

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program May 2007 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:

- Produced 3 maps/statistics for a EPCAMR Partners and updated RAMLIS CD to Version 7
- AMR Program Staff Conduced a Watershed Tour and 2 AMD tie dye workshops.
- Attended the 2 AMD Conference Calls, Future 319 Funding Mtg, Catawissa Creek RCP Mtg, an SRBC WQ Advisory Mgt, a Nature Interrupted Workshop, & 5 Title 4 Townhall Mtgs.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.treatminewater.com

May 1st – 5th

- Provided technical assistance to Geisinger Center for Health Research in the form of the RAMLIS v6.3 CD. *
- Provided Audubon PA with a RAMLIS v6.3 CD to match up to their Important Bird Areas.
- Provided a list of problem area names and latitude/longitude locations to Senator Santorum's office as requested. *
- Wrote the EPCAMR/LCD Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly Board Report for April sent to DEP 319 Program and posted to www.orangewaternetwork.org.
- Investigated the possibility of quickly producing numbers using GIS to portray AMD/AML related statistics by both the state senate and state house legislative districts. The numbers will be included in letters that WPCAMR wishes to send. The task could be done with the help of Spatial Analyst. Shawn Bussler from Stream Restoration Inc., helped in this endeavor. *
- AMR Program staff sat in on an AMD Conference Conference Call to discuss conference coordination efforts. Prepared minutes for this call, potential topic worksheets, a program backbone spreadsheet 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.
- AMR Program Staff and Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Manager met with DEP 319 Staff at the LCD Office to discuss future 319 funding and FY 2007/2008 AMR Program details.

May 6th – 12th

- Made some finishing touches to the RAMLIS v 7.0 CD which incorporates newer (2006 and 2007) PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Data from the PA Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Server. Added .kml files of several of the most important layers to the CD which are readable by Google Earth as a trial.*
- Traveled with PA Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Regional Office (NERO) Staff to the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan Public Participation Meeting in Catawissa, PA.
- Produced a map of the Upper Susquehanna River for Sue Hand, a local artist, at the request of the LCD Manager.

- AMR Program Staff conducted an AMD/AML Watershed Tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley with Kelly Donaldson and her film crew. She will be producing a video to showcase AMD/AML Impacts in Pennsylvania.
- Attended and set up an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at the Back to Nature Festival at Nescopeck State Park.

May 13th – 19th

- Led an AMD Conference Conference Call to discuss conference coordination efforts. Prepared minutes for this call, updated worksheets/spreadsheet and forwarded them to the conference committee.
- AMR Conference Staff attended and presented at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting in Middletown, PA.
- Received the updated Catawissa Creek Watershed Public Survey from PEC NERO and turned it into a “fill in form” document and posted it to www.orangewaternetnetwork.org. Received a watershed map from the SRBC to include with the survey.
- Produced ISO Image files of WPCAMR’s SMCRA Title 4 Educational Video and EPCAMR’s RAMLIS Tool for easy reproduction of the media.
- Made updates to the AMD Conference Website at www.treatminewater.com with suggestions from the conference committee.

May 20th – 26th

- Attended and set up an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at the Bear Creek Festival at the Schuylkill County Fair Grounds.
- AMR Program Staff prepared for and attended the first SMCRA Title 4 Townhall Meetings at the LCD Office. Presented the RAMLIS GIS Mapping Tool as a part of the educational prequel. Handed out several RAMLIS V.7.0 CDs to interested individuals. Approximately 40 were in attendance and packed the room to voice their comments during the public comment period.
- AMR Program Staff attended the “Nature Interrupted” Teacher Training Workshop conducted by Saint Vincent College at the Nescopeck State Park Nature Center.
- AMR Program Staff attended the second and third Title 4 Townhall Meetings in the anthracite region at the Schuylkill Conservation District, Pottsville and Hillside Rod and Gun Club, Blossburg respectively. Presented the RAMLIS GIS Mapping Tool.*
- Installed a DVD Drive in EPCAMR / Office of Surface Mining Inter, Joe Looker’s computer.

May 27th – 31st

- Headed off to Western Pa’s bituminous region to participate in the SMCRA Title 4 Townhall meetings in Robertsdale Fire Hall, Robertsdale and DEP’s Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg. Presented the RAMLIS GIS Mapping Tool and handed out CDs to interested individuals.*
- Posted the registration page for the 2007 AMD Conference on www.treatminewater.com. Jeff Gerard, former WPCAMR VISTA, aided with writing the java script on the page. Made updates to other pages concerning exhibit tables and sponsor instructions.