

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program March 2007 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Produced 7 maps for a EPCAMR Partners and added information to 2 EPCAMR GIS Databases
- Attended the COALS Luzerne County Meeting, a Friends of the Nescopeck Monthly Meeting, a Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Grant Meeting, a Catawissa Creek RCP Meeting, an AMD Conference Planning Committee Conference Call, an Institute for Conservation Leadership Workshop, a Mine Pool Study Grant Meeting and an EPCAMR/LCD MOU Meeting.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

March 1st – 3rd

- Hosted a meeting for the COALS Initiative to explain the program to Luzerne County stakeholders and begin selecting potential cleanup sites for a follow up visit.
- Attended the Friends of the Nescopeck Monthly Meeting to discuss the possibility of submitting a Growing Greener Project. I suggested something with an assessment focus to fill in some gaps in data. The only discharges that are well understood in the Nescopeck Watershed are the 3 largest discharges. However, these areas have almost no room to treat the discharges before they meet the stream. There are 8 additional discharges that have lower flows and most likely more area available for treatment.
- Updated the Derringer and Gowen Discharge Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Passive vs. Active Treatment Cost Estimates to reflect the above suggestions.

March 4th – 10th

- Updated several pages on www.orangewaternetwork.org including the technical assistance pages, the AMD Treat Page, the Growing Greener and Statewide AMD Conference Blocks on the homepage.
- Finished up monthly report, sent to DEP 319 Program and posted to www.orangewaternetwork.org.
- Sent information to Elaine Chaney, Institute for Conservation Leadership, for her to contact EPCAMR Board Members in relation to the upcoming workshop.
- Updated the 2007 EPCAMR Membership Form and sent it to Robert for an update of the annual appeal letter.*
- EPCAMR Program Staff met with PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and Hicks Creek Watershed Association representatives about the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Project that was partially awarded by Growing Greener. The meeting was held to find out where the project budget and scope of work could be cut to fit with the loss of funding.

- Downloaded several GIS layers and datasets from PASDA to update the files on the RAMLIS Database. Files included the Integrated List of Waters, the AMLIS Database as of 1/2007, Active Mining Operations and Treatment Operations as of 1/2007 and Coal Pillar Locations as of 1/2007. *
- Aided Luzerne Conservation District staff in the setup of the LCD Banquet.

March 11th – 17th

- Provided the Western PA Watershed Program with a map of the Problem Areas in Schuylkill County as requested.*
- Continued an investigation of the reclaimed abandoned mine lands in Centre County and was able to find an additional 72 problem features that were partially or completely reclaimed by an entity other than the DEP BAMR. The running tally is up to 95 problem features.*
- Added to the EPCAMR Region Infiltration Points database with sites from the Quakeake Tunnel Drainage of the Jeansville Basin as reported in the Jeansville Basin SCARLIFT Report.
- Found 5 additional problem features that were partially or completely reclaimed by an entity other than the DEP BAMR in Carbon County.*
- Reviewed a Request for Proposal cover letter for Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery, Inc.'s Executive Director, Kate Feissner.
- Worked up statistics for streams affected by Abandoned Mine Drainage through out Pennsylvania based on the Integrated Waters List of October 2006. In summary, there are a total of 84,897.87 miles of streams in Pennsylvania of those stream miles, 68,736.79 are attaining their intended use (aka. The "Integrated List Attaining"). That leaves 16,161.08 stream miles that are not attaining their use (aka. The "Integrated List NonAttaining"). Abandoned Mine Drainage shows up as the pollutant for 4,965.08 of those miles.

March 18th – 24th

- EPCAMR Program staff sat in on an AMD Conference Conference Call to discuss conference coordination efforts. Prepared minutes for this call and forwarded them to the conference committee. This year's conference will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College from July 20th to the 21st.
- Updated the GIS Laptop to ArcGIS Version 9.2. The laptop uses both the OSM's floating version of ArcInfo available through the TIPS Program and EPCAMR/LCD's stand alone version of ArcView for areas that do not have wireless internet access (eg. for presentations or field work).
- Provided Susan Sutton and Shawn Rybka, LCD, with maps of the Luzerne County Watershed Groups and Watershed Boundaries.
- Produced maps of Catawissa Creek showing surface water infiltration points to the underground mine workings and a general map of the watershed. Presented these maps at the Catawissa creek Rivers Conservation plan meeting at the Beaver Township Fire Hall. Also met with Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association President, and Tom Davidock, Schuylkill Conservation District, to identify additional infiltration points to add to the map.
- Attended a Citizens Advisory Council to the DEP meeting at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg to co- present new information on the SMCRA Title IV Education and Outreach Program that EPCAMR and WPCAMR will be conducting throughout the spring and summer of this year. Got a sneak preview of Andy McAllister's informational video on the changes to the funding. It will be an excellent tool once it is finished.
- EPCAMR Program Staff participated in the Institute for Conservation Leadership training held at the Schuylkill Conservation District. The training was a real eye opener to the need to an updated strategic plan for the EPCAMR Organization as it relates to foundation funding. This information will be shared with the EPCAMR Board at the next board meeting.

- Prepared room signs for the PA Environmental Education Conference as a partner in the effort. Robert will be presenting and EPCAMR Program Staff will be leading a field tour.
- Refined a description of the Ayelsworth Creek AMD Oxidic Limestone Drain Treatment System Tour description for Molly Burns, PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD). The tour will be a part of the upcoming PACD/SCC Joint Annual Meeting in Scranton.

March 24th – 31st

- Posted several worksheets to the AMD Conference Committee listserve to aide in the selection of topics for the conference.
- Researched the problem with AOL Members that are not allowed to receive e-mails from our domain. It turns out that paperwork had to be filed to place our organization and domain on a whitelist for AOL users. I apologize to all of you out there that use AOL and never got our e-mails. Please let other groups know that they may also have to do this.
- Spoke with Karen Szwest about a subsidence that happened within the Hicks Creek Watershed and Exeter Borough. The homes were within / near a known subsidence prone area. It is a shame that the landowners did not know when they bought the land and began building their homes. I forwarded a map, the AMLIS Descriptions of 2 Problem Areas, the Mine Subsidence Insurance Website www.pamsi.org and information in hopes that it would prepare others.
- Received a request for a Letter of Acknowledgement from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council regarding the Humboldt Northwest Mineland Reclamation and Acid Mine Drainage Abatement project. This information was sent to Ed Wytovich of the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association and Tim Ference of the Friends of the Nescopeck since the project is in both the Catawissa and Nescopeck Watersheds for their review before the letter is granted.
- Spent a little more time familiarizing myself with the Groundwater Modeling System (GMS) 6.0 Software to get a better understanding of what will be needed to produce 3D Modeling of the mine pools using borehole data and other schematics.
- EPCAMR Program Staff met with Chuck Crovatta, U. S. Geologic Survey (USGS), representatives from DEP Pottsville District Mining Office and Deep Mine Safety and DEP BAMR to talk about the recently awarded Southern and Western Middle Mine Pool Study Growing Greener Grant. The meeting was held to set a starting point and direction for the project as partners begin to gather data.
- Attended a second EPCAMR and LCD MOU meeting to further refine a document that will define the relationship between EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District as two organizations working together.
- Provided Susan Sutton and Shawn Rybka, LCD, with maps of the Harvey Creek and Bowman Creek Watershed Boundaries.