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November 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR has become a **Leave No Trace Non-Profit Partner** with the Center for Outdoor Ethics for 2014-2015 to bring awareness to the areas that we clean up, trails that we improve, and streamside areas and corridors that EPCAMR restores; Funded the membership to LNT through the recently awarded National Polaris TRAILS Grant; Received a welcome packet, guidebook, partners sign, link to their website, use of their logos, partner stickers, and other benefits; www.LNT.org
- EPCAMR signed on to a Letter of Support to ask Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger from Maryland to retake his Appropriations Committee seat in order to help champion clean water issues in the Chesapeake Bay; This is a very influential committee and key for funding all of the federal programs and agencies that work on clean water issues; The Congressman has a reserved seat on the committee but due to certain House rules has not filled that seat; If he does not retake his seat, it is very unlikely that the Choose Clean Water Coalition will have any ranking members from our watershed on this critical funding committee
- Continued to work on the final edits and highlights to the Urban Environmental Education e-book with co-authors prior to publication due out in January 2015; Forwarded changes to Alex Kudryavstev-PhD, and Editor of the e-book
- Worked with Gabby and Liz to update the 2014 Reimbursement Forms for the PA DEP EE **AMD & Pottery EE Grant** with all of the current expenses through November 7th, 2014; Will add December 2014 in January 2015; Received State Police Clearance from Ann Devine-PA DEP EE Regional Program Coordinator for when she comes up to visit with us in the classroom after the New Year with the students when we begin to make pottery and dip the artwork pieces in our iron oxide glazes; EPCAMR Staff are filing for their clearances to be sure they are up to date prior to entering the GNA Elementary Center in 2015, as requested by the Principal, Dr. Scott
- Followed up with *Matt Cochran*, Panther Creek Power Operating, LLC; They had initially asked about the FERC Approval for the Antrim Treatment Trust project in Babb Creek; On September 3, 2014 the Antrim Treatment Trust was issued a license by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate a 40 kW micro-hydropower project in Duncan Township, Tioga County Pennsylvania; This is the first project ever licensed by FERC that uses mine drainage to generate electricity that can be sold on the grid; The power generated by the Antrim Micro-Hydropower Project (AMHP) will help offset the operational cost of the Antrim Treatment Plant that abates the largest source of mine drainage within the Babb Creek Watershed; Excess electricity generated by the AMHP will be sold on the grid to help provide much needed funding to the Treatment Trust and to help sustain the efforts of the Babb Creek Watershed Association; The AMHP was a collaborative effort of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Moshannon District Mining Office), Babb Creek Watershed Association, Antrim Treatment Trust, ARIPPA, EPCAMR, WPCAMR, Tioga County, and the project design/build partner, BioMost, Inc.; Biomost Inc. was heavily involved in this project and *Tim Danehy* is the contact for the organization; <http://www.biomost.com/>

- Participated in a Skype interview with Dr. Marianne Elizabeth Krasny, Professor, Department of Natural Resources, and Director of the Civic Ecology Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY for an online course called “*Civic Ecology: Reclaiming Broken Places*” to talk about what EPCAMR does, the kinds of impacts we have had on individuals, communities, and watersheds in our region; Discussions were around resilience of the communities and on the environment that EPCAMR is having through its work to reclaim abandoned mines and restore AMD streams

