

# EPCAMR



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March 2010 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Worked with PA DCNR on our annual Community Connections AMD Education Program with around **48** high school students from throughout Luzerne County; EPCAMR presented on our Mine Pool Mapping Project and AMD Avengers Comedy Skit
- Worked with PA DCNR on our annual Community Connections AMD Education Program with around **80** high school students from throughout Lackawanna County; EPCAMR presented on our planned scope of work for the Old Forge Borehole AMD Monitoring Project in partnership with LRCA, SRBC, Lackawanna County, PA DEP BAMR, and the Willary Foundation on how we are going to proceed to finally get a pressure transducer into the borehole for a more accurate measurement of flow and some other parameters., RAMLIS, and AMD Monitoring
- EPCAMR Executive Director applied on behalf of EPCAMR to become a member and partner of the PA DCNR **iConserve** initiative and the EPCAMR Executive Director was also chosen as a **PAiCon** by PA DCNR and is featured on the [www.iConserve.org](http://www.iConserve.org) website
- Dr. Diane Polachek, Wilkes University invited EPCAMR Executive Director to a meeting regarding an innovative initiative for which EPCAMR's collaboration is vital to ensure that our children learn local history; EPCAMR will definitely be present since there are some gaps to fill in our local school curriculums on teaching local history, particularly our mining heritage and on current local preservation efforts and historical disasters that are right in our back yard that can be turned into wonderful community assets...just as in the work we are doing at the Huber Breaker and the Avondale Mine Disaster location
- Provided Pocono NE RC & DC EPCAMR updates for their future newsletter edition
- Completed a Share Fair registration and application form to participate in the one day community event in Wilkes-Barre on the 17th of April to receive donated supplies and materials for EPCAMR Projects; Share Fair is a community project for local non-profits throughout the Wyoming Valley and throughout Luzerne County led by the Leadership Wilkes-Barre Class of 2010
- Requested from Vinnie Cotrone the possibility of getting donated T-Shirts from WET PAINT this year to continue to do the Tie Dye T-shirts with AMD Workshop at Earth Day and Riverfest 2010; EPCAMR don't have many shirts to front; It was a popular destination last year under the EPCAMR Little Top and the clothes line across the Silver Maples to hang them out to dry was more than appropriate

- EPCAMR received a **\$500** Environmental Education grant Award from Dominion and the Western PA Conservancy to conduct AMD Outreach programs in Tioga and Lycoming County school districts impacted by AMD
- Prepared a summary report on EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Initiative for the State of the Susquehanna River Report being produced by the SRBC
- EPCAMR was awarded a **\$500** cash award from the Bear Creek Charter Foundation to assist us with purchasing a high end digital video camera with a tripod that we are hoping to use for the production of this Dirty Jobs clip that we need to produce. The stipulation is that we need to involve the Environmental Club from that school in the video and production of it. I have agreed to take the kids (around 20 of them) on a tour in the late Spring, early Summer before School is out to some AMD sites; Received the award after presenting an AMD Chalk Talk Program to nearly 20 students from the Bear Creek Environmental Club; There is a group of "X-Factor SCA" students from Wilkes University that would like to help EPCAMR edit the video that EPCAMR will be following up with in the Spring 2010.

## Technical Assistance

- Provided Gerry Caron-Cabot Corporation, with background information on EPCAMR since we are involved in the monitoring and installation of weirs to monitor AMD in the Hazle Creek area, north of Weatherly Borough;
  - Need to decide when we're going to clear the channels, who is available to help, what materials, if any, we need such as lumber, sandbags, etc.
  - Need to actually create channels
  - Need to arrange to get access to velocity meter. It would be nice to have it available at the same time we're doing the stream channel cleanup/modification
  - Need to finalize arrangements for getting water samples to DEP lab
  - Need to set up schedule of flow and water sampling as well as decide who will do it. We may want to have a primary and an alternate in case someone has an emergency and can't keep to the schedule
  - Need to know if we have permission from Butler Enterprises and Pagnotti to install small weirs on streams on their lands
- Provided Lou Hamm-OSM with our revised and updated MOA for ArcGIS software concurrent licenses and other software bundles and AUTOCAD to assist us with continuing to provide technical assistance to community groups and local governments in the EPCAMR Region; The donated value of the software exceeds **\$25,000**
- Gregory Phillip Anderson-Brown University, Class of 2010 interviewed EPCAMR Executive Director for his senior thesis (focusing on the Huber and Ashley Planes) and what type of eco-tourism and redevelopment potential lies within the Anthracite Coal Fields
- ARIPPA is providing a **\$20,000 (\$10,000 to each Coalition)** donation in August 2010 at their Annual Meeting and Technical Symposium, in recognition of their 20th Anniversary to develop and administer a mini-grants program open to community groups working on AMD/AML Projects and are supportive of the beneficial use of coal ash for abandoned mine reclamation projects; EPCAMR and WPCAMR are developing the application guidelines, application form, and online forms for ARIPPA to approve prior to going public with the request for applications; EPCAMR Staff participated in a conference call to flush out the details

