

EPCAMR



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May 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Program at the annual **Bear Creek Festival** in Summit Station, Schuylkill County, where over 3000 people were in attendance and over **350** youth from throughout the Schuylkill Valley created T-shirts
- EPCAMR Staff attended the PA DCNR Community Connections Student Forum in Pittston to hear the students final presentations
- EPCAMR was awarded a PA Fish & Boat Commission Grant for **\$5000** entitled "Cultivating Wyoming Valley Tree Trout Plantings to Raise Awareness of AMD Impacts"
- Mailed EPCAMR's recovered iron oxide for an education event to Casey Carrigan-Watershed Community Outreach Coordinator, OSM/VISTA for the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy in Lake City, CO
- Genia Miller-an English Teacher at Saucon Valley High School, Hellertown, PA is interested in visiting the Avondale AML Mine Disaster Community Garden site and her fellow researcher are working on a play that will recreate the Avondale Mine Disaster as the most significant Anthracite Mining Tragedy to hit PA
- Talked with Amy Spess, an EPCAMR Volunteer whose daughter Megan is in a Back Mountain Girl Scout Troop would like to build blue bird boxes and bird houses for EPCAMR's cleanup projects to provide wildlife habitat to help; 7 girls in her Troop earn their Silver Award; Her husband's company is willing to donate all the wood
- Submitted several ideas to the PA Association of Environmental Professionals for their upcoming newsletter on ways in which the membership of PAEP can help community non-profits like ourselves and other watershed organizations working to remediate AMD and reclaim AML in Northeastern PA

Technical Assistance

- Participated in a Conference Call with ARIPPA and WPCAMR related to the **\$20,000** Mini-Grant Program Donation Awards that EPCAMR/WPCAMR will be recommending be distributed to watershed groups throughout the state through a competitive mini-grant application process developed by both Coalitions in recognition of ARIPPAs 40 years of work in the reclamation field at their Annual Meeting in August 2010
- EPCAMR Staff put a bid together to perform GIS Training for OSM/VISTAs through the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable's HOPE & HARD WORK EPA grant for the Summer Practicum to be held at Concord University in Athens, WV from July 29-Aug. 1; Trainers are needed for a two-day workshop on

GIS, to be held Friday July 30 and Saturday July 31; Presenters may split the course into two one-day courses, with a beginning course on Friday and an intermediate course on Saturday, to open classes up to more participants. Courses must: 1) consider watershed group/community needs, and 2) include direct practice using GIS software; Training materials will be placed on the ECRR website for public use at the end of the training

- Prepared and submitted a **\$100,000** grant to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to work on mapping the mine pools in the Anthracite portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Informed Mike that he needed to upgrade to the newest version of KeyServer software (Sassafras K2Client software keyaccess, version 6.2.x.x) through the OSM TIPS Program
- Completed a sponsor evaluation form for Shawn Jones, EPCAMR OSM Summer Associate, Leigh Ann Kemmerer-potential OSM/VISTA and submitted it to the Office of Surface Mining and AmeriCorps VISTA
- Meeting with Huber Breaker Preservation Society President-Bill Best and two volunteers who will be updating the website for the HBPS to review the revamping of the old website into Net Objects Fusion
- Provided a technical review of the PA Association of RC & DC's revamped website and format
- EPCAMR Board approved the EPCAMR/WPCAMR Administration of ARIPPA's **\$20,000** donation, **\$10,000** to each of the Coalition's to provide several grants to applicants who apply for funding under our Mini-Grant Program; ARIPPA is celebrating its 20TH Anniversary in 2010 and wanted to do something positive having to do with land reclamation, AMD treatment, and or historic preservation, as long as the recipients were generally supportive of the beneficial use of coal-ash for mine reclamation

Project Coordination

- Meeting with Dan Koury, Pottsville DMO to review and receive all of Roger's notes from the **Mine Pool Mapping Project** since his recent death; EPCAMR has applied for and should receive our extension for 1 year to complete the project by June 30, 2011; The pile of notes compiled by Roger is nearly 5" high and it now has to be transcribed and put into digital format and placed in the appropriate Chapters that Roger and Robert were working on preceding his death
- Received the final invoice from Borton Lawson Engineering, who completed the Photo Survey and H & H Study for the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design and Construction** Project
- Reviewed LRCA's Old Forge Borehole Research Agreement that will provide EPCAMR with \$12,500 over the next two years to work on monitoring of the discharge at the Old Forge Borehole and to begin to work on developing the mine pool details for the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex

Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Presentation to the **NAAML P Conference** Presenter Committee was accepted for this year's September 2010 Annual Conference in Scranton; Revised the Executive Summary to be 300 words or less and resubmitted for final approval in the program
- Moderated and presented at the **Watershed Summit 2010** in State College on May 1st

- Attended the OSM/VISTA Training on May 10th & 11th in Weston, W.Va; EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager presented 4 presentations over the two day Training; 1 on RAMLIS and AMD Water Quality Monitoring using Google Earth or BING, another on Providing Innovative Environmental Education Opportunities in the Appalachian Coalfields, a motivational speech on working in the Coalfields, and the last one on a spin-off of our AMD Comedy Skit utilizing our costumes and backdrops for ***The AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse Activity Book***; Provided ACCWT with a PowerPoint Presentation on “Thinking Outside of the Box” when it comes to funding opportunities
- Worked with Mike to put up the Application for Scholarships Page to www.treatminewater.com for the 12th Annual AMR Conference
- Received a **\$2000** convening grant award from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies through the Foundation for PA Watersheds to assist EPCAMR with coordinating the 2010 AMR Conference and to provide some scholarship funds to community watershed groups and non-profits wishing to attend

Community Cleanups

- Worked at the Avondale AML Site with the W-B CTC Horticultural Class and planted several trees and began landscaping the mine site and installing a split rail fence
- Meeting with Joe Carey-WEGMANS Community Outreach Coordinator for its TEAM LIFE Volunteer Program; WEGMANS will be partnering with EPCAMR on future cleanup projects, volunteer opportunities, and by providing donations to our organization of food, water, refreshments, supplies, etc.; Prepared a Donation Letter to WEGMANS in Wilkes-Barre Township for items, supplies, and refreshments that we would need for some of our upcoming cleanup projects

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Worked on EPCAMR Reconciliations, Program Budget Report, Updated the Tentative Agenda, and Project Budget Reports in preparation for the Quarterly Board Meeting on May 20th
- Attended a meeting with John Swick- at SCORE, Wilkes-Barre to talk about getting assistance with developing a business plan, marketing plan, and updated Strategic Plan for EPCAMR; SCORE provided EPCAMR with a Model Business Plan Development Model to work off of for the time being and suggested that we meet with him after a draft Plan is outlined
- Worked on the April 2010 319 Progress Report and Reimbursement during the first week of April; Worked on EPCAMR Board Report
- Wildlands Conservancy announced that it will be awarding EPCAMR a ***2010 Friend of the Lehigh River*** Annual Award highlighting EPCAMR’s partnership projects and collaborations with the Wildlands Conservancy over the last 13 years on June 28th 2010 in Allentown, PA
- Barnes & Noble accepted EPCAMR into their Discounted Purchasing Program for Non-Profits
- EPCAMR Executive Director drafted a Letter of Support supported by the EPCAMR Board for enacting a Severance Tax on the Gas Drilling for the Marcellus Shale in PA and to support dedicated funding for Conservation Districts and the Environmental Stewardship Fund, where EPCAMR received some of its grant funding

- Worked on putting information together that had been requested by Josh Longmore, Luzerne Conservation District Manager on 2008-2009 grant reimbursements to the District to close out any outstanding payments to them
- Attended the Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting on May 20TH; Minutes to be posted on the EPCAMR website
- Completed Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Secondary Payer Reply Forms for EPCAMR
- Completed IRS Requests for Quarterly 941 Tax Information for the first half of 2009 when EPCAMR Staff were still employees of the Luzerne Conservation District; Replied that there was NO EPCAMR Payroll or Employees at that time
- Created a ManyMoon Profile online, to share data, work items, discussions, and documents on EPCAMR Projects with other Staff in the Office; It's a free Google application that allows groups to collaborate using Google Documents



Landscaping design for the Avondale AML Mine Disaster Community Gardens Site, Plymouth Township