

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program March 2008 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Produced 11 maps, 12 posters and provided 2 sets of AML statistics for EPCAMR partners
- Sent 2 RAMLIS version 7.0 CDs and completed a draft of version 8.0
- Applied to 1 grant and received word about 2 grant awards including EPCAMR work
- Presented at a Friends of the Nescopeck Mtg., the OSM 2008 GeoSpatial Conference, conducted a 2 day field investigation and led an AML tour
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- Posted AMR Program Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent them to 319 Program. Posted events to calendar and pictures to the photo gallery. Posted 2007 Growing Greener Awards to the news-scroller. Updated and posted the Growing Greener Letter of Acknowledgement / Support Request information for the 2008 season. Updated the EPCAMR organization profile to be more concise and added a "most popular photos" scroller to the bottom of the homepage.
- Printed an update to the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) informational display for Tanya, Conservation Education Specialist. 1 of the 4 panels included information about EPCAMR.
- Received word that Duryea Borough was awarded almost \$800K in grants from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to fund the development of a demonstration scale innovative AMD treatment system for the Old Forge borehole by Eco Tech LLC and purchase of land downstream to construct the full scale treatment system. EPCAMR and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) were included in this grant proposal for a portion of the project oversight and possibly permitting for the demonstration project.
- Led a bus-load of students and teachers from several Luzerne County schools, involved in the Community Connections to Your Watershed program, on a tour of the southern Wyoming Valley. This is a yearly DCNR environmental education program including an AML tour with EPCAMR VISTA and DCNR Nescopeck State Park staff explaining the environmental, economical and historical impacts that mining wrought the anthracite coal region of today.
- Produced the [2007 EPCAMR Program Year In Review](#) which gives a 6 page rundown of major projects and work in 2007. Posted to the EPCAMR website.
- Attended the OSM 2008 GeoSpatial Conference with EPCAMR Regional Coordinator in Atlanta, GA. EPCAMR was the only non-profit organization to make a presentation on our RAMLIS GIS Tool for Community Groups. Also attended the National GeoSpatial Data Stewards Meeting to discuss and vote on the structure of future federal geospatial datasets related to SMCRA.

Technical Assistance:

- Setup a time tracking sheet for Carly, EPCAMR OSM VISTA, in Microsoft Excel.
- Updated a fact sheet with 2008 abandoned mine land (AML) statistics in the Susquehanna River Basin verses the totals for Pennsylvania and sent it to the PA AML Campaign.
- Received a custom search box module from GoodSearch and added it to the EPCAMR homepage. This search replaces the Yahoo! search box and earns EPCAMR money while visitors search our site (or the web) for content. Approximately \$12 has been generated this year-to-date.
- Added the PA Fish and Boat Commission Catawissa Creek Fisheries Management Report (1997) to www.orangewaternetwork.org to aide the PA Environmental Council's Northeast Regional Office (PECNERO) staff with the development of the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (RCP). Produced 4 electronic PDF maps from the last RCP meeting for PEC NERO staff and in finding a location for the next public Catawissa Creek RCP Meeting. **
- Produced 2 updated base maps for Carly, EPCAMR VISTA, for the Wyoming Valley Watershed: aerial photo map and polluted streams map. These updates subtracted the Big Wapwallopen and Little Wapwallopen Creeks from the Wyoming Valley Watershed Boundaries as represented by Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition maps as opposed to Act 167 Stormwater Watershed Boundaries.
- Worked on delineating Anthracite Heritage Area VISTA position boundaries for the newly proposed Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) group for the anthracite coal region for Savannah Lyons, Team Leader and T. Alan Comp, ACCWT Liaison and Founder.
- Researched the "karst column" as a treatment for mine drainage (AMD) as proposed by the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery (EMARR) Inc. and reported findings at the Friends of the Nescopeck monthly meeting. This is not a new technology, but new to the area. Studies have been done in western PA and West Virginia on its effectiveness in treating water before it enters the mine complex from the surface to effectively shut down (or hinder) the production of AMD in the mine pool complex. EMARR has proposed to place this type of treatment in the over 20 known infiltration points in the Eastern Middle Anthracite Region as identified in a series of reports by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)(Ballaron: 1999).
- Setup a monitoring point for the Grand Tunnel Discharge on www.datashed.org. Setup and described EPCAMR the organization, the Wyoming Valley Watershed and the Grand Tunnel Discharge (stream). Added monitors to update the sampling events online as they occur. I can see this online database as an answer for watershed groups to keep water quality data on treatment systems and to aide in monitoring their effectiveness.
- EPCAMR and PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office Staff conducted an intensive two-day field sampling event, photo-inventory, flow sampling, GIS coordinate and elevation update of the larger abandoned mine discharges in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Fields for the MINE Pool Mapping Program. Purchased a 500GB hard drive for this program to obtain and store 366 GB of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) digital mine map repository scanned imagery.
- Produced 2 maps for Dave Kaleta, Habitat for Wildlife Inc. chair, for their Growing Greener grant application.
- Obtained a GIS layer representing mining different stages of underground mining in the Wyoming Valley after the Knox Mining Disaster in 1959, which virtually ended underground mining in the valley by flooding several collieries in the valley. This file shows areas where 1st mining, 2nd mining and 3rd mining occurred and pothole areas were. It may give clues to the structure of the mine pool complexes in the Wyoming Valley. EPCAMR plans to develop mine pool extents in the northern anthracite field as has been developed in the southern and western middle fields. Wrote metadata for the layer based on information I was provided with in an e-mail.
- Produce 2 more RAMLIS version 7.0 CDs and sent them to Columbia County Conservation District and Snow Shoe Township. A draft of RAMLIS version 8 is also available, but not finished. Then new version includes 2008 updated state data from PASDA.

- Wrote a 1st quarter 2008 narrative summary for work completed under the Mine Pool Mapping program. Produced a PA DEP BAMR database in excel format and maps of boreholes in the Western Middle Anthracite Region for Roger Hornberger, a partner and the “brains” of the project.
- Applied for a Google Earth Pro Grant through www.google.com. The grant will provide EPCAMR with a license of Google Earth Pro (\$400.00 value) and Google SketchUp Pro (unknown value). This will allow better integration with GIS and GPS technologies as well as the ability to calculate areas and to save “virtual tour” movies.
- Attended the 2008 Growing Greener Application meeting to learn about things that have changed and possible projects that are being proposed in the DEP Northeast Region for this grant round.
- Upgraded EPCAMR WOC desktop computer and laptop ArcGIS software to service pack 5.

** Represents time billed to the PEC Catawissa Creek RCP Contract.

^ Represents time billed to the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Growing Greener Grant.