Technical Assistance

- Provided several worksheets to *Kacy Conley*, Co-Lead for the PA State Consortia, and Executive Director of PSAYDN, related to **EECapacity Community of Learners Group Meeting** at EPCAMR; Submitted an EPCAMR Cost-Share Report and In-Kind Contributions for Staff that participated in the Group Meeting as well as the Executive Director’s donated time for the last quarter working on EECapacity work
- Provided *Fran Bires* from PAEE with a copy of *Shane Kleiner’s* Safety Presentation from the 2013 PAEE Conference, Resource Links document for Non-Formal EE Certification, Pepe Marco-Iga’s presentation on Diversity (http://prezi.com/egeacueliniz/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy), and a Dimensions of Diversity exercise that can be used as acceptable training resources towards Non-Formal EE Certification
- **RE-Powering America's Land -- Action Plan 2.0**; EPA’s RE-Powering America’s Land Initiative released its second action plan to guide its activities over the next 2 years; The plan articulates the goals and objectives of the Initiative and details specific activities to support the development of renewable energy projects on contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites; Activities are intended to be practical and relevant to public and private efforts to site and develop less polluting forms of energy and to do so on lands that have been historically contaminated, previously disturbed or that may have limited other uses; Forwarded a copy of the Plan’s link to the Earth Conservancy; http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/action_plan.htm
- EPCAMR signed up and registered to receive a sample demo version of HydroCad V.10; www.hydrocad.net
- Dave, Sam, and Kelsey attended a **Stormwater Management Workshop** conducted by the Pocono NE RC & DC on November 15th, 2014; EPCAMR is looking to provide future technical assistance to County and Municipal governments who are required to educate the public on stormwater, track illicit discharges, and maintain stormwater discharges under the MS4 US EPA mandated regulations that are being enforced upon local municipalities that unfunded mandates; EPCAMR is targeting municipalities/watersheds impacted by AMD/AML to provide technical assistance; Executive Director encouraged Staff to attend and become more knowledgeable on the subject and potential sources and resources available to help the often ill-equipped and short-staffed municipalities
- Provided a website contact (<http://ahfdn.org/contact-us/>) to *Dr. Frank Polanofski*, who would like to have his Father’s name be considered to be added to a list of miners that will be a part of the King’s College Miner’s Memorial, Wilkes-Barre, PA; His Father was a victim of a cave-in at the Loomis Colliery in February of 1942
- Reviewed the OM & R White Paper Draft sent around to AMR Partners from Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited; Provided comments on EPCAMR’s behalf; Reviewed Hedin’s database of AMD Treatment Projects
- EPCAMR investigated the Loomis Borehole condition on the Sans Souci Highway in Hanover Twp.; It needs to be daylighted and repaired since it is right in the shoulder of the northbound lane heading out of Nanticoke into and has a major macadam pothole on one corner of the concrete block catchment box; Worked with PA DOT and PA Tectonics to resolve the issue, however, PA Tectonics is too concerned about performing the work without a waiver or some sort of Letter of Release of Liability from PA DOT; EPCAMR will continue to work with PA DOT to come to an amenable solution since EPCAMR would like to continue to monitor the water levels for the Mine Pool in that area of the S. Wyoming Valley;

- PA Tectonics provided free man ways to EPCAMR and plate covers for the boreholes from some old sewer jobs so that we don't have to pay for new plate covers or sleeves; Bryce Waters, student at the W-B CTC welded "MW" on the plates in their welding shop as a student project

Project Coordination

- Worked with Gabby and Liz to create the 7 AMD Watershed Tour Field Trip routes for the 4th & 5th grade GNA Elementary students and provided it to Mrs. Kordek, GNA Art Teacher to provide to the GNA School Board for approval at the November 13th monthly meeting; Created an Outdoor Safety Procedures tip sheet for the students and teachers to go along with the tour agenda; Created the 10 Question Pre-Test Survey for the students as a requirement of the grant to gain information on their pre-existing knowledge base of AMD and environmental issues impacting their local communities and watersheds within the GNASD; Conducted the AMD Field Trips late November
- *Beth Coleman*, Green Sales Professional from Greenway Pavements provided EPCAMR a quote for the EcoRaster product that the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) is considering placing in the parking lot area of the Huber Miner's Memorial Park; EPCAMR provided the quote to the HBPS; The EcoRaster is a quality product made in Germany lasts over 20 years; Greenway Pavements is willing to conduct a "Beyond Paving Workshop to introduce "how to install a greener parking lot or driveway"; HBPS would need to secure a backhoe operator and the fill material for the parking lot area; They would contact architects, landscapers and invite those wanting to know more about green infrastructure; www.greenwaypavements.com
- Provided Gabby and Liz a copy for them to review to that we can begin to implement in the first quarter of 2015 of the **Northern Anthracite Coalfields Appalachian EPCAMR Collaborative Waterboxx Phase III Project** narrative; Funded by ISI for a **2-year, \$15,000** grant agreement
- Provided a copy of a recently submitted Growing Greener Grant to *Wayne Lehman*, Schuylkill Conservation District County Natural Resource Specialist that would provide technical assistance to the Northern, Western, and Eastern Middle Coalfields, as well as the Southern Coalfields to monitor boreholes and develop 3D Mine Pool Models in smaller regionalized geo-basins based on various AMD discharges in the region; EPCAMR may be able to sub-contract a small portion of the grant to cover a portion of the cost-share for an OSM/VISTA to work for us in the Southern Coalfields to save time and travel that would allow that person to just provide us with the field data elevations, large volume AMD flows, or water quality data that may be collected
- Reviewed Hedin Environmental's Invoices for the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project**; EPCAMR put in a call to our Project Officer to see where our first reimbursement is in the process of disbursement since it was submitted back in April 2014; EPCAMR will be submitting another reimbursement to close out the year in December 2014 with Hedin's additional two invoices
- Hiked Campbell's Ledge, Campbell's Ledge Run, and Red Spring Run with Liz and Gabby in the Lackawanna Valley for a preliminary look at whether or not these two tributaries would qualify for further trout stream improvements should EPCAMR consider submitting a proposal to the Coldwater Heritage Planning Grant Program; Following the hike, we determined that since both tributaries were dry and had been seemingly dry over the last two years that we would consider another area to investigate, the Laurel Run sub-watershed of Mill Creek, in the Wyoming Valley