- Prepared a Letter of Support for the LRCA Watershed Assessment and developed an MOA to perform work subcontracted by LRCA
- Worked with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society membership President and their web master at the EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center to update the [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) website; Prepared a **\$2000** grant to the Luzerne Foundation on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society for the Anthracite Miners' Memorial Park and Paver Project

## Project Coordination

- Requested that Mike send along the Luzerne County updated FEMA Firm floodplain maps to Mike Lowery and Gerry Longenecker (Skelly & Loy) and Stephen Boone (B & L) to see if it has any impact on our **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design and Construction Project** or if there is useful information contained within the panels; Continued work on Environmental Assessment and Joint Permit Enclosures C & D Forms
- Informed the EPCAMR President that we have the original copy of the fully executed access agreement for the **Grey Slope AMD Monitoring Project**, Lackawanna County; Made Bernie aware that Davlisa Enterprises Incorporated (DEI) would like copies of all testing results, logs, data, and reports and analysis obtained from the testing as it gets underway and the access agreement expires on February 28, 2012; Andy Strassner from Tetra Tech and Newfield Oil went out with their technician to install weirs; Informed him that LRCA and EPCAMR will be wanting a cooperative agreement for indemnification purposes, to hold EPCAMR harmless as well; Things look like they are in place for some good monitoring results
- EPCAMR Executive Director worked with our Insurance carrier to see that we obtain two additional "also insured certificates" naming the following two corporations on separate certificates to allow us to proceed forward with accessing the **Grey Slope AMD Monitoring Project**, where we will be installing a weir for flow monitoring and to set up a monitoring plan for one of our future mine drainage remediation projects; They are requesting that we name their companies/corporations on our policy and to prove that we have the appropriate coverage, which we do;
  - Davlisa Enterprises, Inc., Suite 600, 46 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA18701
  - Linde Enterprise, Inc., O'Hara Industrial Park 118 Armstrong Rd., Pittston, PA 18640
- Provided the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund a Letter of Intent to pursue a **\$100,000** proposal in the **Upper Schuylkill River Watershed** related to the development of detailed underground mine pool maps and layers for the Southern Anthracite Coal Region utilizing Geographic Information System software (ArcGIS Info) and other related software bundles that allow us to portray the anticipated mine pools that will be created in 3-D format for easier viewing
- Asked Dan Koury, PA DEP Pottsville DMO if he had any additional **Mine Pool Mapping Project** Chapters in draft form that are in an electronic format that EPCAMR can give to Leigh Ann to start collating; We have Chapter 1 and Chapter 6 written up already and are beginning to insert figures and tables and some photo references; These were Roger's manuscripts; EPCAMR has Chapter 3 and 5

that seem to have already been typed or written in an electronic format.; Image files for Chapter 3 are needed; EPCAMR is working on Chapter 7

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- Followed up with Lisa Van Houten, Hy-Tech Mushrooms after reading over her ***Spent Mushroom Compost and AML Collaboration Proposal*** and some of the research that she has been finding related to the type of work on abandoned mine lands, distribution, costs, redevelopment potential, etc.; Suggested that she contact the Conservation Districts in the EPCAMR service area may be interested in being a partner at some point related to the Nutrient Management Plans and Chesapeake Bay Program Ag Technicians that are responsible for implementing the program at the District Level; They are updating their Tributary Strategies now; Suggested that she bring the Earth Conservancy to the table at some point; Their site is [www.earthconservancy.org](http://www.earthconservancy.org)
- Worked with Ian Palmer on our ***Mine Pool Mapping Project*** to get a "data dump" of water quality monitoring data sets from the Surface Mine Permits files at the Pottsville DMO to provide to Tom Clark-SRBC to assist him with building the ***Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy*** and Water Quality database
- Completed and submitted a **\$10,000** PA American Water Grant for ***Community Outreach on the Old Forge AMD Remediation Project***, Lackawanna/Luzerne Counties
- Mtg at the EPCAMR Office with Chris Gillis, Eco-Tech to discuss the future of his plans for the Old Forge Borehole and his recent approval of his patent for AMD Treatment; Eco-Tech paid EPCAMR a partial payment on an outstanding invoice for work performed on the Old Forge AMD Remediation Borehole Project

## Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager finished up edits to the May 1, 2010 **Watershed Summit 2010** brochure and agenda and forwarded the comments to Gwen Johnson-Foundation for PA Watersheds and Conference Organizer; Mike will be on a panel on Datashed and EPCAMR Executive Director will serve as a moderator; EPCAMR participated in the planning of the Watershed Summit
- Mike Hewitt and EPCAMR Executive Director will be presenting at the May 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> ACCWT OSM/VISTA Training Workshop in Weston, WV, not only the use of Google Earth for monitoring and storing water quality data for AMD through a database conversion process to KML files, but also two other possibilities that many VISTAs may be able to utilize if they have ESRI ArcView GIS at their fingertips, called EPCAMR's RAMLIS (Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System), and another online database management system that we are promoting in PA called Datashed ([www.Datashed.org](http://www.Datashed.org)) for AMD treatment systems and submission of operation and maintenance manuals for various types of treatment systems (ALDs, Vertical Flow Ponds, OLDs, Aerobic Wetlands, SAPs, SBRs, Diversion Wells, Limestone Sand Dosing, etc).

