

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program May 2009 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Updated 2 and created 2 GIS databases; converted ~30 datasets from shapefiles to CAD format
- EPCAMR staff attended an Old Forge Borehole Project Mtg., 2 Mine Pool Mapping Mtgs., and setup tie dye t-shirt workshops at 2 festivals
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.treatminewater.com

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff traveled to a Schuylkill County mine site near the airport to help plant trees at an Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) event hosted by the Schuylkill Conservation District and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association. Lunch was provided by the Walmart Distribution Center.
- Worked on the Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) and Coal Mining Heritage (CMH) Conference website at www.treatminewater.com. Setup the "Registration" page with a form and backend database to collect registration information. Started testing the page to be sure that the registration process will be relatively flawless once it is initiated. Created a new "Attractions" page to showcase events that will be happening during the conference and other events that will be happening around the Greater Johnstown Area. Created a "Resources" page to add links to other organizations and information associate with the conference. Updated confirmed speakers list and the conference schedule. Updated the other pages to reflect these changes.
- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of April gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Updated the EPCAMR Board Member List to reflect the incoming membership renewals and new memberships.
- Attended and setup a tie dye t-shirt station at the Wonders of Our Watershed Festival hosted by the Friends of the Nescopeck at the Penn State Hazleton Campus.
- EPCAMR staff conducted an Iron Oxide Chalk Making activity with 2 3rd grade classes from Greater Nanticoke Area School District.
- Responded to a call from Dallas Elementary School teachers who were looking for information on how to conduct their own water testing tour. In the past 4 years EPCAMR staff took 2 days to host this tour, but due to budget cuts and moving the office, we were unable to run the tours this year. Supplied the teachers with iron oxide powder to tie dye shirts, test kits, and suggested where to test water to compare different types of water quality.
- EPCAMR staff attended and setup a tie dye t-shirt station at the Bear Creek Festival hosted by the Schuylkill Conservation District at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds. EPCAMR staff and Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association volunteers were overrun by enthusiastic festival goers

who were happy to have their own free hand made iron oxide tie dye t-shirt. Next year possibly the “semi-chaotic” process of handing out the right size, helping fold and tie with rubber bands, dye the shirt for ~15 minutes, then transfer to the rinse solution, then un-band, hang up and find the same t-shirt at the end would be aided with some sort of numbering system.

- Opened up registration for the AMR and CMH Conference through www.treatminewater.com. Posted the announcement to the EC Express on www.orangewaternetwork.org and e-mailed in-house watershed and partner e-mail lists. Created a draft schedule for the conference and posted it online with a secret link which was sent to the conference committee for review.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call on the upcoming Luzerne County Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) tour.
- Sent a board meeting reminder with a draft agenda to the EPCAMR Board, Associate Members and Staff.

Technical Assistance:

- Defined the South Branch of Plum Creek boundaries on the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) GIS layer as requested by the PA DEP 319 Program Staff. Constructed the boundaries from the PA DEP “Smallsheds” layer and merged with the WIP layer.
- Met the Service Electric crew at the new office in Ashley to be sure that there is access for the cable internet and phone service. Looked into what type of phones will need to be purchased for the new service. Recommend 3 regular cordless phones with answering machines for the 3 separate incoming lines. One phone may need to have 2 additional handsets for the main line.
- Finished the conversion of the Earth Conservancy LiDAR information to AutoCAD and burned it to a DVD.
- Picked out paint and supplies to begin fixing up the new office in the Earth Conservancy Building. Started taping, scraping, pulling down the ceiling, ripping up the old carpet, hiding wiring in conduit and painting the walls. This will take several weeks to complete, but will save thousands for EPCAMR by having staff, interns and volunteers do this prep work. EPCAMR is hiring 2 separate contractors to put up the ceiling and install the carpet.
- Setup an e-mail address for Kyra and Shawn EPCAMR Interns at www.epcamr.org.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. A majority of the conversation revolved around needing mine pool areas (aka. wetted perimeter or beach line). These areas are estimated in the western middle anthracite field by comparing the average water level in a borehole within a mine to the Buck Mountain contours and mined areas in the USGS “C-series” investigations using ArcMap. In the southern field, it will be a bit more difficult since the contour of the Buck Mountain Vein will need to be constructed from cross sections in the USGS “I-series” maps.
- Met with Victor Radzca from Pagnotti Enterprises to discuss GIS needs for their company.
- EPCAMR staff met with Jim Andrews and Roger Hornberger of the Pottsville District Mining Office. Showed them how to capture coal vein horizons and fault lines from cross sections and plain view maps of the USGS “I-series” investigation maps.
- EPCAMR staff met with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office staff, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) Executive Director, HDR Inc. Staff and Solution Mining Inc. representatives to talk about the Old Forge Borehole Project. PA DEP BAMR staff suggested conducting a Watershed Action Restoration Strategy (WRAS) study to aide in understanding the hydrology of the watershed and the impact from the many underground and above ground mine features.
- EPCAMR staff met with PPL staff to discuss GIS mapping available related to mine pools and mine drainage and their need to find additional water in the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.
- Researched and recommended the Brother Multifunction Color Printer, Scanner, Copier (PSC), the Dymo Twin Label Printer, and Universal Power Supply (UPS) for the new office.