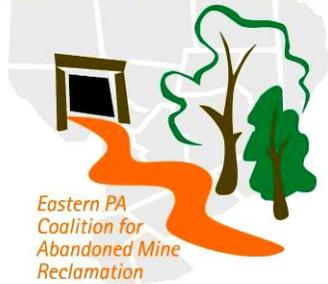


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2011 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted an AMR Conference Call, a SRBC WQAC conference call, an Anthracite Remediation Meeting and a Borehole Awareness Campaign meeting. Conducted 6 field tours and 1 indoor educational event to educate approximately 250 students total.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 23 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Continued to write Part 3 of the Mine Pool Mapping Report for the western middle and southern fields, worked on barrier pillars in the Wyoming Valley. Created 3 maps, 2 databases and 3 RAMLIS investigations for EPCAMR partners.
- EPCAMR staff continued to coordinate the development of the AMR Conference and EPCAMR Dinner/Fundraiser
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps account.

Education and Outreach:

- Created a Dinner / Fundraiser webpage on www.epcamr.org. Created regular, regular couple, non-profit and non-profit couple ticket items in the EPCAMR store and linked them to the Dinner / Fundraiser Webpage.
- EPCAMR staff conducted Tree Trout AMD and Macro ID Outdoor Environmental Education Program in partnership with Wilkes-Barre Area School District, PA Fish & Boat Commission and PPL for 150 Kistler Elementary students in the Solomon Creek Watershed and 75 Flood Elementary students in the Mill Creek Watershed. All students were also taken to a few other streams heavily impacted by AMD in the Wyoming Valley (Newport, Nanticoke & Solomon). Students and teachers were taken in the field 5 different days to tour the sites and learn through sampling activities. Conducted a Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) Investigation into the Mill Creek Problem Area to learn more and convey the information to students about the infiltration point on the land across highway 315 from the Mohigan Sun Casino entrance.
- Sent a reminder to the EPCAMR board about the upcoming board meeting.
- Created regular and non-profit registration items, a pre conference tour ticket item and jumbo, large and standard exhibit items in the EPCAMR store. Linked them to the www.treatminewater.com Registration page and posted an article to inform visitors that registration is open for the conference.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a day trip for approximately for 30 New Jersey Homeschool students and teachers in the Lackawanna River Watershed in partnership with PA Fish & Boat Commission and PPL. The Tree Trout AMD and Macro ID Outdoor Environmental Education Program was conducted at Aylesworth Creek Park. Samples were taken at stream sites (Old Forge Borehole and Aylesworth Creek Anoxic Limestone Drain) to compare the chemistry and physical parameters of the clean versus AMD impacted water. Site visits also focused on

history and AML impacts. Stopped for a picnic lunch at Mc Dade Park. Water quality results were recorded in a field book and transferred to EPCAMR's water quality spreadsheets for future inclusion on datashed.org.

