

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Assisted the Luzerne Conservation District Staff and Partner Agencies with coordinating the 2013 Luzerne County EnviroThon at the PPL Riverlands, Salem Twp.; Served as a scorer for all of the Soils Station
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the Solar AMD Kiln donated to the Plains-Solomen Elementary School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District with the entire 6th grade class of 150 students with assistance from Mike Corcoran, W-B Area SD Grant Coordinator and Alana Roberts-PPL Community Relations Coordinator; WNEP-16 was on location to videotape a "Power to Save" Program on our use of the iron oxide from AMD dried and processed by the students and their teachers in their Solar AMD Kiln to create the T-shirts that will be worn by all of the students on their 6th grade field trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia for the second year in a row; <http://wnep.com/2013/05/09/students-turning-waste-and-pollution-into-art/>
- Conference Call with Ed McCrea, Chairman of the PAEE Committee to review a draft Marketing chapter and content of newly drafted brochure targeting Non-Formal Environmental Education Professionals interested in Environmental Education Certification by approved by PAEE and NAAEE
- Provided a motivational speech to nearly 365 high school student County-represented EnviroThon Teams at Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA on pursuing their careers in the environment at the PA EnviroThon; Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop with EPCAMR Staff and other volunteers for the entire student body; Interviewed by Kristopher Hendrickson, videographer for WVIA-TV, a PBS station, that is working on an AMD Documentary for the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Met with John Dawes-Foundation for PA Watersheds to touch base on upcoming projects and legislative issues related to SMCRA
--"THANK YOU!!! The program Tuesday evening was a huge success; the students loved it. We thoroughly enjoyed having EPCAMR involved this year, and perhaps we can look at another program in the future. I had some say that this was the best Tuesday evening program they've been to. Kudos to you and your group!" -Lorelle Steach-PA EnviroThon Coordinator
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop for two 4th grade classes (50 students) at the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary Center, Nanticoke, PA under the direction of Mrs. Bartle
- Attended a Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition (GDAC) sponsored Film Presentation on Similarities between Coal Mining and Gas Drilling at the Plymouth Historical Society, where Scott Cannon, was the guest speaker; EPCAMR had provided Scott with many technical points on abandoned mines and coal mining in PA

Education & Outreach

- Submitted an abstract to Robert Rice, with the **2013 NAAML P Conference** in West Virginia, on behalf of EPCAMR on our work on the Lower Lackawanna River Watershed utilizing EarthVision to develop a 3D Model of the Underground Mines in the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex; Informed Robert that we'd like to add the NAAML P Conference link to our www.treatminewater.com site and he said in return that he'd put our link on their site
- Submitted an abstract to SRBC for their **2013 Water Science Forum** on behalf of EPCAMR on our work on the Lower Lackawanna River Watershed utilizing EarthVision to develop a 3D Model of the Underground Mines in the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex
- Attended a **GIS Discovery Day** at King's College hosted by Professor Alexandria Serio, to listen to students make presentations on applied applications of GIS and talked with students following their presentations about potential internships and volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR
- Completed an iron oxide order for Rebecca Holler-PA Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program for an upcoming EE program that TU will be coordinating where she'll be conducting an AMD Tie Dye Workshop similar to EPCAMR's successful EE Program
- Sister Miriam Stadulis from the Sisters of Mercy has requested EPCAMR's assistance to conduct a few Summer programs supported by the YMCA at playgrounds in the City of Wilkes-Barre in June, July, and August; EPCAMR suggested conducting an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop for the youth, if the Y can sponsor the costs of T-shirts; EPCAMR is waiting to hear back from her as to whether or not the Y has funds to support the costs of purchasing white T-shirts
- Lauren Peterson, Field Journalist Intern for the Arbor Day Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska is currently working on a project that includes conducting interviews with various organizations that are involved in tree planting and/or conservation-oriented events. They will then use the information gathered from those interviews to compose stories that will highlight the events or programs on our Volunteer Center at arbordaynow.org; She noticed that EPCAMR uses their Volunteer Center for our events and programs; She was particularly interested in learning more about the tree planting efforts EPCAMR has initiated at abandoned mine reclamation sites; EPCAMR Executive Director conducted a phone interview with Lauren and sent her along links and photos of our tree planting projects and our recent Waterboxx Research Project at the Huber Park AML Site in Ashley, PA; <http://epcamr.org/home/2012/epcamr-tree-planting-project-selected-for-reforestation-research-effort-at-huber-miners-memorial-park-site/>; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-awarded-1k-to-continue-collaborative-waterboxx-pilot-project-phase-ii-research/>; <http://epcamr.org/home/2012/epcamr-bring-on-board-sarah-jane-gerstman-watershed-outreach-intern-to-the-reclamation-mix-for-the-winter-2012spring-2013/>

