

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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November 2010 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff attended and setup at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, an EPCAMR Board Meeting, an Anthracite Remediation Strategy meeting and hosted a Huber Breaker tour.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 13 boreholes, 2 in-stream sites, 1 discharge & 1 treatment system.
- Distributed 2 RAMLIS CDs, prepared 2 professional service quotes for EPCAMR partners. Manipulated 1 dataset and created 1 set of structure contours for the Mine Pool Mapping Pgm.
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org, www.epcamr.org, www.huberbreaker.org and EPCAMR facebook page. Registered 1 domain for an EPCAMR members requesting webhosting service.

Education and Outreach:

- Updated the EPCAMR online store on www.epcamr.org to clarify the Iron Oxide products and proposed donations. Processed iron oxide to fulfill an order from the Friends of Decker's Creek.
- Set up an exhibit at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Sovereign Majestic Theatre in Pottsville with EPCAMR VISTA.
- EPCAMR staff met with representatives from Kroff Chemical Company to learn about their water treatment services. The company stressed the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) regulations that will be coming down the road for those with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager Monthly report for the month of October, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program.
- Added a facebook badge to the www.huberbreaker.org website to link the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) facebook page to their website. The badge displays the most recent posts, people that are supporters and some statistics.
- EPCAMR staff received an update on reclamation projects from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). This report is produced quarterly and submitted to Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) members, but is useful in tracking their progress on projects and seeing what projects are "in the pipeline". Posted this report to our Trustees Page for consideration by our board.
- EPCAMR staff setup a tour for Anthracite Heritage Area (AHA) Volunteers in Service to America (VISTAs). The tour was lead by Bill Best, HBPS president. The owner granted permission for the tour and waivers were signed by each participant.
- Sent the EPCAMR Strategic Planning Session notes and recommendations to the EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee for their review before the board meeting.
- Received good news that the ARIPPA Board Members recently met and recommended that the 2011 ARIPPA Budget include a \$10K Reclamation Award (to be equally shared by EPCAMR and WPCAMR regions).

- EPCAMR staff called Genetti's Inn and Suites in Hazleton to confirm the dates and some specifics for the 12th Annual Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Coal Mining Heritage Conference and EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary Dinner Fundraiser.
- Completed an employee self-evaluation for consideration by the EPCAMR Executive Director and Personnel Committee.
- Put a banner link to www.planetgreenrecycle.com on our donations page. The page, setup by Executive Director, advertizes a fundraiser where EPCAMR serves as a collection point for ink cartridges and cell phones as well as a portal to buy recycled products.
- Posted an article related to the AHA VISTA tour of the Huber Breaker to www.epcamr.org.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and attended the EPCAMR 4th Quarter Board Meeting. Created an agenda and compiled notes from the last board meeting after reinstalling Microsoft Office 2007. Reinstalled Audacity to record meeting minutes.
- Continued to reinstall programs that were lost due to a hard drive crash on the Program Manager laptop.
- EPCAMR staff met with Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), to discuss the Anthracite Remediation Strategy, a collaborative program to create a plan for remediation in the Anthracite Region.
- Worked with EPCAMR VISTA to update the www.huberbreaker.org website to include the current fundraising initiatives for their Miners Memorial Park Initiative.
- EPCAMR staff sat in on a conference call to discuss the "Abandoned Mine Drainage: An Epic Tale" video and publication. The group, consisting of NPS Liaison Committee members, decided on how the materials should be released and called for quotes to print the publication.
- Spoke with Alexandra Serio, a Kings College professor, who teaches a GIS course and was interested in using several of our maps as real world examples of GIS applications. Let her know that EPCAMR may be interested in teaming up to provide projects for interns and independent studies related to the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative.

