

# EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: [rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)

Website: [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

November 2013 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Interviewed *Gabby Zawacki*, Old Forge, PA for a Spring 2014 EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Internship, during her senior year at Wilkes; Gabby has a BA in English Writing and Literature, with a Minor in Professional Writing; She is already the Executive Editor for the Manuscript *Literary and Visual Arts Magazine* at Wilkes University and has served as a Writing Consultant for Wilkes University's Writing Center; She will be writing stories for our website and Social Media site highlighting our work and projects across the region as a EPCAMR Communications Outreach Specialist Intern
- EPCAMR Staff compiled and completed a targeted mailing to Conservation Districts in the EPCAMR Region for membership renewals and to provide them with an updated technical services portfolio sheet on skill sets that we can provide to them and their staff
- Provided Cristy Doyle, Administrative Assistant for ARIPPA with an AMD and AML Tour of reclamation sites, AMD sites, and ARIPPA-sponsored land reclamation projects throughout the Wyoming Valley to get her more familiar with EPCAMR activities at the request of her Executive Director and EPCAMR Board Member, Jeff McNelly; Sent Cristy a recent link from the US EPA on Coal Ash Regulations deadline; <http://www.power-eng.com/articles/2013/10/epa-must-set-deadline-for-coal-ash-regulations.html>
- Reached out to a few elementary school teachers that EPCAMR has worked with at the Greater Nanticoke Area School District to invite them to participate as a partner on a **\$3000** Environmental Education Grant projected to start in Summer 2014 and end in the Spring 2015 involving AMD & Pottery Art Education; EPCAMR is looking for Art Teacher involvement and knows that the school already has two kilns in operation that could be used to fire and dry the pottery created with local iron oxides recovered by EPCAMR and will be the first school to use EPCAMR's first glaze mixture in Eastern PA; Will be partnering with Wilkes University, Green Dog Pottery, and Misericordia University on the project with some locally renowned pottery artists, Jean Adams and Skip Sensbach
- Pam Kattner, former EPCAMR Environmental Education Intern has offered to volunteer to become a member of the PA State EE Consortia, led by PAEE, representing the 7 Generations Charter School; [www.sevengenerationschool.org](http://www.sevengenerationschool.org)

## Education & Outreach

- Jennifer Quinn, PennFuture Central PA Outreach Coordinator has requested that at a future meeting of the Choose Clean Water Coalition effort, which EPCAMR is a member of, that we provide the group with a brief summary presentation on AMD impacts in the headwaters of the Susquehanna River; EPCAMR offered Jen, who is relatively new to her job a tour of the headwaters region where the AMD is prevalent; <http://choosecleanwater.org/the-coalition/about-us/>
- Invited to attend a West Branch Task Force Meeting in Harrisburg on 12-10-2013 by the PA DEP to update them on EPCAMR Activities in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed with our partners; Received an update from Corey Richmond-Watershed Specialist from the Sullivan County Conservation District on work on the two AMD tunnel discharges in the Loyalsock (A & B) where they are continuing to perform O & M on the passive treatment systems
- EPCAMR was made aware through a press release that an Act 13 Program Grant was approved for the Acquisition of property to conduct a feasibility study and eventual construction of an AMD Treatment system to treat the Old Forge and Duryea AMD Outfalls in the Lackawanna River Watershed; However, it was not the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy, Inc., LRCA, and EPCAMR's proposal that was funded; Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC was awarded \$1 Million much to our surprise; [http://www.newpa.com/sites/default/files/uploads/Approved\\_Projects-Act-13-Programs.pdf](http://www.newpa.com/sites/default/files/uploads/Approved_Projects-Act-13-Programs.pdf)

## Technical Assistance

- Provided Steve Kocsis-GISP, GIS Director of the Cambria County GIS Center with presentation materials on our 3D Mine Mapping and Modeling efforts in the Anthracite Region; He provided EPCAMR with a copy of his presentation on subsurface modeling in 3D for interpreting Tax Parcel Assessments in Cambria County due to the multiple number of landowners who own various coal seams below the surface; He provided EPCAMR with a FGDC Carto style sheet from ESRI and his styles file for various coal seams in Western PA; EPCAMR Staff first met Steve last month at the NW PA GIS Conference in Clarion, PA
- EPCAMR provided a letter of support to petition the PA Historical Museum Commission to recognize the *Sheppton Mine Disaster* of August 27, 1963 for Carol A. Zielinski, David Fellin's (one of the miner's trapped in the mine) niece, and Chairwoman for the Committee for the Sheppton Mine Disaster, Sheppton, PA;
- Reviewed EMARR's CFA Application for the *Green Mountain AMD Water Project* in the Catawissa Creek Watershed; The funding proposed is for the construction of a pipeline and forebay to deliver raw water to the existing Audenreid AMD Treatment System that would replace the existing raw water lines and would also provide for hydro-electric energy to automate the Audenreid flushing cycles; The project would also include the replacement of the existing underflow piping in the Audenreid AMD Treatment System that is not working properly and is short-circuiting the system
- Provided a pound of iron oxide pigment to Skip Sensbach, Misericordia University for his pottery work