- EPCAMR staff have seen a recent surge in iron oxide sales, most likely due to the updated website and availability to buy the items online. Filled 2 orders for iron oxide pigment and shipped to Colorado and Ohio. Updated photos of the iron oxide items to better represent the item quantities and package sizes; "what you see is what you get."
- Sent a flier on the AMR Conference to the NEPA Alliance to have it included in their newsletter.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- Created a post on www.epcamr.org for the ARIPPA Reclamation Grant and posted the PDF form and instructions for applicants to download.
- EPCAMR staff hosted an AMR Conference Call with other conference planning committee members. Provided minutes from the last call and a tentative agenda. Discussed the many improvements and additions to www.treatminewater.com and reviewed the draft budget for approval.
- EPCAMR staff conducted Macro Mayhem Indoor Environmental Education Program in partnership with Wilkes-Barre Area School District, PA Fish & Boat Commission and PPL at 75 Kistler Elementary School.
- Posted a Call for Artists to the www.epcamr.org website as created by EPCAMR VISTA to engage artists in creating works to auction off at the EPCAMR Dinner/Fundraiser.
- EPCAMR staff created an agenda, minutes from the last meeting and updated the FY2010-2011 budget in preparation for the EPCAMR 2nd Quarter Board Meeting. Aided in building a treasurers report and a grant timeline to help explain the current workload of the staff.
- EPCAMR staff met with Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), to discuss the Anthracite Remediation Strategy. Met with Senator John Yudichak, 14th PA Senatorial District, to discuss our Borehole Awareness Campaign idea. Senator Yudichak agreed to support the campaign to notify municipalities of boreholes in their boundaries and their status. For those boreholes that were paved over EPCAMR would like to partner with the municipality to daylight the borehole. Funding may be needed to aide municipal road departments in this endeavor. EPCAMR also plans to contact PA 1 Call to see if these monitoring boreholes could be added to the system.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a SRBC Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) meeting via conference call and webinar.
- EPCAMR staff attended a Project Learning Tree Teacher Training Workshop hosted by the Nescopeck State Park staff.
- Created a database for AMR Conference sponsors and exhibitors to contain registrations from the EPCAMR store.
- Solicited and reviewed quotes for wide format scanners for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. The best deal seemed to be a Colortrac SmartLF CX40 Scanner for approximately \$7K. Awaited a response from OSM Technical Innovation Professional Services (TIPS) contact Tom Cunningham, to see if they knew of any scanners that may be (or soon to be) available through their program.

Technical Assistance:

- Created an excel sheet for Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, entailing spoil (bony) plies in western PA and statewide as requested by the WPCAMR board. Anne plans on sorting and running statistics on these AML problem features to see which ones will still be "profitable" to remove for the Cogeneration Industry after certain legislation is passed. The cogeneration industry has been very successful at removing spoil pile eyesores and filling dangerous strip pits at no cost

to tax payers for over 20 years. New legislation may hinder this progress and push the industry to ignore sites where smaller piles exist.

- Created maps for display in a PowerPoint presentation for EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl. One map detailed the overlay of coal and marcellus shale formations, and the other showed AMD/AML Problem Areas in northeast PA.
- Traveled around Scranton to complete a monthly round of testing the water level in 14 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes.
- Created a map, at cost, for the Sierra Club PA Chapter to show potential impacts for a proposed gas line that goes through mined areas in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed. Mine pools do exist near the surface in that area as well as many exceptional and high quality watersheds. The mine discharges are currently mostly treated, but excavations near the mine pool could alter the flow or location of the discharging water and render current treatment obsolete.
- Attempted to sort out a few discharges that were recently found near the Inman and Huber colliery boundaries. Sampling locations were across from the Liberty Hills development and across from the Oak Hill Cemetery. The discharges were sampled and had a neutral pH and low iron. The Oak Hill Cemetery discharge was at the source, and may only be a spring, but the Liberty Hills sample site was downstream from a visible (orange on aerial photos) discharge that starts in the Hanover Industrial Park. A RAMLIS Investigation into the Lee Park South, NW Preston yielded details to support that the Oak Hill Cemetery Discharge could be emanating from a formerly water filled strip pit that was reclaimed into a residential development. The Liberty Hills discharge is on the Huber colliery side of the barrier pillar.
- Updated the chemistry directions in the AMD Stream Quality Sampling Field Binder based on a revelation in how to use the HACH test kits to test for Total Alkalinity and Total Acidity. The original HACH AMD Test Kit instructions are very complex and confusing as it leads you to test first for different types of alkalinity and acidity, then high range and low range directions are separate. Total parameters are almost mentioned in passing as a last step, when these are actually better ways to represent parameters when testing in AMD impacted streams.
- Reaching the “home stretch” with aide to Jessica Wolfe, Harvard grad student, as she is putting the finishing touches on her masters thesis. Provided her with statistics for AMD/AML statewide, as well as reclamation done by the state and Cogeneration plants. Explained some specifics of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and the difference between “P1 and P2” problem features. Brainstormed Brownfields Reclamation Projects that involved AML Reclamation.
- Discovered Insightly, a Google App plugin that is available for project and contact management. After trying many others, this application seemed more promising as not only a shared contacts database for EPCAMR staff, but it would tie into e-mails and automatically update the contacts and allow staff to “tag” them into different categories for targeted mailings. Exported Program Manager’s contacts into a CSV format, separated the multiple “group tags” into single category tags (a requirement in the process) and imported these contacts into Insightly. The program singled out organizations from the list and showed the individual’s link to an organization. This could be further developed to show all the “hats” that some individuals “wear.” EPCAMR staff were able to start at 2 different ends of the contact database and tag sponsors. The resulting list was over 200 sponsors for a targeted e-mail. This list was then further divvied up by county and sent to our respective county representative on the EPCAMR board for a more personal ask and perhaps a better yield of sponsorships.
- Edited structure, layout and introduction in attempt to expedite the processing of information and writing of Mine Pool Mapping Report Part 3. The deadline is only a little over a month away and approximately 2/3 of the mine pools are yet to be described in the text.
- Aided Executive Director in updating the PA Fish and Boat Commission Tree Trout and 319 Base Funding Grant budgets to show recent draw downs. Added new grant sources to the FY

