

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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March 2011 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted an AMR Conference Call, a meeting with CCRA and PA DEP BAMR reps. and released the 2010 EPCAMR Year In Review
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and continued writing Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and pyritebad yahoo group listserv. Released the [new EPCAMR website](#) built by BRF Designs.

Education and Outreach:

- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- Setup Cincopa photo galleries on the www.epcamr.org/home website to reflect the Cool Iris theme. Visitors will now see thumbnails in the photo gallery that they can pan around to and click on for larger images and descriptions. The Cincopa format has copyright tools built in to make it harder for people to steal images.
- EPCAMR staff worker together to plan and sketch the panels for the AMD Avengers skit backdrops. There will be 4 backdrops split up on 2 racks to make a left and a right background for the stage.
- Switched the EPCAMR website to the new format www.epcamr.org/home permanently on St. Patrick's Day 2011 after "test driving" the site for a few weeks. Some of the content redirects back to the old site, which has been formatted to look more like the new site. Setup and tested the online store. Added RAMLIS CD to the store in addition to the other products that were placed there by BRF Designs. Payment can be accepted through a Pay Pal account attached to the site. Credit cards can also now be accepted. Need to find a way to add check payment method to the checkout. Updated EPCAMR Store About Us page to include Network for Good and Guidestar affiliations.
- Completed the 2010 EPCAMR Year in Review, posted it to the EPCAMR Website at <http://epcamr.org/storage/staff/EPCAMR2010ProgReview.pdf> and placed a link in Current Initiatives. The report not only showcases EPCAMR projects, but regional progress that has been made in the past year to reclaim abandoned mine lands and remediate abandoned mine drainage streams.
- Updated Current Initiatives and Project History Highlights Pages on www.epcamr.org. Updated the Lackawanna River Watershed page and created a page about the Tioga River Watershed. Found a video on about the Tioga watershed on www.greentrecks.tv and added it to the page.
- Worked with EPCAMR VISTA to create an AMR Conference button to link our EPCAMR website to www.treatminewater.com.

- Responded to a resident of the Catawissa Creek Watershed, who e-mailed me about the status of the stream and its health. I responded with the history and current status of AMD treatment and forwarded him to the Columbia County Watershed Specialist to see if he would be interested in helping the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA).
- Updated About, Sponsors and Tour pages on www.treatminewater.com to reflect the new information that had been received from partners within the past few weeks. Three organizations stepped up to sponsor the conference including Breaker Brewing, PA DEP and SRBC. Three local attractions were also added to the Tour page to promote the discounts that they will award conference attendees that want to visit the sites on their own. Created a Program page and added the tentative program schedule to the website based on what was known from the Genetti Inn and Suites catering contract and confirmed presenters.
- EPCAMR Staff met with CCRA President, Ed Wytovich, to talk about the possibility of EPCAMR writing a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Catawissa Creek. EPCAMR staff setup and met with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Wilkes-Barre Office Staff and Ed to talk about requirements and possible funding sources. EPCAMR staff will work up cost estimate to complete the plan based on this information.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a second AMR Conference Call to collaborate with the conference committee on ideas for guest speakers, more hot topic presentations and workshops that should be offered at the conference. Updated them on progress made on the website and outreach materials now available as well.

Technical Assistance:

- Traveled around Scranton to complete a monthly round of testing the water level in 14 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes. Compared elevations in a graph to find common water levels.
- Gathered statistics for the Datashed.org grant awarded us by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW). EPCAMR reached out to about 265 individuals over the ½ year stint. These numbers were given to Gwen Johnson, FPW Capacity Building Project Coordinator.
- Provided U. S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Pennsylvania Water Science Center and PA DCNR staff with Coal Series C-13 map and cross section.
- Aided Shawn Jones, former EPCAMR Intern and Keystone College undergrad student as he digitized GIS layers related to the mine pools from US Bureau of Mines Maps. Shawn will be working on a Capstone Project in which he will be sampling up to 30 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Finished discovery of the remaining 5 boreholes and sampled 2 which were accessible. Created a sampling route for the Wyoming Valley Borehole Sampling Route.
- Prepared an order of Iron Oxide Pigment for a school teacher from Pine Grove Middle School.
- Continued writing Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping report and explained the characteristics of the Packer #5, Weston (Packer #2, 3 &4) and Hammond collieries. These mines were active during Bureau of Mines report, and the mine pools were pumped to the surface. Updated pools #7, 7a and 8 with acreages from the Bureau of Mines Report Maps. Calculated acreage of mine pools based on the Mahanoy Creek Scarlift report maps.
- Ordered a laptop to replace the laptop for the EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center which will become the new computer for EPCAMR Program Manager. Program Manager laptop will go to EPCAMR VISTA. VISTA computer will go to the EPCAMR Secretary/Intern desk. Prepared for the computer system overhaul by transferring files, uninstalling and installing programs. Received the new laptop and attempted to set up security system and ended up being locked out of the system. Called technical support for help. The computer had a fingerprint reader and new software to run it that tech support had not seen. Their conclusion was that there was nothing they could do since I did not have the correct username and password. Finally after a few days of transferring my problem around internally, I was transferred to an arm of the

technical support team that dealt directly with Dell Precision customers. This individual was able to help guide me to discover a way to recover my username, which not the username I chose and recorded. The username was chosen by the “new” software on the computer.

- Researched contact directory sharing for our free Google Apps e-mail accounts to aide EPCAMR staff when contacting our constituents. Installed a trial service called Ditto Directory which provides a separate directory accessible to all epcamr.org e-mail users. Trial limits that to 10 directory contacts, full version requires a yearly fee. Currently, each staff member maintains their own e-mail contacts in which we periodically merge and synchronize. Found out that the Domain Shared Contacts ability is only available to Google Apps Premier and Education Editions domains. Signed up for Google Apps for Nonprofits which gives free Education Accounts with upgraded services. Will try again if we are awarded the account upgrade.
- Installed a door back on EPCAMR Executive Directors office as a security measure to block the view from the outside windows into the Technical Assistance Center. Ordered 1 way mirror film to install on windows as an added security precaution hoping to further deter any future vandalism.
- Prepared and sent a RAMLIS version 10 CD for Brad Cole, Civil Mining Environmental Engineering. He initially received a version 7 CD from a PA DEP BAMR Townhall Meeting that EPCAMR presented at in Western PA. He was asking for an updated version.
- Finished inventorying the EPCAMR water quality testing supplies and made a list of replacement and suggested supplies to be ordered.