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- EPCAMR hosted the Annual Meeting of the *Choose Clean Water Coalition* at our Office and invited several regional partners to participate in the meeting and luncheon supported by the PennFuture NE Office; EPCAMR Staff provided an AMD Tour following the luncheon in the afternoon

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; “Reclaiming Our Communities” is the theme for the 2015 conference; Discussed potential topics for presentations, format of the conference, pre-conference tour, golf fundraiser, and website development once the theme is selected; Golf and Conference Rooms Contract review from the Ramada was reviewed on the November conference call; Worked on the language for the Film Festival submission form and provided significant comments; Asked the Keep PA Beautiful Program Manager, *Michelle Dunn*, if she had an interest in presenting at the 2015 Conference; Asked *Bill Reichert-Schuylkill Headwaters Association*, if he had an interest in presenting on the needs of watershed groups and or Conservation Districts in the field of AMD; Asked *Ruth Roperti*, Past President of PAEE if she was interested in making a presentation on the PA State Consortia Community of EE Learners; EPCAMR will be requesting **\$5000** from the PA DEP for the 2015 PA AMR Conference; Executive Director to write intro to program
- EPCAMR exhibited at the *University of Scranton’s Fall Sustainability Symposium/Career Fair 2014* on November 11th, 2014 from 6:30-8:30pm at The DeNaples Center; Talked with dozens of students and several Professors in the Environmental Science degree majors about future internship and volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR
- EPCAMR, who’s been a long-time member of the Growing Greener Coalition, reached out to *Andrew Heath*, Executive Director, from the Growing Greener Coalition, to offer to host a meeting in the Northeast at our Conference Room that can hold up to 50 people for an event for our partners in this part of PA that are in need of finding out more about the new funding guide; Should we need some type of funding assistance to convene it, EPCAMR is willing to talk to John Dawes to see if they can help make it happen through the Foundation for PA Watersheds under a convening grant; A regional meeting is scheduled for the Greater Pittsburgh Region on November 21, 2014
- EPCAMR Executive Director attended the **PA State Consortia Community of Learners Group Meeting** at SCEE in Philadelphia and assisted with the facilitation of the day-long meeting and EE Strategic Planning Workshop; Added new EE members that were in attendance to the PA Consortia Community of Learners Facebook Group to improve future communications and the spread of additional resources and links to information; Participated in a conference call to debrief from the workshop, discuss evaluations, action steps, implementation of suggested and prioritized collaboration projects, and how to determine the final strategic planning discussions for the Community of Learners, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PAStateConsortiaCOL/>
- EPCAMR is partnering with the **Delaware RiverKeeper** to sponsor their 2015 Watershed Congress on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Montgomery County Community College-West Campus, Pottstown, PA; EPCAMR will also be presenting at this year’s Congress on AMD and Mine Water Resource Potential Across PA; www.delawariverkeeper.org; Chari Towne, Director of the Schuylkill Programs provided EPCAMR with a link to her recent book she has published on the Schuylkill River, “A River Again?” where she acknowledged the EPCAMR Executive Director with a dedication for working with her for many years during the initial projects that were developed in the Upper Schuylkill River Headwaters; http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/PDF/A_RIVER_AGAIN_2012.pdf

