

EPCAMR



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May 2011 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Conducted an EPCAMR AMD Tie Dye & Education and Outreach Program Earth Day presentation to the Bear Creek Nature Camp to about **30** attendees
- EPCAMR Executive Director worked up the draft and final tour routes in coordination with the W-B Area Science Coordinator Mike Corcoran prior to heading out for the first two weeks of May with the 5th grade schools who were participating in the PA F & BC funded Aquatic Education Resource “Tree Trout in the Wyoming Valley” Program and “Macro Mayhem” Art Project
- EPCAMR Staff conducted EPCAMR’s PA F & BC funded Aquatic Education Resource “Tree Trout in the Wyoming Valley” Program and “Macro Mayhem” Art Project with **150** Kistler 5th Elementary students from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District at Solomon’s Creek, Wilkes-Barre for the entire first week of May; Students performed In-stream Macro Collection and ID, Visual Habitat Assessment, AMD Water Quality Testing, and Tree Identification; Second of Watershed Tour showcased an AMD Treatment System at the EC Aerobic Wetlands along Dundee Road, Hanover Twp., Borehole Monitoring of the Askam AMD Boreholes, AMD Water Quality, Solomon’s Creek AMD Boreholes, and the Honey Pot AMD Discharge in Nanticoke; Students were made aware of EPCAMR’s Iron Oxide Harvesting and Processing Recycling Efforts
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a very similar Aquatic Education Resource Program in the Lackawanna Valley with a group of **20** people and NJ Homeschoolers from Liberty Twp., New Jersey who requested a program with EPCAMR on the advice of Alana Roberts, PPL Community Relations Coordinator; Conducted a watershed tour with the assistance of PPL, Lackawanna County Conservation District’s Watershed Specialist-Cheryl Nolan of the Lackawanna Valley, visited the Old Forge AMD Borehole, the Taylor Borehole for Monitoring of the mine pool elevation, and then on to Aylesworth Creek AMD ALD Treatment System; <http://www.freeunionschoolhouse.com/>
- EPCAMR Staff attended the Nationally acclaimed, “**Project Learning Tree**”, environmental education certificate program sponsored by the PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks, Nescopeck State Park to go through several outdoor environmental education activities and curriculum standards that could be used when conducting our Outdoor Learning Experience AMD Education & Outreach Programs
- EPCAMR Staff conducted EPCAMR’s PA F & BC funded Aquatic Education Resource “Tree Trout in the Wyoming Valley” Program and “Macro Mayhem” Art Project with **75** Dan Flood Elementary 5th Elementary students from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District at Mill Creek, Wilkes-Barre for two days during the second week of May; Students learned of the losing reach section that enters

the underground mine pool along State Route 315 across from the Mohegan Sun Arena; Students performed In-stream Macro Collection and ID, Visual Habitat Assessment, AMD Water Quality Testing, and Tree Identification; Second of Watershed Tour showcased an AMD Treatment System at the EC Aerobic Wetlands along Dundee Road, Hanover Twp., Borehole Monitoring of the Askam AMD Boreholes, AMD Water Quality, Solomon's Creek AMD Boreholes, and the Honey Pot AMD Discharge in Nanticoke; Students were made aware of EPCAMR's Iron Oxide Harvesting and Processing Recycling Efforts

- EPCAMR Staff and SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator-Tom Clarke, attended a meeting with State Senator John Yudichak to provide him with updated information on our Mine Pool Mapping efforts in the Wyoming Valley and to seek assistance with our Borehole Awareness Campaign with local municipalities that in the past, have already blacktopped over several boreholes used for monitoring the underground mines historically; Provided John with a GIS Map of the Wyoming Valley and all of the locations where EPCAMR is currently monitoring the water elevation levels; EPCAMR Executive Director completed a meeting request form to meet with Congressman Lou Barletta to inform him of our project and Borehole Awareness Campaign as well; EPCAMR has a meeting with State Senator John Blake in Lackawanna County in July
- On June 14, 2011 at 6:30 – 8:30pm, the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Educators (PAEE) and Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) will be looking for interested non-formal environmental educators to contribute to the environmental education certification development process; Building on results gathered from our recent online survey and PAEE's annual conference, we will be hosting small discussion groups across the state to share more information and hear your input; EPCAMR is hosting and assisting with convening this meeting since the Executive Director is on the PAEE Advisory Board; Provided Ruth Roperti-PAEE President with a brief bio on the EPCAMR Executive Director since they are featuring PAEE Advisory Board Members in their next issue of the PAEE Journal; <http://epcamr.org/home/news/page/3/>
- EPCAMR signed on to two letters upon review of the draft template to be sent, in partnership with the Choose Clean Water Coalition; The first is related to our priority of ensuring continued federal investment in Chesapeake Bay watershed protection and restoration; This is a series of 5 distinct letters to relevant US House and Senate committee leadership regarding important federal appropriations for clean water in our region; The second is related to our priority of protecting communities from water pollution created by gas drilling. This is a letter endorsing the FRAC Act with individual copies being sent to the 12 Senators and 41 Members of Congress representing a portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, as well as the remaining members of the New York and Pennsylvania Congressional delegations