Technical Assistance

- Followed up with George Kauffman, Executive Director-Pocono NE RC & DC regarding our earlier meeting on ways that EPCAMR can possibly provide Technical Assistance to the group under their C-SAW Program
- Worked with WPCAMR to decide on 4 speakers for the June 11, 2013 ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Educational Fun Day Fundraiser in State College, PA; ARIPPA informed EPCAMR/WPCAMR that their Board has allocated **\$5000 (\$2500/Coalition)** to continue the Mini-Grant Program going forward in 2013-2014

Technical Assistance

- Followed up with Daniel Quiroga, Wet Processor, from Southern California who is marketing our iron oxide for us in Mexico and Southern California to boutiques and designers looking for something "green" in their fabric designs
- Forwarded information to Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist and Cheryl Snyder-PA DEP Section 319 NPS Program on the section of Sugar Notch Run in the Solomon Creek Watershed that EPCAMR would like to see de-listed from the List of Impaired Waters due to its trout population, macro-invertebrate populations and diversity, and water quality that may have been assumed years ago when the **1.64** mile stretch of stream was listed as impaired by AMD, pH, and stream alteration
- Coordinated getting an AMD Tour put together by Wayne Lehman, Watershed Specialist at the Schuylkill Conservation District and Schuylkill Headwaters Association volunteers, for a Charter School group of **40** students from the Lehigh Valley; EPCAMR's former EE Intern Pam Kattner is a teacher for the Charter School
- EPCAMR reviewed Stream Restoration Inc's Project Expansion packet as a part of their efforts to seek the exemption from FERC on the Antrim 5MW Hydro-Electric Project Antrim AMD Treatment Plant, in the Wilson Creek Watershed, Tioga County, PA; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared and provided a letter of support for the project to SRI
- Provided Mike Hewitt, EPCAMR Program Manager with the 2012 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for his review and file
- Received a copy of Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association's mini-grant application to EPCAMR under our ARIPPA/EPCAMR AMD/AML Grant Program; They have been partners with EPCAMR for years; <http://wnep.com/2013/05/05/mehoopany-creek-watershed-association/>
- Forwarded Mike a link to very useful Census data for a project he's working on with the Foundation for PA Watersheds; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/nation/census-high-income/>

Project Coordination

- Worked with the SRBC Staff to develop two proposal ideas for a future Act 13 grant through the Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA), one for **PA DEP BAMR Rausch Creek AMD Treatment Plant Mine Pool Mapping Development** and the other in partnership with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), Lackawanna Valley Conservancy (LVC) and EPCAMR on securing **Land Acquisition funding for future treatment of the Old Forge AMD Borehole**
- Worked with Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Incorporated, WPCAMR, and Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, to develop a proposal for a future Act 13 or Growing Greener grant to provide watershed groups the equipment, supplies, training, and encouragement that they need to go out and monitor/inspect AMD Treatment systems AND enter their respective data into DATASHED

Project Coordination

- Worked through Harry Haas, Luzerne County Councilman to make an official request to get on the agenda for an upcoming Luzerne County Council meeting with LRCA to inform Council and the County Manager, Mr. Robert Lawton, on the recent completion of the **Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Assessment Plan** and subsequent recommendations in the plan to seek additional funds and support to treat AMD in the Lower Lackawanna River watershed; Senator Lisa Baker has given us her full support for the Plan and is willing to write a letter of support when the time is right for submission of any future grants; Requested a meeting with Senator Yudichak to inform him of the plan as well and working through his scheduler Richard Fox; http://www.lrca.org/LRCA/pdf/LLWRAP_Exec_Summary1.pdf
- Continued working with Janice Leiby, FFA Coordinator and Wilkes-Barre Career & Technology Center Horticulture Teacher on re-submission of the FY13-14 LST Team grant in the amount of **\$2500** to continue to support the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park AML Reclamation and Landscaping Project Phase II**
- Provided Larry Ruane-**PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program** with a copy of EPCAMR's Articles of Incorporation at his request
- Worked with Aaron Stredny-Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District to prepare and revise our **\$2000** PACD Non-Point Source Mini-Grant to support the **Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration and Demonstration Project** in Luzerne County in the Solomon Creek watershed; Luzerne Conservation District was notified within a week that the project was funded fully
- Anticipating the shipment of **20** Waterboxxes from the ACCT; **10** for the Huber AML Park site and **10** for the **Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration and Demonstration Project**; Provided ACCT Reforestation Coordinator, Brantley Kirkland with an update on the monitoring and research of the first year seedlings on the Huber Park AML Site and forwarded along soil sample analyses conducted in-kind by Sarah-Jane Gerstman-EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern from Wilkes University who will be completing her senior project report for her internship with EPCAMR on her research efforts on the Waterboxxes and native seedling growth on the abandoned mine lands site over the last year; Information was then past on to Patrick Angel, with the OSM-Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) for further review
- EPCAMR billed LRCA for the **\$12,500** for 2 years worth of work completed on the Lower **Lackawanna River Watershed Assessment Plan** development and production, along with our work on mapping the Lower Lackawanna River Mine Pools of the Scranton-Metro area and provided them with a Final Progress Narrative Report
- Followed up with Carol Kafer-Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA) to inform her that EPCAMR would be up in her neck of the woods in mid-July to begin working on the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project** in Cherry Twp., Sullivan County; She would like to have some of the LCWA volunteers and herself come out to take before and after photos of our work and to assist us in monitoring in the area around the project; Informed her that we are waiting on the full execution of the grant agreement before we could start and execution of our sub-contract agreement with Hedin Environmental