## Technical Assistance

- Invited by Amy Wolfe-Director, TU Eastern Abandoned Mine Program to attend an *OM & R Reconvening Meeting* to gather and discuss the [1] Compilation of O&M costs from industry/watershed groups/Conservation Districts/DEP for which everyone at the meeting will work to gather info; [2] Determine the capacity of watershed groups to be responsible for long-term OM&R; and [3] Evaluate and Account for the existing OM&R trust funds, pending with Act 13/GG applications, and extent to which they are fully funded for which everyone at table will work to gather info; Provided Amy with MRAB status updates of Trust Funds for ABS Bond Forfeiture discharges under Title V and a few others that EPCAMR knows of in the region

## Project Coordination

- Hosted a Mine Map Scanning, Cataloging in PHUMMIS, Georeferencing, and Digitizing Training at the EPCAMR Office on 11-5-2013 for Staff presented by Zach Bell and Tyler Brown, Mining Specialists with the PA DEP California District Mining Office for the ***Mine Subsidence Insurance Mine Map Grant Project***; EPCAMR will be cross-referencing a Coal Seam Names database provided by the California District Mining Office if they are not found or named on the maps; Checked on reimbursement process with Jim Charowsky, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office for earlier submitted Invoices under the ***MSI MMG Project***
- Hosted a Mine Map Interpretation Training at the EPCAMR Office on 11-20-2013 for Staff presented by Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office to better educate and provide the EPCAMR GIS Technicians with more detailed information on Anthracite Mine Map symbology and interpretation for the ***Mine Subsidence Insurance Mine Map Grant Project***
- *David Svab*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern scanned the Mine Map Index from PA DEP BAMR and searched for the Topo Quads, County Name, and Map Widths on several hundred maps for the ***Mine Subsidence Insurance Mine Map Grant Project***
- Prepared and completed the ***Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Treatment System Project*** Progress Report from February 2013 through November 2013 and submitted it to our Project Officer, Mario Carrello-PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office for review and approval, along with our request for reimbursement; Discussed with Hedin Environmental about incorporating the sedge removal from the existing treatment system into the sub-contract for Phase 1 due to the State's concern with volunteers removing the sedges for liability reasons if someone were to get hurt or injured; Uploaded the photo album of our water monitoring on Birch Creek and of the Lewis Mine Site; <http://epcamr.org/home/watersheds/loyalsock-creek-watershed/>; Received a revised draft budget from Hedin Environmental that was close enough to justify proceeding with the detailed design for a construction bid package on the repairs to the existing system and the new wetlands construction flush pond; Progress Report and Reimbursement was approved for submission to the Growing Greener Grants Center and sent along for payment
- Worked with Tom Clark-SRBC Mine Drainage Program Coordinator and Brent Means-OMS to evaluate AMDTreat numbers to look at Peroxide Treatment Feasibility and Costs for the ***Old Forge AMD Borehole Treatment Project***

## Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff was informed by Jim Wetzel, EPCAMR volunteer for the **Hazle Creek Watershed Project**, that the ST-1 AMD discharge weir was free of any impoundments normally caused by local beavers and that he had downloaded the data from the data logger; EPCAMR and Jim has on numerous occasions had to lower the water level by breaching a wooden beaver dam near the railroad tracks below this discharge in Lower Luzerne County
- Informed by our partners from the Plymouth Historical Society that the PA DEP BAMR is installing a bat gate at the historic **Avondale Mine Disaster** site in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County, PA, where EPCAMR had previously completed a historic preservation project and community gardens effort a few years ago
- Worked with *David Svab*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern and *Becca Lindner*, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer to download and compile all of the before and after photos from our stream restoration projects in the Solomon Creek Watershed funded by the **PA American Water Grant** for inclusion with the Final Report; Created a CD and copy of a CD for submission; Prepared and submitted the Final Report to Terry Maenza, Program Coordinator, and Susan Turcmanovich, seeking an extension until June 2014 to complete several other stream restoration projects over the Spring and Summer of 2014; **125** native trees were planted, **\$10,800** in grants were secured, **\$7,757.20** in EPCAMR Staff time, an additional **\$12,625.50** in matching funds of volunteer time was contributed to **15/38** projects; **5** tons of trash was removed and **225** tires were recycled
- Picked up the **20** native tree seedlings (Eastern White Pine and Black Gum) from Midway Gardens for the December planting at the Espy Run AMD Treatment Site in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA as a part of the **ACCT Phase II Waterboxx Restoration and Research Project**

## Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Attended a Planning Committee meeting on 11-4-2013 with WPCAMR, ARIPPA, and other members of the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee for the planning of the **16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PA AMR Conference** and **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARIPPA**, with the theme of **“Collaboration is Essential”** in State College, PA at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center on June 26-27<sup>th</sup>, 2014; Received confirmation that PA DEP Secretary Abruzzo will be a Keynote Speaker for the Conference on June 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning; Convened a follow-up Conference Call on 11-7-2013; Decided to move the Conference to a 2 day format as opposed to 3 day format; [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com)
- EPCAMR will be looking into rates for bus transportation and a group rate for a trip to Penn's Cave for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual PA AMR Conference; <http://www.pennscave.com/rates-schedules.php>