Technical Assistance

- Attended the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Meeting to update them on grants that were received by the HBPS submitted with the assistance of EPCAMR and Mr. Clarke-Board President/Treasurer and to introduce them to Mrs. Janice Leiby-Horticulture Teacher/Supervisor of the Wilkes-Barre Career & Tech Center, who sponsored one of the grants that was received for **\$4500** through the USDA Living2Learn Grant Program; Her students will be scraping and painting the HBPS exterior metal fence and conducting a cleanup and brush clearing of the 3 acres of abandoned mine lands owned by the HBPS

- Sat in on a SRBC Water Quality Advisory Committee Webinar and Conference Call
- EPCAMR has once again collaborated with the Anthracite Region Independent Power Producer's Association (ARIPPA) to commemorate their 21st Anniversary by offering a competitive award to watershed organizations working on Abandoned Mine Land (AML) and/or Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) remediation projects. Grants, at a maximum of **\$5,000**, will be awarded to at least one eligible environmental organization or Conservation District in the Anthracite Region actively working on AML/AMD issues. EPCAMR is hoping to see at least a dozen small projects that we can leverage the funding for this year. Grant proposals should be for on-the-ground AML/AMD construction projects with a completion date between August 2010 and August 2012; <http://epcamr.org/home/news/page/6/>
- Reviewed the MRAB 2010 Annual Report and provided comments to the PA DEP's Jim Charowsky-MRAB Liaison
- Worked with Jim Wetzel-Weatherly Borough Planning Commission and Gerard Caron to revise and update the access agreement for 1 more year on Cabot Corporation property for the partners to continue to monitor several AMD discharges and to work with Trout Unlimited to perform a Comprehensive Biological Assessment of the Hazle Creek Watershed under the direction of Shawn M. Rummel, Ph.D. Field & Research Coordinator, TU Eastern Abandoned Mine Program, under their Technical Assistance Grant
- Produced an AMLIS Environmental Resources Inventory GIS Map for the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club requested by Thomas Au-Conservation Chair, for areas where a potential gas pipeline, collector lines and larger pipelines, going through completed projects may be run across some abandoned mine lands being considered for in Lycoming, Sullivan, and Bradford, Counties, heavily focused on the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Area and surrounding watersheds
- Reviewed and commented on Final SMCRA Title V Consolidated GeoSpatial Standards with members of the National OSM GeoSpatial Data Standards Team

Project Coordination

- Conducted the monthly Lackawanna Valley Watershed Borehole Elevation Monitoring with Mike at **13** locations
- Conducted the monthly Wyoming Valley Watershed Borehole Elevation Monitoring with Mike and Justyn-EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern at **24** locations
- Conducted a meeting with Tom Clarke-SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator to review the Quarterly Progress Reporting on the Mine Pool Mapping for the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys prior to meeting with Senator Yudichak; Reviewed some information on the soon to be released Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy

- Revised draft Scope of Work and Detailed Budget for the PA DEP EE Grant EPCAMR received to conduct AMD Teacher Training Workshops/In-Services for 34 Science Teachers in partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Submitted the revisions to the PA DEP EE Grant Program Office Management Technician Virginia Harris and Hannah Marker for Final Approval which was accepted by Ann Devine PA DEP EE Regional Program Coordinator
- Provided Samantha Kutschel-PA Trout Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program Coordinator with a day-long tour of the Solomon's Creek Watershed to discuss with her several points of interest within the area that will be looked at more closely for recommended implementation plans as EPCAMR begins to assess it to create a Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan for the watershed; See Press Release; <http://epcamr.org/home/news/page/7/>
- Assisted the HBPS and the W-B CTC Horticultural Class with removing brush, painting, and scraping the fence around the perimeter of the 3 acre abandoned mine lands where a future Anthracite Miner's Memorial Park will be constructed
- John Meyer at Teledyne has informed the Lackawanna Valley Watershed partners who are working desperately to find a device that can monitor the flow of the Old Forge AMD Borehole that he may have a device that can do the job; A 2150 AV Doppler sensor has a high probability of working under the conditions present at the borehole; This sensor gives out a "shotgun" blast / signal and will have a better chance of reading any reflection in the "clean" water coming from the borehole; Based on our description of the flow and full pipe/boring condition, we believe the flow to be greater than 1.0'/sec; This being true, we might be able to infuse air bubbles thru the inner rods and into the borehole if required; Dean, from PA Tectonics, Inc. is also constructing a V-notch weir to use at the Duryea outfall to measure flow and would like to setup a site visit with the partners as soon as possible
- Mentioned to EC that EPCAMR could revise our more comprehensive watershed assessment proposal for the Nanticoke Creek AMD Remediation Treatment System Project to a quarterly monitoring phased program and re-submit to Mike for consideration since they EC will be moving towards construction of an AMD Wetlands Treatment System along with a Maelstrom Oxidizer for the Askam AMD Boreholes soon

Conference Coordination

- Conducted an PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to move the agenda along and get everyone up to speed on the Conference; Updated the Speakers List and the Presenters List; Confirmed that OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik will be our guest speaker over lunch on Friday, August 5th; Asked the Pre-Conference Tour Committee to nail down the Tour Route by the 31st of May
- Dale Freudenberger-Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, Inc. has donated Anthracite artifacts such as buckets, Davey Lamps, lunch pails, carbide lamps, and mining drinking memorabilia for our Centerpieces at EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Found out our Paid Work Experience (PWE) and Community Service (CS) Coordinator Sandra Curry, with Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI, Inc.) left for another job and forwarded EPCAMR information on the new Coordinator-Paula Bianchino, that is to be hired within the month who should be contacting us in the near future; www.edsincorporated.com
- EPCAMR has received our official approval from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development upon completion of some minor revisions and assurances that needed to be submitted to Jim O'Donnell-Program Manager- that we've been approved to be included on the State's list of educational improvement organizations under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) PG; Businesses who would like to make contributions in the form of a donation to us to support our work to continue to provide outdoor environmental education opportunities & State standard approved curriculum activities to schools in the EPCAMR Region can receive business tax credits; Our place-based environmental education philosophy that we apply throughout the Coal Field underserved school districts have been deemed as "innovative educational programs" by the Commonwealth of PA for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012); A copy of the list of educational improvement organizations can be found here; www.NewPA.com/eitc
- EPCAMR Staff worked on, completed, & submitted our FY2012-2013 Scope of Work & Detailed **\$125,000.00** Budget at the immediate request of Russ Wagner and Gary Price-Project Officer at the PA DEP-Bureau of Watershed Management
- EPCAMR Staff prepared and prepped for Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting; Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks; Provided Mike with PA DEP BAMR Projects Report for 2010; <http://epcamr.org/storage/board/BAMRStatusReportMRAB2011-04.pdf>
- Executive Director attended a free "**Intro to Corporate Giving**" Workshop presented by Katrina Brown- The Foundation Center, sponsored by the NEPA Alliance at the Junior Achievement of Northeastern PA; Received an introduction to the world of corporate support for nonprofits & funding research tools to help EPCAMR identify corporate prospects
- Completed the April 2011 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement & Progress Report; Reviewed Mike & Wren's monthly Board Reports
- Continued working with EPCAMR Staff on the development of EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary and 1st Annual Dinner/Fundraiser Event, webpage, and online store registration process payment links; EPCAMR Executive Director & Program Manager sorted & categorized our entire online contacts database by categories including potential Dinner Sponsors to be targeted for the upcoming Dinner & provided the contacts by County out to the EPCAMR Board for assistance with soliciting sponsorships; <http://epcamr.org/home/current-initiatives/epcamrs-15th-anniversary-dinner-fundraiser/>
- Interviewed Justyna Sacharzewska, recent graduate from Wilkes University for a Summer Watershed Outreach Internship position, 20 hrs/week; She has a BS in Environmental Science & some GIS experience; <http://epcamr.org/home/news/page/2/>
- Continue to fill Iron Oxide Pigment Orders and other items listed on our EPCAMR Online Store; <http://epcamr.org/store/>