Technical Assistance:

- Traveled around Scranton to complete round of testing the water level in 13 boreholes in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool with EPCAMR VISTA. Once close we used the field GPS, setup with ArcPAD, to guide us directly to the boreholes. Copied these values to an excel spreadsheet setup to calculate the depth of water into water levels based off the surface elevation of the boreholes. Compared elevations in a graph to find that there are 4 distinct water levels within the database. They can be grouped as follows: A. 130 B. 127, 124, 123, 122, 121, 116 & 117 C. 110, 109 & 113A D. 106A & 107. Researched OSM folios and discovered vein elevations around 2 boreholes that were difficult to read and attempt to find out what was is causing the problem.
- Completed a proposal to sample the Espy Run Treatment system for the Earth Conservancy before and after their reconstruction project. The proposal was accepted and EPCAMR staff began a pre-construction conditions evaluation. 4 sites were sampled to assess water quantity and chemistry. The locations were at the influent and effluent flows to the treatment system and upstream and downstream instream samples. In addition, the instream sites and were assessed for aquatic habitat and macroinvertebrate populations while the treatment system was assessed using the Datashed.org Operations and Maintenance form.
- Split the raw cross section data from the I-series maps (528, 681, 689 and 737) along the synclinal trough related to the Sharp Mountain to create 2 separate datasets. This allowed earthVision to draw the grids and contours correctly as suggested at the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Technical Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) training in October. This is a major hurdle jumped in relation to the Mine Pool Mapping program, which will allow the updating of mine pool extents in the southern anthracite coalfield.

- Fixed calculations in the EPCAMR assets worksheet to aide in comparing the original investment and the depreciated value. Added several pieces of field equipment to the list as an update to the inventory.
- Program Manager's laptop began malfunctioning less than a week before the EOCAMR 4th Quarter Board Meeting. A scan of the hard drive resulted in at least 3 malware viruses that were removed by Symantec Antivirus. After the removal of these threats, the computer continued to freeze up and report errors. After a limited amount of time troubleshooting, the computer was taken to Stillwater Computers in Plymouth, PA. The technician replaced the hard drive, reinstalled windows and recovered much of the data from the damaged hard drive within a day for a very reasonable price.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a cleanup along Dundee Road near the Dundee Wetlands with volunteers from Wilkes University.
- Sent off the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) Tool to 2 partner organizations: Trout Unlimited and Mansfield University.
- Registered the www.friendsofthenescopeck.org domain for the Friends of the Nescopeck and set up a sub-domain for them at www.fon.epcamr.org as requested. Friends of the Nescopeck took advantage of Wilkes University's service learning project of creating websites for non-profits. EPCAMR will host the new website with a small yearly administrative fee.
- Worked up a quote for the Lackawanna River Corridor Association to update maps in their Lackawanna River Trail Guide.
- Looked into Cincopa, a web "cloud", which would host images, videos and other media and serve that material back to a website with enhanced security and functionality. Many companies are now are using this type of technology to manage robust and flashy photo galleries on their websites. They grant free premiere licenses to non-profits. Asked EPCAMR VISTA to apply on EPCAMR's behalf.
- Put together quote for Aqua Power Holdings, as per their request over the phone, to create a jpg map that would graphically show the daily flow of AMD discharges and the streams they impact in Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna and Lycoming counties.
- Compared the parameters in the EPCAMR Sampling Worksheet to the available parameters in www.datashed.org and added parameters that were missing. Provided this updated spreadsheet to EPCAMR Executive Director. Formatted the existing data in the spreadsheet dealing with discharges in the Wyoming Valley.
- Reviewed the draft USGS report dealing with the Western Middle Anthracite Coalfield Mine Pool volume estimates and peer evaluation comments from a hydrogeologist in West Virginia.
- Updated the EPCAMR Field Sampling forms based on the most current forms from the West Virginia Save Our Streams program, PA DEP Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulation and the Western PA Conservancy. The new form is 4 pages AMD should help standardize AMD stream sampling events.
- Created a generalized watershed map and gathered paperwork to aide EPCAMR Executive Director in submitting a Cold Water Heritage Partnership grant for Solomon Creek in the Wyoming Valley.
- Updated our EPCAMR staff biographies and posted the updated file to www.epcamr.org.