2010-2011 EPCAMR Operating Budget to update it and prepare for the upcoming EPCAMR board meeting treasurers report and, when the time comes, to create an operating budget for the next fiscal year.

- Discussed the Espy Run Treatment System construction status with Earth Conservancy (EC) staff in an attempt to find out when EPCAMR staff should begin post treatment sampling. As per the last site visit, EPCAMR staff noticed a new discharge emanating from between the new and old portions of the treatment system. The discharge is partially treated as it flows into the collection channel that transfers treated water from the new system to the old system. The PACD design engineer confirmed that this was an unexpected scenario and affects the efficiency of the resulting system which was sized based on the expected average high flow. This new additional flow almost triples the total expected average flow. EC staff have an idea to dam the water where it emanates into a small retention basin and route it into the new treatment system settling ponds and follow the rest of the water to the old treatment system.
- Created a budget for the EPCAMR Dinner/Fundraiser based on the structure of the budget for the AMR conference. The spreadsheet calculates costs based on the number of attendees and estimates income based on the number of attendees and estimated sponsorships. The estimated cost per attendee is approximately \$39. Therefore ticket prices were adequate at \$50 for regular and \$40 for non-profits. The only conundrum that occurs is that there is a loss of \$3 for every non-profit couple ticket that is sold for \$75, but this could be offset by sponsorships. This budget was provided to the EPCAMR Dinner Committee prior to the board meeting.
- EPCAMR staff developed a budget and scope of work for the 319 Base Funding Grant for fiscal year 2012-2013.
- Prepared an estimate to complete a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Catawissa Creek Watershed for the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA).
- Reviewed and provided comments on the Hazle Creek Bio-assessment. Suggested better mapping of potential sampling locations in order to determine property owners.
- Updated the AMR Conference program based on new presenters and suggestions for the conference committee. Posted it to www.treatminewater.com.
- Encountered a problem with the EPCAMR Store online shopping cart, which was not updating properly. Contacted Bill Frantz, BRF Designs, who upgraded the infrastructure of the site to fix the glitch.
- Corresponded with Megan Blackmon, Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA), about how to add e-mails to their Google Apps account and about updating their website. Explained e-mail addition as part of the webhosting, but website updating was the organizations responsibility.
- Processed iron oxide with and cleaned up the station with EPCAMR Intern.
- Classified barrier pillars based on S. H. Ash Bureau of Mines Report 538 for the Southern portion of the Wyoming Valley near Nanticoke for the SRBC.
- Updated and re-graphed borehole monitoring data for the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley with the help of Mike Dunn, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Pittsburgh Office.
- Traveled around the Wyoming Valley to complete a monthly round of testing the water level in 23 boreholes.