

EPCAMR



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May 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Worked on a Press Release with Carly on National AmeriCorps Week and worked with our local legislators within the EPCAMR region to produce some support and publicity for the Program, since Carly is funded through the OSM/VISTA AmeriCorps Program
- Attended an Anthracite Living History Group Meeting to hear updates from members on the AML Site and the reclamation work going on down along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail that lies adjacent to the abandoned mine colliery complex
- Attended the Lackawanna River Corridor Association's Annual 2008 RiverFest and set up an EPCAMR Exhibit as well as conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop; Nearly **100** people visited the exhibit near the Olive Street Bridge, Scranton and **25** Tie Dye T's were created by children
- Participated in the Schuylkill County's Annual Bear Creek Festival, Summit Station where nearly **250** AMD Tie-Dye T-shirts were created even on the soggiest of days of Summer
- Conducted an AMD/AML Education & Outreach Program with **48** 4th grade elementary students from Blossburg Elementary, Blossburg; Tested AMD on Johnson's Creek and the Tioga River Confluence, and conducted our infamous AMD Tie-Dye Program with the children
- Conducted a Southern Wyoming Valley AMD Watershed Tour, Water Sampling Program, Tile Mosaic Project, and AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the entire 5th grade elementary of the Dallas School District, including Wycallis Elementary and Dallas Elementary totaling nearly **240** students
- Attended the Shamokin Anthracite Heritage Festival of the Arts to exhibit some of EPCAMR's AMD Anthrascapes Art work and to encourage local artists to participate in our Iron Oxide Art Program and to build a partnership with the Northumberland Council of the Arts, Shamokin
- EPCAMR Executive Director was interviewed by the Newport Township Community Organization for a future article in their Township Newsletter because of last few years of assistance that EPCAMR has been providing to them on illegal dump site cleanups in their Township in the Southern part of the Wyoming Valley
- Worked with Carly to complete and submit a PACD Mini-Grant to purchase a kiln to dry our iron-oxide more efficiently for AMD Tie-Dye Workshops, creation of our EPCAMR Chalk, and for other art purposes

- Interviewed by the Citizens Voice newspaper on EPCAMR's supportive position to raise the Consumptive Use Fee being proposed by the SRBC; EPCAMR has suggested that portions of the fee collected be used for operation, maintenance, and construction of AMD treatment systems to offset the consumptive use of water in the basin for other industrial purposes
- Worked with Mike and Carly to set up an AMD Watershed Tour of the Jeddo Mine Tunnel and Old Forge Borehole with PA F& BC Executive Director, Doug Austen, who requested that EPCAMR give him a tour of some of our projects and work of our partners in the Northeast Region on AMD, scheduled for June 5 as a part of National Fishing & Boating Week

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff completed the EPCAMR Program 319 Growing Greener Grant that was submitted to the PA DEP
- Provided a letter of acknowledgement and support for Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association's Growing Greener Grant for a Stream Channel Relocation Project on the Mehoopany Creek's North Branch Catlin Hollow, Wyoming County and offered up free GIS Mapping assistance to the group
- Prepared a letter of support for Hick's Creek Watershed Association's Slocum Bank Stabilization Project
- Requested and received a copy of ArcPad 7.1 from OSM through our MOU with the TIPS Training Team
- Prepared a letter of support for Exeter Borough's Flood Pump Replacement Project
- Prepared a letter of support for Eco-Tech, LLC's Old Forge Borehole AMD Treatment System Feasibility Study
- Prepared a letter of support for the Dauphin County Conservation District's Lykens Tunnel Basin C Construction, in the Bear Creek sub-watershed of the Wiconisco Creek
- Prepared a letter of support for the Earth Conservancy Hanover 9 AML Reclamation Project, Hanover Township
- Prepared a letter of acknowledgement for the Luzerne County Solomon's Creek AMD Remediation Proposal
- Prepared a letter of support for EMARR's Jeddo Mine Tunnel AMD Remediation Project
- Prepared a letter of acknowledgement for EMARR's Green Mountain Tunnel Project
- Prepared a letter of support for EMARR's Heart of Hazleton AML Priority 1 Limestone Drainage System Project
- Prepared a letter of support for the Tioga County Concerned Citizen's Group's Fall Brook AMD Limestone Pods Treatment System Construction in the Upper Tioga River Watershed

