed the results of the evaluation with her following her submission of her self-evaluation and the EPCAMR Executive Director's written evaluation of her performance after consulting Mike, who oversaw her work on the mine map scanning and digitizing
- EPCAMR was granted a **FREE** usage license of **Insightly** indefinitely up to three users, a Customer Relationship and Project Management System
- Submitted a Job Description for our part-time GIS Specialist Specialist position to PAEP for posting; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-looking-to-fill-part-time-gis-specialist-position-to-work-on-our-anthracite-mine-mapping-project-immediately/>
- EPCAMR submitted our **AMD Solar Kiln Environmental Education and Outreach Project**, in partnership with PPL, EC, and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District to the NCAC for consideration for the 2014 NCAC Community Awards



Tree Planting at the Hanover #9 AML Reclamation Site in Nanticoke, PA along Espy Run