## Community Volunteer Coordination

- Met with *Becca Lindner*, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer to brainstorm on an idea to offer hikes and tours to AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley as a way to generate a small amount of donations from outdoor enthusiasts and or local artists that might be interested in our local mining history, use of our iron oxide that we recover, and EPCAMR's remediation work throughout the area
- *Juliana and Suzy Wickham*, Danville area, are interested in volunteering with EPCAMR on seasonal projects that involve painting and scraping at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley, PA; EPCAMR requested that she complete a full Volunteer application form so that we know her availability and location
- *Courtney Pieszala* is interested in becoming an EPCAMR volunteer as a landscaper and tree planter for our seasonal projects; EPCAMR forwarded her our Volunteer Form for completion so that we know her availability and location
- *Chris Kellyman*, from Yardley, PA and *Gabriel Vargas*- photographers are interested in shooting AMD landscapes and discharges in the region over the Winter 2013 and Spring 2014
- Met with Frank Knorek, EPCAMR Community Development Coordinator Volunteer to review and prioritize dozens of Foundations and funding sources he obtained from the Foundation Center, following his meeting with Kurt Bauman, Director of the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) in Pittston, PA; Frank is working with EPCAMR to develop an AMD & Pottery Art Education Program; Met with Wilkes University Art Professor Jane Adams in Wilkes-Barre who is going to assist EPCAMR with developing our own iron oxide glazes and will partner with us on some educational pottery classes with elementary students from the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary Center on a small **\$3000** Environmental Education Grant that EPCAMR will be submitting for supplies and potter's wheels to work with the students who will be utilizing our iron oxides recovered from AMD; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/frank-knorek-nanticoke-native-fills-the-volunteer-position-of-community-development-coordinator-working-on-a-ceramicspottery-program-utilizing-epcamrs-iron-oxides-for-glazes-and-art/>
- *Joe Dal Santo*, is a prospective Eagle Scout searching for a project in the late Spring, early Summer 2014 to complete his service award; Suggested a large cleanup project in the Solomon Creek Watershed in the Lee Park area that was identified in the *Solomon Creek Watershed Conservation and Assessment Coldwater Heritage Plan*; Had Joe review the photos from that area and informed him that he should propose the idea to his Council Scout Master <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150616385434095.411551.95647429094&type=3>
- *Sarah Vitti*, who just relocated to the Wilkes-Barre area, has a BS in Cultural Anthropology and Politics from Ithaca College, was interested in finding environmental work in the area and wanted to find out more about EPCAMR; Sat down with her and provided her with regional contacts in the area where she might be able to search for a full-time or part-time job and suggested that she become a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR in the near future; EPCAMR placed her resume on file
- *Brian Oechler*, a Senior at Lock Haven University majoring in Geology and minoring in both environmental studies and outdoor recreation management is interested in interviewing for an internship in the Spring 2014; Informed him to send a cover letter and resume for our review as well as contact Lock Haven University to find out if they have a formal internship program with non-profits

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts; Provided Kovalchik, Kollar, & Co., LLP with our 2012 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Payroll Tax Reports and our W-2, W-3s from 2012 provided to us by our CPA, RJ Zagrapan, for them to file our 990 for 2012
- Deirdre Jolley, EPCAMR's new part-time Bookkeeper started on 11-12-2013 and began working on cleaning up our Vendor and Customer Accounts as well as updating information on our current database file in QuickBooks for Non-Profits; EPCAMR Executive Director provided her with an orientation to the EPCAMR Office, Policy, and Procedures, and provided her with training materials, books, and CDs for her review as a part of her new responsibilities; <http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-brings-on-back-mountain-native-dierdre-jolley-as-a-part-time-bookkeeper-to-help-keep-our-quickbooks-accounting-running-smoothly/>
- Reviewed Kovalchik, Kollar, & Co., LLP's 2012 filed EPCAMR 990s for 2012 and presented it for approval at the EPCAMR Board Meeting on 11-21-2013
- Completed and submitted the October 2013 PA DEP 319 Progress and monthly EPCAMR Board Report and Reimbursements
- Meeting with Bernie McGurl-EPCAMR President to discuss upcoming Personnel Committee Meeting and other regional project status updates; Attended the Personnel Committee in Hazleton, PA at EMARR's Office to review EPCAMR Personnel Manual language changes to the COLA, Merit Raise, and Employee Evaluation Process as well as to review Staff Evaluations for 2012-2013
- Prepared our EPCAMR Quarterly Financial Statement, Treasurer's Report, and Balance Sheet and forwarded it electronically to our EPCAMR Board in advance of the meeting; Conducted our Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting on 11-21-2013
- Completed our EPCAMR 319 Final Report from June 2009 – September 2013 and submitted it to our Project Officer, Donna Carnahan, in the PA DEP Section 319 Program to close out our previous grant agreement