Community Volunteer Services Coordination

- Jill Mayo, virtual EPCAMR Grey Literature Searcher from California, has been compiling reference documents and other Anthracite-related articles and resources and providing them to EPCAMR on a monthly basis to add to our reference library and bibliography of references to site or research while conducting our projects
- Chris Bolin, a potential EPCAMR volunteer was sent our Volunteer Request Form and directed to our www.volunteermatch.org site to determine which activities he would be interested in
- Roxanne Li, another interested EPCAMR volunteer met with EPCAMR Executive Director about potential projects that she might be able to volunteer on during the Summer/Fall 2013
- Chad Hashagen, approached EPCAMR and was in need of 45 hours of community service for a misdemeanor ; EPCAMR provided a letter to his Community Service Coordinator in Maryland that stated that he would complete the 45 hours by June 14, 2013
- David and Bernie Svabb, a father and son combination from the Wilkes-Barre Area are interesting in becoming EPCAMR volunteers; Mel Talmadge sent off our Volunteer Request Form to each of them for completion
- Bill Wellock, another interested EPCAMR volunteer who works for the Citizen's Voice is interested in assisting us with finding boreholes as an EPCAMR Borehole Explorer that have been either paved over or not found to date, in the Wyoming Valley, in case we have to daylight any of them for future projects to monitor the mine pools in the Wyoming Valley in greater detail; Directed Mel Talmadge to send off our Volunteer Request Form to him for completion
- Activated a 3-month FREE trial subscription to the Community Leader application with VolunteerMatch

Conference Coordination

- Participated in the May 2013 PA AMR Conference Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming **15th Anniversary State-wide Conference** in State College; Approved previously submitted Abstracts submissions; Several more had come during the month of May and were immediately forwarded out to our PyriteBad ListServe for approval; Received word from the PA DEP that our funding request for **\$5000** was approved; Pushed the Watershed Hero Trading Cards out to our reclamation and watershed audience through e-mail to get them to nominate their volunteers within their respective groups; Followed up on abstracts that were suggested for presentations; Discussed Pre-Conference Workshop format and topic on "Advocacy"; Provided updates on the website development of www.treatminewater.com ; Confirmed Peter Stern as our Friday Lunch Speaker who will be talking on "Photographing the Coal Region from the Air"; PACD's Brandi-Davenport has joined the Committee and will be assisting with PR, working on the design and layout of the Program Brochure, and has created a letterhead for the PA AMR Conference for future use and better branding of the Conference that has been sent around to the PA AMR Conference Committee; Skip Sensbach, artist from Misericordia University's Art Department will be providing all attendees with a free 15th Anniversary magnet of our PA AMR Conference logo made from coal ash, EPCAMR's iron oxide, a local clay, and a regional glaze
(*Two images on next page*)



Figure 1. PA AMR Conference Logo



Figure 2. Iron Oxide, clay and coal-ash mixed magnets

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the April EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- Several EPCAMR Board Members requested that we put on the agenda for educational purposes only a point of discussion on potential candidates that are running for Governor (John Hangar, Katie McGinty, Tom Wolf, etc.)
- Contacted our CPA, Kovalchik & Kollar to inform them that as soon as we got our QuickBooks 2013 Accounts set up properly, we'd sent over our 2012 Accountant's Copy for filing of our 990s
- Sought support from the Greater Nanticoke Area, Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and the Bear Creek Charter School for letters acknowledging the innovative environmental education programs that EPCAMR has brought to their students over the years; EPCAMR Executive Director applied for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program renewal through the PA DCED as an "Educational Improvement Organization"; <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc>
- EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting on May 16th had to be cancelled due to other Board Member commitments and a lack of quorum
- Updated EPCAMR Staff Clearances and Background Checks for 2013 to continue to work with schools, universities, and colleges that require clearances be conducted before working with youth and students
- Worked with Mike to purchase and upload the new ShopperPress Program to EPCAMR's website to handle our online transactions, donations, membership, registrations, and sales
- Introduced EPCAMR to Cristy Doyle, new Administrative Assistant for ARIPPA



Photo: A few dozen 2013 EPCAMR PA EnviroThon AMD Tie Dye T-shirts at Juniata College, PA