

EPCAMR



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October 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Meeting with Mike Corcoran-Wilkes-Barre Area School District Science Coordinator to continue to work on the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant; Mike provided EPCAMR with the final survey results of the 34 Science Teachers in the District that will be participating in the proposed teacher training grant on AMD (*more than 90% of the teachers were not aware of the name of their local watershed that their School District was located in, more than 90% didn't know the local watershed where their home was located, and over 80% didn't know what AMD was*); Mike provided EPCAMR with the Letter of Commitment from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Namey, who is in full support of our grant submission
- Held a meeting at the EPCAMR Office with John Thomas and Duane Renko, from Kroff Process Technologies, Inc., a company that has worked in W. Va on AMD Treatment on active mining sites in the bituminous region; They are a leading company on water re-use and Frac water re-use; Kroff is interested in partnering with EPCAMR on future projects
- Attended the Live Well, Luzerne County Workshop in Kingston, PA to look into additional funding avenues for some of our regional partners on projects that are connected to abandoned mine lands, water quality, and historic preservation
- Conducted a AML Tour of the Huber Breaker with Bill Best, President of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, with permission from Mr. Al Roman, to take the Anthracite Heritage Alliance OSM/VISTAs on the property and into the belly of the Breaker to discuss the operations of the last coal Breaker standing in the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields
- Meeting with Karen Gower-Education Coordinator for the Bear Creek Camp, Bear Creek Township, Luzerne County to discuss future partnership opportunities and grant projects; Karen returned some of EPCAMR's chalk molds that were left at the Camp following a program that was conducted over the Summer 2010
- Megan Gershey, a Wilkes University student has offered to work with some of her engineering faculty to help us come up with several optional design specifications for the solar AMD kiln that EPCAMR has proposed to build to dry our iron oxide
- Signed on to the Choose Clean Water Coalition TMDL Comments to the EPA, in addition to submitting our own comments to the Water Docket

- Continued to work with Marywood University Graphic Design team on completing our EPCAMR Ad Campaign posters
- Asked Mike to forward around to our watershed groups in the region, a web site design application from a service-learning course at Wilkes University; This application is only for non-profit organizations; The service is being provided by Sarah Pisarchick-Rech, a Wilkes University Professor
- Assisted Wren with finalizing a press release on our recent tour with the OSM/VISTAs to the abandoned Huber Breaker Colliery
- Submitted a 2011 Nomination of “AMD Outreach” to the Choose Clean Water Coalition for consideration of their 2011 National priorities

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff performed AMD Water Sampling, Biological Sampling, Flow Monitoring, and Visual Habitat Assessment work in the field on Espy Run, a tributary to the Nanticoke Creek, for the Earth Conservancy to establish a baseline watershed assessment of the tributary prior to the completion of an expanded AMD Treatment wetland system being constructed where an AMD discharge is impacting the stream prior to flowing into Nanticoke Creek; Completed monitoring forms
- Meeting with Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Coordinator to discuss strategic planning on the development of the Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy
- Alek Kreiger was interested in some volunteer work with EPCAMR and is from Beaver Meadows, outside of Hazleton, who knows the area well and has grown up there; He is interested in building up his resume in environmental engineering type work; EPCAMR would like to officially train him in the sampling methodology and protocols to get him certified through EPCAMR's AMD Monitoring certification that we put most of the OSM/VISTAs through; We are trying to work around his work schedule with FedEx; EPCAMR put him in touch with Jim Wetzel to assist with monitoring the AMD discharges in the Upper Lehigh Watershed
- Assisted a Penn-State graduate student, Jessica Wolf, on her senior thesis project, where she will be mapping a number of towns in the anthracite coal region who have experienced population loss as a result of mine closure; She will also be studying the potential for these towns to use renewable forms of energy in efforts to create the next chapter in energy production, rather than resorting to another fossil fuel that is extractive (in the form of Marcellus shale); The end product of her thesis must be a design project and as such, she is entertaining ideas of reclamation of former minelands and integration of historic structures related to the post-industrial fabric of these towns, but also the possibility of employing new forms of energy into former sites of extraction; She is a PA native (her father is from Pittsburgh, and her mother is from Conyngham, near Hazleton), so she will be visiting the sites during the winter break will be stopping by your office to ask some questions; (<http://www.jessicagwolff.com/>)
- Assisted Mike with putting together a quote for the Lackawanna River Corridor Association's Lackawanna River & Trail Access Points booklet that needs updated and higher quality imagery resolution GIS Mapping before being reprinted; LRCA will look at the quote after the Holidays

