

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation November 2006 Progress Report [Abbreviated]

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Highlights:

- Produced a draft version of the Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the Nescopeck Creek Watershed in Luzerne County
- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted 2 field tours
- EPCAMR Program Staff submitted 1 grant and received 3 grants
- Added information to 2 EPCAMR GIS Databases and upgraded a published GIS CD
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org
- Attended the Friends of the Nescopeck Monthly Meeting, GIS Day at the LRCA, the Bell Colliery Phase II and Mary D Treatment Sites Groundbreaking, COALS Summit and the Hicks Creek Growing Greener Award Ceremony.

November 1st – 4th

- Updated the EPCAMR Board Members webpage on www.orangewaternetwork.org and posted program staff reports.
- Provided a link to OSM's on line Passive Treatment System Database for PA to PA DEP 319 Program. This database was a goal of the Non Point Source Liaison Resource Extraction Work group.
- EPCAMR Program Staff picked up a donation of large pieces of coal from Carl Urbanski. The coal pieces will be used in the design of a raised garden around one of the Avondale Disaster Historical Markers along Rte. 11.
- Attended the Friends of the Nescopeck Monthly Board Meeting to present the draft Nescopeck Watershed Report and ask for comments.
- Received word from Cathy Haffner that Columbia County Conservation District received \$20,000 from the Deginstein Foundation to purchase about 900 tons of limestone to refill the treatment tanks at the Audenried Treatment System. EPCAMR program staff provided technical support in this endeavor.
- Created an infiltration points database for the EPCAMR Region and began to fill it out with the points discovered in the Catawissa Watershed. These were based on a Scarlift Report for the Jeansville Basin. These points should have a priority when reclamation is done in that area to reduce flows to abandoned mine discharges*.

November 5th – 11th

- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted an educational tour to the Audenried Treatment System and Green Mountain Tunnel Discharge for a group of home schooled students from Luzerne, Schuylkill, Montour, Columbia and Carbon Counties. A total of about 30 students and parents.
- Created an over all Nescopeck Watershed AML map for inclusion in the Nescopeck Watershed Assessment.

- Spoke with Brian Oram from Wilkes University to ask about sampling water from the Nescopeck Creek as requested by the Friends of the Nescopeck. Brian agreed to sample the water and suggested that we submit a request for assistance to the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (CSAW) Program through the Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) for financial assistance.
- EPCAMR Program Staff and Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech Students built a raised garden around the Avondale Mine Disaster Historical Markers along route 11 in in Plymouth Township.
- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted an educational tour to the Avondale Mine Disaster and Community Gardens site as a part of the Community Connections to Your Watershed program with Diane Madl and Angela Lambert of DCNR Bureau of State Parks. The high school students and teachers got their exercise while hiking up the switchback and learned about mining history at the same time. There were about 70 students between the 2 groups from various Luzerne County schools.

November 12th – 18th

- Met Curtis and Chris Smith at the Glen Nan Mine Drainage site to sample the water. This father and son team are volunteering their time to sample this discharge monthly and after rain events for a year. They hope to gather enough chemistry information to aide in the design of a treatment system for the site. Discussed flow monitoring options with them and a possible site for a weir as recommended by Todd Wood.
- Traveled to the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) office to participate in their GIS Day. Met with the new GIS Technician, Allie, and exchanged GIS information related to the Lackawanna River Watershed.
- Added the 29 infiltration points in the Jeddo Tunnel Drainage Area, from SRBC Publication 204, to the Nescopeck Watershed Report and added these points to the EPCAMR infiltration points database. Many of these sites still exist (since discovered in 1999) and should be considered priority when reclaiming land in the watershed.
- Received Lab Results on the water quality of the Glen Nan Discharge in West Nanticoke from Todd Wood, DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). The discharge which was labled "Grand Tunnel Colliery Slope #1" contained about 6 mg/l of aluminum as we expected and the pH was 3.2. Other metals were low. These results filled in the gaps that our volunteer monitors were not able to test for.

November 19th – 25th

- Met Todd Wood, PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office, review the information provided by the water quality lab. Also inquired as to why the discharge was labeled Grand Tunnel Colliery Slope #1. We then went to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Map Repository in Wilkes-Barre to see the portfolio on the colliery operation. The water does in fact emanate from the Grand Tunnel Colliery and was misnamed. Modified EPCAMR Geobasins GIS file to reflect this new information.
- Followed up on some glitches with the PA AMD/AML GIS CD. Apparently the color aerial photos were not showing up all the time. Changed the projection to State Plane and it seemed to correct the problem. Also added municipal boundaries and legislative district boundaries and called it Version 6.3.*

November 26th – 30th

- Sent the PA AMD/AML GIS CD Version 6.3 to a Lackawanna County contact, Denise Prowell.*
- Provided technical assistance to Trout Unlimited Contact, Amy Wolf, who is working on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Restoration Report. Provided comment on the draft questionnaire and the discussion topics since I was not able to attend the upcoming West Branch Task Force Meeting.

- Traveled to the Bell Colliery Treatment Site to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and learn of the growing greener announcements in Schuylkill County. EPCAMR has been involved with several of the projects in the Schuylkill Watershed. Left this site and joined Secretary McGinty's entourage as they made a stop at the COALS Summit at the Luzerne County Community College. Secretary McGinty accepted funds for the COALS Program from local supporters and congratulated the winner of the logo contest. From there we received word that one of your growing greener projects was to be awarded at her next stop. So Robert and I followed the group to the Hicks Creek Watershed in Exeter Borough where almost \$1 Million was awarded to fix various problems. Of that, EPCAMR was awarded \$450,000 for stream restoration and bank stabilization.
- Spoke with Alan Comp, OSM, about an individual that would be a good fit for our open VISTA position. Relayed this information to Robert and Josh.
- Added NewsFlash articles to www.orangewaternetwork.org