Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
May 2010 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Continued writing Part 3 of the report for the Mine Pool Mapping Project; Created 1 database, 1 map and 1 RAMLIS investigation for EPCAMR Partners.
- EPCAMR staff presented at the PA Watershed Summit, an ACCWT VISTA Training and the PAEP Conference. Participated in a Community Connections to Our Watershed Pgm., a Mine Pool Mapping Mtg. & an AMD Tie Dye Workshop; hosted 3 work days on the Avondale Mine Disaster Site.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.treatminewater.com .

Education and Outreach:

- Attended and helped setup for the PA Watershed Summit hosted by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW). EPCAMR staff co-presented The Datashed Initiative with Stream Restoration Inc. staff. Approximately 130 individuals from federal and state government to local watershed group representatives attended the 1 day conference.
- Forwarded a Renew Growing Greener letter to EPCAMR Regional Partners to get more groups to join the campaign as suggested at the Watershed Summit.
- Created an informational e-mail to inform EPCAMR Region Non-profits about 3 new initiatives that may be of interest: a Tax exempt status alert, the Value of volunteer hours and 25% of Health Insurance Premiums will be paid for Tax Exempt Groups that are eligible with new health care bill.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of April, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.orangewaternetwork.org and sent to PA DEP 319 program. Prepared a letter to FPW to ask for a $2,000 convening grant to fund scholarships and costs associated with the Joint Mining Reclamation Conference in Pittsburgh.
- EPCAMR staff attended the Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum. This year both the Luzerne and Lackawanna County forums were held at the same time at the Victoria Inn in Pittston.
- Sent the 2009 AMR Conference Evaluation forms to Gwen Johnson for the PA Watershed Summit and to Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, to help in the creation of evaluation forms for the Joint Mining Reclamation Conference. Gwen decided to create an online form based on this format to gather information after the Watershed Summit.
- Prepared for and co-presented a "GIS for Non-profits" presentation for the Appalachian Coal County Watershed Team VISTA Training held in Weston, WV. EPCAMR staff stayed to attend the rest of the training and provide comments to aide VISTAs at the training. Provided presentation to Scott Fanello, ACCWT VISTA Leader, after the training.
- Presented RAMLIS and Mine Pool Mapping GIS presentations at the Pennsylvania Environmental Professionals (PAEP) Conference near Emmaus, PA.
- EPCAMR conducted a tie dye workshop at the Bear Creek Festival near Summit Station, PA.

- Participated in 2 Joint Mining Reclamation Conference Calls to help iron out some final details, offer equipment for presentations and to figure out who will moderate and setup equipment for sessions.
- Polled the AMR Conference Committee to answer a question about providing scholarships to the conference for non-PA non-profit groups. Their response was that the funding sources were based in PA and therefore the funding should be for PA groups. I respectfully declined applications to the scholarship and explained the reason.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for, worked on budget numbers for and attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting.
- Continued to respond to Joint Mining Reclamation Conference scholarship applicants to pre-approve individuals who were planning on going to the conference. Answered questions about the scholarship for a few watershed group representatives on how to submit the receipts for reimbursement and what expenses were eligible.

Technical Assistance:
- Created an informational webpage on www.treatminewater.com to explain the 2010 Joint Mining Reclamation Conference and the scholarships that the PA AMR Conference Committee were offering. Also created a web form to accept Pennsylvania watershed group and conservation district representatives that would like to apply. The web form collects their information in a table. Applicants can be pre-screened and accepted based on this information and will be contacted as to the status of their request.
- Created a database of ash sites for Northampton Generating Company and produced a hard copy map and a digital map for inclusion in a PowerPoint presentation.
- EPCAMR staff and Wilkes-Barre CTC students continued working on gardens and paths at the Avondale Mine Disaster Site 3 separate days this month. Installed a kiosk to help visitors interpret the site and began to build a split rail fence.
- Created and posted ARIPPA 20th Anniversary Award Request for Proposals form and directions to www.orangewaternetwork.org website.
- Spoke with Andy McAllister, WPCAMR, and passed information on to Robert to help decide details about this year's May Fly Award. The award will be presented on the 3 Rivers Boat Cruise and there will be 1 awardee.
- Responded to a request from a WPCAMR region watershed group that wanted information from the RAMLIS Tool about the Hereford Manor Lake problem area. 4 problem areas were queried and 1 map was prepared.
- Put together a bid for services related to teaching GIS to VISTA volunteers and their supervisors at a training that will be held by the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable (ECRR) later this year in Athens, WV.
- Prepared a DVD and CD containing the organized and georeferenced C-Series and I-Series maps related to the Anthracite Mine Pool Mapping Initiative and sent them to Chuck Crovatta, U. S. Geologic Survey (USGS). These maps were originally produced by USGS staff in the 1970s, but could not be found in their libraries.
- Setup a workstation for OSM Summer Associate, Shawn Jones. The computer for this station was the EPCAMR Program Manager's, had to transfer files to a laptop and the z drive.
- EPCAMR staff met with Dan Koury, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO), to transfer Roger Hornberger's files and 2 DVDs full of mine maps from the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety (DMS) for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative report. Also discussed extending the deadline due to the loss of an integral member of the team.
- Setup Many Moon, a program management software and web service for Google Domains. The program aides in the setup of projects where many people need to collaborate and share and edit documents. The software allows users to setup a homepage for a project where they can assign tasks and track progress. EPCAMR staff plan to trial the software to see if it is a help or hindrance.