- ARIPPA is looking for assistance in their efforts to seek out grants for other plants in the ARIPPA association; EPCAMR's collective staff time would have to be compensated for time spent on the actual researching of the grants depending on who is searching for the applications vs. writing the applications, following further discussions from the ARIPPA members; A few things that would be helpful to EPCAMR would be some key words from the plants or types of projects, programs, redevelopment, construction, retrofitting, reclamation, biomass, energy, etc. to allow EPCAMR to better search some of the grant and foundation search engines that we are aware of; It would be very difficult for us to be paid based on whether or not the grant is actually funded or not due to the competitive nature of the grant applications and numbers submitted in addition to the amount of sensitive information that might be utilized during the application process; It would be better to be paid on a hourly, contingency basis, based on the numbers of hours researched, number of hours reporting the research to ARIPPA, number of hours for grant administration, number of hours to prepare applications jointly with ARIPPA Plant members, and number of hours for grant management and program management, if necessary
- Worked with Mike to set up the Friends of the Nescopeck webhosting and domain administrative services provided by EPCAMR; Schuylkill Headwaters and Earth Conservancy may potentially do the same thing
- Completed an EPCAMR/ACCT AmeriCorps National Program Application proposal that will place approximately 100 AmeriCorps Members in direct service positions with community/watershed improvement organizations to address challenges in rural communities affected by environmental degradation and its consequences throughout Appalachia; Submitted it to Rachel Folk, AmeriCorps Coordinator; If they receive the grant, EPCAMR could expect an AmeriCorps Volunteer as early as next Summer or Fall

Project Coordination

- Prepared 3 Letters of Invitation for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area, Wyoming Valley West, and Greater Nanticoke Area School Districts to participate in EPCAMR's "Tree Trout & AMD" Aquatic Resources Outdoor Education Program funded by the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Calls were made to all Science Directors of each school and EPCAMR was informed that they all would like to participate in the late Spring of 2010; The grade level that the program will target is the 5th grade and several hundred students and dozens of teachers are anticipated to be involved in the program where they will perform AMD Stream monitoring, identification of aquatic insects and fish, and the creation of artwork based on the bugs collected to be placed at the monitoring sites that will be throughout the Wyoming Valley; Media will be involved to coordinate an AMD Awareness & Outreach campaign
- Meeting with Kent Fuller and James Pagnotti, from Pagnotti Enterprises to discuss some possible mine pool mapping work in the Hazleton area, Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. is interested in having EPCAMR perform as a professional service; EPCAMR Staff took some time to develop a proposal for technical services to submit to Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. and mailed it to James Pagnotti
- Received and continue to review the USGS Water Resources Investigation Report, Maps, Graphs, and Tables for our ***Mine Pool Mapping Project***

- Prepared a **\$6000** grant application to the Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program for the Solomon Creek watershed to conduct a preliminary assessment of the 18.1 sq. mile watershed of with a focus on its tributaries, in the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, PA. It is an AMD impacted stream on the Federal 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters at several segments along its length before entering the Susquehanna River, however there are also tributaries that are holding native trout species that are isolated in between AMD discharges to the Creek and some of its upper tributaries. In fact, there is a 2.6 mile stretch that is a Class A Brook Trout Fishery within the watershed upstream of several of the AMD impacts; EPCAMR would like to assess the tributaries and come up with some recommendations for future implementation plans; The Solomon Creek Watershed contains many high quality and cold water trout assets, despite the presence of AMD impacts that lower portions of the watershed; Seeking letters of support from partners in the watershed
- Participated in a conference call with WPCAMR, Clearfield County Conservation District, PA DEP 319 Program, and other partner organizations who helped to put together the "Formation of AMD" educational video; Discussion was around future distribution of the DVDs and getting price quotes on producing the 8 page booklet, DVD jackets, and color cover sleeves

Conference Coordination

- Sent signed paperwork back to Genetti's in Hazleton, PA on the 2011 contract for the planned AMR Conference & EPCAMR 15th Anniversary Celebration; Was informed about professional development hours (PDH) for professional geologists, engineers and surveyors; We do not have to offer Continuing Education Credits (CEU) for our conference; We can simply give out a certificate stating the date of the course and how many hours of technical sessions were provided and that should be good enough for the people needing the credits to count; We can probably do this generically in the registration packets for the conference; We may get a greater turnout for our event if we add some statements marketing it to those needing credits
- Worked with Dvon Duncan, Eastern Coal Region Roundtable to connect her with James Pagnotti, Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. to see if he was interested in speaking at the first State of Region Roundtable Conference in W. Va in March 2011
- Inquired to Nora L. Carreras, Director-Office of Environmental Advocate-PA DEP, about the possibility of any scholarships available for non-profit environmental groups to attend the National Brownfields Conference (www.brownfields2011.org) in Philadelphia, PA in April of 2011, that work on brownfields redevelopment on abandoned mine lands; We'd like to have my one other staff member and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer potentially attend, but do not have the funds for the hotel accommodations or travel

Community Cleanup Coordination on Abandoned Mine Lands

- Coordinated a roadside cleanup effort on Dundee Road, Hanover Twp., along the Nanticoke Creek and the Dundee AMD outfall, where a newly constructed AMD Treatment Wetlands is planned to be constructed by the Earth Conservancy; 4 Wilkes University student volunteers and the EPCAMR Staff picked up 12 Tires, 22 trash bags (880 pounds), 1 carpet, 2 couches, 2 TVs, 3 5 gallon buckets of oil, and 2 chairs all within 1.5 hrs along a .5 mile stretch of road; Trash was removed by PA DOT for free

