

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation November 2009 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Prepared 1 foundation proposal
- Created 1 layer, updated 3 layers for the Mine Pool Mapping Project, updated 2 layers and created 5 maps for the Catawissa Creek RCP Project
- Sent 3 RAMLIS CD and printed 8 maps for EPCAMR Partners
- Attended a NPS Liaison Workgroup Mtg. via conference call
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, EPCAMR's Facebook and www.datashed.org

Education and Outreach:

- Added Shamokin Creek Restoration Association (SCRA) Site 15 AMD Treatment System Sampling data added to Datashed and e-mail sent to SCRA and the Northumberland County Conservation District to encourage them to start using the data storage and analysis website at www.datashed.org. Followed up with questions they had about the functionality and security of the website. Received word from Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) staff that Jaci Harner signed up for an account.
- Participated on a Non Point Source Liaison Workgroup Resource Extraction sub-committee conference call. The meeting was called to collect data in anticipation of the DEP 319 Program annual report to the EPA.
- Created the EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for October, collected staff reports and posted them online at www.orangewaternetwork.org. Aided Executive Director in preparing the reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program.
- Traveled to Bloomsburg to meet with EPCAMR Treasurer, Cheryl Brobst.
- Updated the Board Meetings page on www.orangewaternetwork.org to post reports and information about the 2010 quarterly board meetings.
- Received a call from Abigail Pattishall, Wildlands Conservancy. The conservancy had recently built the Buck Mountain #2 ALD AMD Treatment System in the Upper Lehigh River Watershed. The treatment system began to leak and needed to be repaired. I forwarded her to WPCAMR to apply for the Quick Response Grant.
- Found a report from the Bureau of Mines that referenced the creation and use of a Velocity Head Rod. This is very similar to the "flow stick" that I created after learning about it at an OSM VISTA Training in West Virginia. The only thing different is that the directions for the flow stick were missing calculations. This document filled in the pieces and may prove to be a cost effective way for watershed groups on a "shoestring budget" to estimate flow.
- Purchased industrial strength velcro and ceiling hooks and attached them to the EPCAMR sign with fishing line after the sign fell off the wall for about the 5th time.
- Began writing a proposal to continue Outreach, Support and Data Gathering for the Datashed Website to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. The grant would allow EPCAMR and WPCAMR to make enhancement of the Datashed Website a priority over the next few months.

- Posted articles to the EPCAMR homepage at www.orangewaternetwork.org. Also added our AMD Pain Experiment results to EPCAMR's Facebook page at the request of one of our "fans."

Technical Assistance:

- Created 2 maps of the Abrahams Creek Watershed for the Abrahams Creek Watershed Association. One map showed water resources in the watershed and the other had an aerial photo as a background.
- Finished digitizing old workings and tunnels from the 2nd Geologic Survey in the southern anthracite coal field in ArcGIS as a part of the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative. Also, had a discussion with PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO) staff on the Pine Knot and Replier Mine Pools that were shown in a map in a recent open file report by the USGS and were originally adopted into the mine pools shapefile. With the discovery of the PA Bureau of Forests and Waters Schuylkill River Resources map, there were discrepancies with the mine pool shapes, levels and barrier pillar altitude of effectiveness values. Changed the shapes of the mine pools in this region to reflect this map, barrier pillar altitude of effectiveness and research into surface mine permits by the Pottsville DMO Staff.
- Updated the Catawissa Creek Historical and Cultural resources shapefile and created a new updated map for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (RCP).
- Created a layer of Rod and Gun Clubs and other outdoor associations that own tracks of open space land in Columbia County. Spoke with Columbia County Conservation District staff to be sure that the layer was correct. Downloaded new GIS data from the PA Fish and Boat Commission from PASDA since the data format had changed and the live layers are no longer available. Created a new updated Open Space and Recreation map for the Catawissa Creek RCP.
- Aided Earth Conservancy (EC) staff with identification of some their abandoned mine land property PINs in Luzerne County. Luzerne, Lackawanna and Carbon are the only counties in the area that do not freely share their parcel or zoning data online, however the Luzerne Conservation District and EPCAMR obtained a piece of the Luzerne County Parcel Database that showed parcels with soils best for farming a few years ago. Although this data is not updated or complete, it sometimes allows us to find parcel boundaries in the county. The dataset cannot be passed along to 3rd parties, but we can make inquiries of it in house. More information on the PINs can be found in the property assessment database at www.timesleader.com.
- Created and sent 2 RAMILS Version 9 CDs to Scott Van de Mark, PA Environmental Council Pittsburgh Office and Duquesne University for their continued GIS mapping and analysis with the Manure and Minelands Program. Also sent 1 RAMLIS CD to Keri Rebuck, Makin Engineering Co., in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Created 3 base maps for the Catawissa Creek RCP project: based on the aerial photos, the topographic maps and the land use dataset. The current base map created by the SRBC was too detailed with stream information for the requirements of the plan. Created a CD of all the current PDF maps and excel tables and sent to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Office.
- Updated EPCAMR Program Manager Desktop and Laptop to ArcGIS 9.3.1, the newest version supported by the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSM) Technical Innovation & Professional Services (TIPS) program.
- Finished producing paper maps of all 4 anthracite coal fields for Brian Oram, Wilkes University, and sent them via snail mail. Brian will be using these maps to identify sources of mine drainage for sampling by the Center for Environmental Quality at Wilkes University.
- Added the Buck Mountain #2 ALD AMD Treatment System to Datashed and to the OSM Treatment Systems Database. Also added the EC Phase 2 AMD Treatment Wetlands (aka Dundee Outfall and Askam Borehole), Sunfish Pond Treatment System, and Long Valley Run Treatment System to Datashed and updated the latitude/longitude coordinates of several more.

- Organized EarthVision files on laptop and stumbled upon more files from the Askam Borehole Collapse Incident. Shared these files with EC and explained how the OSM was able to place the new borehole. Created a success story on the work that was completed and submitted it to the OSM TIPS website.
- Received EarthVision 8 from the OSM TIPS program and proceeded to install it on the EPCAMR Program Manager laptop.
- Created a document to show the progression work to complete the conversion of the I-Series Coal Cross Section Maps to 3D Contours for the southern anthracite coal field. Ran “Skips scripts” on the I-681 coal cross sections and created a 3D grid from the raw data which represents the Buck Mountain Seam. Merged all raw data from maps I-681, I-689, I-528 and I-737 to create 1 large grid of the completed maps. This took care of any anomalies between the maps as EarthVision assumed they were all 1 set of data. There is still a problem with the way the grid is drawn as it encounters Sharp Mountain to the south. The layer of coal actually dips over 90 degrees. I am told that this version of EarthVision cannot handle this extreme structure, but there is a possibility of creating an intrusion feature (usually for domes or diapirs) to take care of this. Also, adding the faults into the mix using the EarthVision Workflow Manager can create a more accurate representation of the Buck Mountain Seam. Faults were created from I-689 cross sections, but none of the others. Updated the “Conversion of Coal Cross Sections to 3D Contours” document to reflect these findings.
- Discovered that the EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Laptop was eligible for a Windows 7 Upgrade through Dell. Submitted the proper paperwork online and received an update DVD. Upgraded the laptop from Windows XP to Windows 7, but lost all data in the process. Not much data was stored on this computer anyway and only a few programs will have to be reinstalled.