- Prepared a letter of acknowledgement for the CenterPoint AML Reclamation Project being proposed by PEC
- Conducted a site investigation in Laurel Run Borough with a local citizen, Cindy Dorzinski, who had questions about a particular, what she considered an active mining site that was dumping fly-ash in a pit very close to her house within a few miles; Researched the area and found two active SMPs, and even talked with the property operator, Mr. Corgan to satisfy some of her questions and concerns, as well as myths about certain types of fly-ash/coal ash; Provided her with links to resources that might help her understand the mining permit process and the beneficial use of Coal-Ash on AML sites
- Conference call with SRBC's AMD Watershed Coordinator-Tom Clark, several other SRBC Staff, EPCAMR Staff to finalize the Honey Pot AMD discharge (Susquehanna #7), Design grant that was submitted to PA DEP under Growing Greener; Completed the application in partnership with the SRBC, who delivered it firsthand to the PA DEP on the day of the deadline, May 16th
- Provided a letter of support for the D & L NHCC for the Anthracite Region OSM/VISTA Alliance
- EPCAMR was approved for a **\$1000** grant application to OSM/VISTA and the ACCWT for a Summer Associate (Anthracite Historian Research Assistant) 10 week full-time intern to work with John and EPCAMR on developing some historical anthracite related learning packets, a web-site for regional historical resources on abandoned mines, history, and people, places, and events;
- Provided and EPCAMR Letter of Support for the SRBC proposed Consumptive Use Mitigation Fee Increase

Project Coordination

- Held a **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** Meeting at the EPCAMR Office to receive updates from Roger Hornberger and Ian Palmer, as well as Chuck Cravotta-USGS on the status of the mapping investigations at the Pottsville District Mining Office and to hear an update from Mike Hewitt on the GIS data layers for the project; Worked on getting confidential information from the two PSU Professors that will be working with us on the project in order for EPCAMR to run their names through the Contractor System
- Mailed out the signed contract to Skelly & Loy for their files and to now begin to set up our initial summer meetings to get started on the **Hicks Creek NSCD Project**; Followed up with Borton-Lawson to make sure that their sub-contract was also in order before they begin their survey and GIS work

Conferences and Trainings

- Co-presented with Mike at the PA Council of Geology Professionals “Water & the Environment” Symposium on EPCAMR’s RAMLIS GIS Tool at their Annual Meeting in Hershey
- Participated in a History SubCommittee and AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to continue to flush out details of the August 2008 10th Annual AMR & Coal Mining History Conference; Continued to make contacts with speakers from Eastern PA
- Set up a Strategic Planning Conference call with members of the EPCAMR Board with Peter Lane and Elaine Chaney-Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) for May 8, 2008; Provided some Strategic Planning Worksheets to the Committee for review and consideration

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted April 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 April 2008 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Attended an LCD Staff Meeting
- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts and made a bank deposit; Provided a list of open grants that were being administered by the EPCAMR Program to Ray Knaub, LCD Auditor
- Conducted a Conference Call with Elaine Chaney-Institute for Conservation Leadership, along with EPCAMR Board Member, Al Mabus to discuss EPCAMR’s upcoming Strategic Planning Goals and Training Facilitation
- Followed up with the EPCAMR Board Personnel Committee on how to proceed with our Program Evaluation Forms

Community Cleanups on AML

- Provided Patty Olenick-PA DEP Waste Management with pictures from our recent Avondale COALS Cleanup for her presentation at the PSATS Conventions in Hershey