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Dorothea Ford*, Johnstown, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer blogger, landscape photographer for EPCAMR; Her website is <http://wordstheydance.com/>
- *Joann Moore*, Shavertown, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer outdoor photographer with EPCAMR in the Spring 2015; She shoots with a NIKON D3100; EPCAMR communicated with her to let her know that we will follow up when our field days become more regular in the Spring 2015
- *Caleb Savage*, Brooklyn, NY, and a senior in NYU’s Department of Photography and Imaging, is working on his BFA thesis project about the Anthracite region; He’s a big supporter of the important work EPCAMR does and would like to showcase it in his work; He’s interested in photographing the EPCAMR Staff at work; www.calebsavagephoto.com
- *Angelys Ocana*, Brooklyn, NY signed up to become a volunteer outdoor landscape photographer when EPCAMR goes on excursions and field work; She drove in from Brooklyn, NY to meet with the Executive Director to discuss future volunteer opportunities in the Spring/Summer 2015; <https://www.facebook.com/birdie.photos>

- Received a copy of the video file from the **Clean Up Centralia Project** coordinated by EPCAMR on October 25th, 2014 from *Joe Sapienza*, volunteer and Director of the short, "Centralia, America's Lost Town"; **5.6 Tons** and **175** tires were removed from Centralia and over **60** volunteers were on hand; Sent a Thank you Note to Lakin Tire and *Katie Scott*, Environmental Department-Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC, and the guys for picking up the tires to be recycled through Bridgestone's Tires4ward Recycling Program; https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B2yYWmpmcAe6SURsSEFsM0pvZFk/edit?usp=drive_web
- *Rae-Ann Hansell*, Luzerne, PA, requested information on future volunteer opportunities for her Junior High/Senior High Life Skills Classroom; 13 students range from 13-17 years old and they are available from 9-1 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Fridays; EPCAMR put her in touch with the HBPS who still needs to have the remaining portion of the perimeter fence scraped, primed, and painted along S. Main Street; Will follow up with her in the Spring 2015
- *Lauren Fletcher*, a Student Leader for the Wyoming Seminary Lower School, informed EPCAMR that several peers have come to her seeking community service opportunities and they have chosen EPCAMR; They were particularly interested in conducting AMD Tie Dye Workshops; EPCAMR will follow up in Spring/Summer 2015
- *Stacy Zaferes*, Downingtown, PA, *Paul Warner*, Taylor, PA, *Kerry Burns*, Scranton, PA, *Nick Humphreys*, Kingston, PA, and *Maribeth Gillen*, Carbondale, PA are interested in becoming a volunteer outdoor photographer with EPCAMR when EPCAMR goes on excursions and field work; Directed them to fill out our online Volunteer Form
- *Mark McDonough*, Laflin, PA completed EPCAMR's Volunteer Form and is interested in future cleanups
- *Stephanie Simon-Dowling*, Scranton, PA and *John Jacobs*, Wilkes-Barre, PA are interested in volunteering to assist EPCAMR with Fundraising/Community Development; EPCAMR followed up with them in November and is waiting to hear back from the two of them; All were directed to fill out EPCAMR's online Volunteer Form
- *Paula Kaschenbach*, Sweet Valley, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer landscaper and tree planter with EPCAMR; She has previously worked at Lowe's in the Garden Department and is an avid gardener

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed and forwarded EPCAMR Executive Director's August, September, and October Monthly Report to Mike for inclusion with our quarterly reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program
- Convened the annual EPCAMR Board Meeting on November 20th, 2014
- Forwarded GoDaddy website domain account that was due for renewal to Mike for the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and Friends of the Nescopeck
- Worked with our Non-Profit Account Representative from Verizon Wireless to straighten out several billing mistakes on our new account and sought a credit for a router we had to return that was malfunctioning
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for former intern *Holly Halecki*, who had applied for a Lab Technician job with Hawk Mountain Labs, Hazleton, PA; Informed that she had received the job and was told that her internship and experience and previous field water quality monitoring skills with EPCAMR set her apart from many other applicants
- Provided *Michelle Dunn*, Program Specialist with Keep PA Beautiful, with a few words regarding the Great American Cleanup of PA and how the program helps EPCAMR from year to year accomplish our mission and goals
- Discussed with *Leigh Ann Kemmerer*, EPCAMR At Large Board Member the possibility of her becoming a nominee for the EPCAMR Vice President position after the New Year
- Provided *Samantha Schafer*, GIS Technician with her Self-Evaluation Form and Written Evaluation for her 90-day probationary period and promoted her from to GIS Specialist
- EPCAMR swapped memberships with ARIPPA going into 2015