## Community Cleanups

- Suggested a small fundraiser to help with the Community Garden at Avondale; The ideas would be to see if we can raise enough money to buy 110 daffodils to be planted at the site and the other gardens that we have around Avondale; EPCAMR Staff can work on a flyer if volunteers from the Anthracite Living History Group can handle the solicitations for the purchase/donation of the flowers; EPCAMR would contact a local grower through the Wilkes-Barre Career Technology Center who might even be able to grow them for us so that we can plant them in the late Spring, early Summer 2010; We actually

wouldn't be given people the flowers or the bulbs, we would be planting them in their name. \$5 a bulb would help us raise enough money, EPCAMR believes to purchase them and have some funds left over for maintenance and potting soil. Checks would be made out to the Anthracite Living History Group c/o Daffodils for Avondale

- EPCAMR provided Petroleum Service Corporation with a copy of the “additionally insured” document form from our Insurance carrier to proceed with one of our community cleanups along Penn Ave, High, and Dana Streets in Wilkes-Barre, on the hillslope of the remnant abandoned South Wilkes-Barre Colliery
- EPCAMR prepared an extension of our illegal dump grant through June 21, 2010 to complete our other anticipated cleanups on AML lands for the Spring and Summer of 2010; With the State budget dilemma last Fall, EPCAMR was not able to front any funds for our anticipated cleanups because we were awaiting a reimbursement from the State that we did not receive until earlier in 2010; We are in the process of planning several of our cleanups for the Spring and Summer and had anticipated working into the Summer, Fall of 2010, however, it seems as if we are only going to be allowed to have 60 days to complete all of our work by June 21, 2010
- Prepared a Letter of Request for donated water from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) for our Penn Ave, High & Dana St. AML Cleanup
- Convened a meeting with the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority’s Mike Wasko who is helping obtain permission to access a parcel of land owned by the WBHA for the Penn Ave, High & Dana St. AML Cleanup
- Coordinated 2 weekend cleanups in March (3-20 & 3-27) at the Penn Ave, High & Dana St. AML Cleanup; **5.78** acres reclaimed (cleaned up), **4.5** Tons of trash removed, **44** tires collected, and approximately a **1** Ton of recycled metals were collected by **26** community volunteers in **8** hours, a majority of which were college students from Wilkes University and King’s College Environmental Clubs; A major portion of the coordination effort was performed by our EPCAMR Intern Leigh Ann Kemmerer, who did an excellent job of rounding up volunteers, supplies, and donations
- Met with the Wilkes-Barre Career & Technical Center Horticultural Class at the Avondale Historic Marker, where they spent the afternoon replanting the 8’ round raised rock bed full of daffodils as a part of the Avondale Mine Community Gardens Project

## Community Meetings

- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Mtg
- Co-sponsored a community meeting in Hazleton at the PSU Hazleton Campus with the SRBC to discuss with regional community partners, watershed groups, Districts, and other supporters the development of an Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy, EPCAMR’s Mine Pool Mapping Initiative, and Datashed; **22** people in attendance
- Attended the Pocono Land & Water Conservation Initiative Planning Committee Mtg at Jr. Achievement of NEPA, Pittston

- EPCAMR Executive Director attended the Times-Leader's 40 Under 40 Awards Recognition Program at the Mohegan Sun to accept his award for his dedication to our regional environment and outstanding accomplishments in his career in such a relatively short period of time in the field of abandoned mine reclamation; EPCAMR Executive Director was the only environmental non-profit professional to be recognized in this year's group of 40; 100 candidates were nominated from across the Region

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Submitted our annual fee for EPCAMR's General Liability and Event Insurance and membership to the PA Organization of Watersheds & Rivers (POWR)
- Received terrible news that Roger Hornberger former PA DEP District Mining Engineer had died- EPCAMR Staff attended his viewing; Roger was very integral to the Mine Pool Mapping Project in Eastern PA that EPCAMR will now bear the load to finish before June 30, 2010; He will be sorely missed; He provided Mike and the EPCAMR Executive with years of mentoring and a wealth of institutional knowledge on understanding Anthracite Mining geology and hydrogeology
- Submitted 990 Accountants copy of our QuickBooks to our CPA for financial review and submission to the IRS for 2009 and a copy of our 2009 Annual Report recently completed by EPCAMR Staff
- Worked on the March 2010 319 Progress Report and Reimbursement
- Participated in a webinar entitled, "Homer Simpson for Non-Profits": The Truth about How People Really Think" as a way to get a better understanding on our volunteers, board members, marketing, and branding of EPCAMR in the region



Robert @ the 40 Under 40 Ceremony



EPCAMR & the W-B CTC with \$4K USDA FFA Award



Recently Planted Daffodils at Avondale Marker