- Amy Waltz, a resident of Nanticoke, PA was travelling along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail path down near Avondale and noticed that an increased amount of illegal dumping has continued to occur even since our repeated attempts to conduct cleanups over the last few years; Informed her that we didn't have additional funds right now to cover additional cleanup costs for the site, nor the trail, but that we would be interested in volunteering to work with her if she can rally some local business support to cover the costs of the dumpsters that would be needed to haul the material away

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks
- Sent around the Strategic Planning Notes after reprioritizing them for the EPCAMR Board and Strategic Planning Committee
- Completed the EPCAMR Staff Personnel Anniversary Evaluations and provided the results and recommendations of the review of Mike and my self-evaluation to the EPCAMR Personnel Committee
- On January 9, 2009, the federal court in Clarksburg, WV ruled in the case of WV Highlands Conservancy and WV Rivers Coalition vs. Randy Huffman; known as "*The Keeley Decision*" the outcome could imply that anyone who installs and/or operates a passive or active AMD treatment system and creates a point source discharge to obtain a NPDES permit; The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Judge Irene Keeley's decision on November 8, 2010; This decision could set precedence nationally and if it comes to PA....without a Federal Good Samaritan Legislation, watershed groups are going to very concerned about whether or not they are going to take on any additional AMD Treatment Designs and Construction Projects because of the rulings that reflect the Clean Water Act, not the State's PA Good Samaritan Legislation that provides some protections and limited liability to groups now
- Participated in a phone survey on the effectiveness of the OSM/VISTA ACCWT Program
- Attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting; Passed a resolution from First National Bank on our newly opened account since the robbery in June 2010 and the newly designated signatories
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for October 2010; Reviewed Mike and Wren's monthly Board Reports
- EPCAMR adopted a resolution supporting the 2010 Federal Policy Priorities of the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) which are all in line with EPCAMR's goals; It establishes another nice partnership in the Maryland Bay Area that might benefit both EPCAMR and the CCWC; There is a little bit of re-granting (funding) to support the policies that could become available for EPCAMR down the road

- Began working on an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Application through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development to become an approved Educational Improvement Organization with PA that could allow us to receive funding to support our environmental education programs throughout the schools that we serve in NorthEastern & NorthCentral PA
- EPCAMR requested a full grant application and set of guidelines for the upcoming grant cycle from the Cora Brooks Foundation that will be due in late January 2011
- Successfully signed up with Planet Green Recycle - the home for an opportunity to earn funds while recycling empty inkjet cartridges and used cell phones;(www.planetgreenrecycle.com/epcamr); Activated a custom website that is a free feature that will allow EPCAMR and our supporters to purchase inkjet printer cartridges, and they will donate 15% of every purchase from our account to EPCAMR; Planet Green Recycle sent EPCAMR 22 customized fliers and a box promoting our site and fundraising efforts
- Informed Charlie Jones, Branch Manager- First National Bank about some more details on our upcoming fundraiser, conference, and 15th Anniversary banquet for EPCAMR in 2011; It will be on August 4th in the evening, a Thursday evening at the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Hazleton, PA, right along Rte 309; Informed Charlie of the types of organizations that would be attending the event so that he could follow up with several departments within the bank that might want to exhibit or sponsor a portion of the event
- Downloaded 5 guides from Network for Good on ways to generate income for EPCAMR and passed them along to the EPCAMR Staff for review
 - *8 Online Fundraising Changes You Must Make in 2010*
 - *25-Steps-Fundraising-Guide*
 - *Fundraising Campaign in a Box*
 - *How to Raise a Lot More Money Now*
 - *Is Your Nonprofit Facebook Page Worth It?*

THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION (EPCAMR) NEEDS YOU TO

HELP

RECLAIM ABANDONED MINE LANDS

There are over 200,000 acres of Abandoned Mine Lands statewide, including 252 miles of unreclaimed and dangerous highwalls, over 1,200 open portals and vertical shafts, 38 underground mine fires, thousands of acres of culm piles and subsidence prone land, and over 5,000 stream miles impacted by Abandoned Mine Drainage.

**Do you want to improve Northeastern and Northcentral PA?
Volunteer and make a difference!**



Reclaiming abandoned mine lands through partnerships today, for a cleaner environment tomorrow!

EPCAMR Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
101 South Main Street, Ashley, PA 18706 | Phone & Fax: (570) 371-3522
www.epcamr.org

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INTERNSHIP
EDUCATIONAL AND DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

Need an internship for college? Get a hands-on experience without leaving in a classroom!

EDUCATE
YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Want to educate your students about Abandoned Mine Drainage? Make a difference today!


EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION (EPCAMR) NEEDS YOU TO

RESTORE

YOUR WATER FROM MINE DRAINAGE

EPCAMR works with community volunteers across a 16-county region of Northeastern and Northcentral PA to restore watersheds impacted by Abandoned Mine Drainage. Restoration projects involve natural stream channel design, wetlands construction, and employing innovative AMD treatment technologies.

**Do you enjoy nature and the environment?
Volunteer with EPCAMR—A great experience awaits.**



Reclaiming abandoned mine lands through partnerships today, for a cleaner environment tomorrow!

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Marywood University Graphics Design Team Posters for EPCAMR