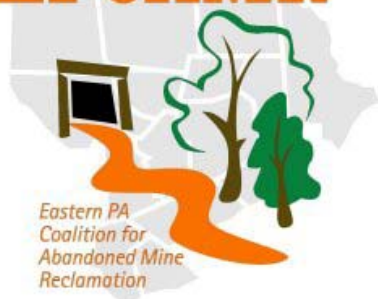


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation May 2006 Progress Report

Michael A. Hewitt, *Watershed Outreach Coordinator*

Luzerne Conservation District
485 Smith Pond Rd., Shavertown, PA 18708
(p) 570-674-3414 (f) 570-674-7989

hardcoal@epcamr.org
www.OrangeWaterNetwork.org

Highlights:

- EPCAMR Staff conducted 3 AMD/AML watershed tour, 2 AMD Tie Dye workshops, and 3 educational presentations
- Continued to prepare for the AMD Conference in August and produced 1 watershed map
- Continued to update www.orangewaternetwork.org
- Attended the Conservation Alliance Meeting, the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Special Meeting, the West Branch Symposium, the Back To Nature Festival at Nescopeck SP, the Bear Creek Festival and the Mt. Carmel Environmental Day

May 1st – 6th

- EPCAMR staff coordinated an AMD/AML tour of the Eastern Middle Anthracite Coal Fields near Hazleton with Diane Madl, Nescopeck State Park and about 35 school students and teachers from Hazleton Area School District.
- Prepared EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator (WOC) April monthly board report.
- Received a call from Terry Jensen, Advanced Geo Services to find geologic cross sections of coal layers in the Anthracite Region. Found several related to 2 USGS Water Resources Investigation Reports. Waiting on a meeting to show this data and continue discussions.
- Traveled to Red Rock Campground with EPCAMR VISTA to assess the possibility of hosting the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team VISTA Training next month.
- Supplied Cathy Haffner, Columbia County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, with contacts for the upcoming "Audenried Bash" Grand Opening and Tour of the Treatment System.
- Received an e-mail from the Fund for Wild Nature requesting more information related to the EPCAMR organizational budget for the Anthracite AMD Publication submitted last month.
- Updated the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) indirect costs spreadsheet in preparation for the Tentative EPCAMR 2006 Annual Budget to be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.
- Posted the EPCAMR 2005 Annual Report to www.orangewaternetwork.org in the Projects Section under EPCAMR History Highlights.
- Traveled to Scranton to attend the Conservation Alliance Meeting spearheaded by the Lackawanna County Conservation District (LCCD) and the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority (LVHA). The meeting showcased a green building in Scranton, but was a chance to coordinate projects with several groups in Lackawanna County.
- Prepared minutes for the AMD Conference Steering Committee: Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting from the previous weeks visit to the Atherton Hotel and forwarded them to the Steering Committee. Prepared an excel sheet showing the preliminary discussion of the budget for the conference and taking into account the costs for the Atherton as a meeting place. Proposed a full steering committee meeting to decide on the program content.

- Began work on the Tri-Valley Watershed Association map of the Mahantango Creek Watershed. Created a projects point file using Latitude and Longitude points provided by Jeffrey Stutzman, Schuylkill Conservation District (SCD).

May 7th – 13th

- Posted all EPCAMR Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org.
- Poured through the PA Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Website to find new data to add to the EPCAMR GIS Database. Found several new layers including active mining data-points from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Traveled to Sullivan County for the unveiling of the plans to treat the Bernice Mine Discharge by Hedin Environmental. Stayed for a tour of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed abandoned mine lands, reclamation projects, mine drains and treatment systems near Mildred led by Bruno Najanka, EPCAMR Board Member, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association Member and Sullivan County Conservation District (SCCD) Board Member. Talked about looking for funding to expand the Anoxic Limestone Drain that treats the B Tunnel.
- Added to and re-printed the Loyalsock Creek Watershed map to include recently discovered active mining industry GIS data from the DEP
- Began to clean out the EPCAMR GIS Database, rid the folders of corrupt / unusable data files and add metadata to some of the files that were missing it.
- Prepared a “Save the Dates” post card of the AMD Conference and highlights to hand out at upcoming events. Used the color copier for the first time to make the copies which looked very professional.
- Gathered display materials for the EPCAMR exhibit at the West Branch Symposium.
- Attended the West Branch Symposium with EPCAMR VISTA and EPCAMR GIS Technician. Took the place of EPCAMR Regional Coordinator to moderate the afternoon session.
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at the Back to Nature Festival at Nescopeck State Park with EPCAMR VISTA and EPCAMR Education Intern.

May 14th – 20th

- Caught up on important dates and a backlog of e-mails left from only a few days out of the office.
- EPCAMR Staff hosted the first of two “Fossil Days” for about 75 students from Hanover Elementary School here at the LCD Office. Pam Kattner, EPCAMR Education Intern, prepared the program which included activities both inside and outside.
- Set up a workspace and computer upstairs at the LCD Office for EPCAMR Anthracite Art Intern, Devon Rother.
- Participated in the hanging of the Avondale Mine Disaster Memorial on a bridge abutment on Avondale Hill.
- Served as a team leader in a cleanup near Mocanaqua on the Susquehanna Riverlands.
- Prepared a program backbone for the AMD Conference in preparation for a Conference Planning Committee Meeting the following week. Sorted through a massive amount of e-mails from the pyritebad list serve.
- Printed the Tri-Valley Watershed Association map of the Mahantango Creek Watershed to take to the Bear Creek Festival
- Setup a tie dye workshop at the Bear Creek Festival with EPCAMR Art Intern and helped at least 75 families dye t-shirts in abandoned mine drainage pigment.

May 21st – 27th

- EPCAMR Staff hosted a second “Fossil Day” for about 75 students from Hanover Elementary School here at the LCD Office. Pam Kattner, EPCAMR Education Intern, prepared the program which included activities both inside and outside.

- Forwarded an excel sheet to aide EPCAMR Art Intern, Devon Rother, when she talks about the purity of the iron oxide pigment to potential users. The excel sheet was a part of the Sludge Sampling project and the data was provided by lab analysis of the sludge from about 20 discharges in the region.
- Prepared worksheets of the AMD Conference program backbone to aide the Conference Planning Committee Meeting in scheduling selected workshops.
- Found the Maximum Contaminant Level Standards from the EPA Website for inorganic chemicals in drinking water. Forwarded this information to EPCAMR Art Intern for comparison with sludge sampling analysis.
- Co coordinated an AMD Conference Steering Committee Meeting at the Agricultural Sciences Building at the Penn State Main Campus. Committee Members acted upon sub-committee suggestions and decided on and schedule workshops for the conference.
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an educational activity for about 600 students from the Mt. Carmel Elementary School. The EPCAMR Stand was one of hundreds of stands setup through out the school for an “Environmental Fair”, 20 of which were actually environmental in nature and all located in the gymnasium. Each group of children stayed for approximately 10 to 20 minutes

May 28th – 31st

- Conducted a Southern Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Watershed tour for about 70 students and chaperones from the Dallas Elementary School.
- Found a web search dialogue from Yahoo.com for www.orangewaternetwork.org that seems to works much better than any of the previous attempts of finding a website search. The setup of our website is very easy for live updates and easy access from both work and home as well as advanced security features, but it obviously lacks in ease of use for the webmaster and some options (like search) are missing.
- Worked from the notes from the AMD Conference Planning Committee Meeting to fill out the worksheets of the conference program schedule. Sent the resulting spreadsheet to the pyrite bad list serve for comments.