

EPCAMR



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October 2010 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Assisted with the final edits of WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Anne Daymut's, "The Formation of AMD" Video and guide book that we are jointly working on to provide to the US EPA Region III as a part of our PA DEP Section 319 Work Plan; Finalized the cover art for the DVD
- Partnered with a small group of Senior Graphic Design college students from Marywood University who offered to provide free services as a part of their class project to help local non-profits carry on their mission and goals; EPCAMR has partnered with Marywood U. on numerous grant applications and several environmental art projects over the years and several professors wanted to return the favor; The students, led by Allison Cassara, Meghan Calderone, Amanda, and Rich Andersen, will be doing some marketing and ad campaign posters for EPCAMR, coming up with an additional slogan for our AMD Tie Dye T-shirts, a packaging design for our iron oxide, a black & white identification key of our macros, and some banners with color photos of the types of activities that we conduct; EPCAMR Staff reviewed and commented on some draft posters already
- Completed a free membership application with the Choose Clean Water Coalition to become a partner and member (<http://www.choosecleanwater.org/cms/>)
- Conducted an AMD Education Tour of the EC Treatment Wetlands along Dundee Road, Hanover Twp. with **25** seniors from Dallas HS
- Began working on PPL Project Earth grant ideas with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District
- Meeting with Mike Corcoran-Science Coordinator for the W-B Area SD and several 4th grade teachers at Heights Elementary to propose our grant project idea submission to PPL; Completed a **\$5000** grant with Mike to construct the first ever Solar AMD Kiln to assist EPCAMR in drying and processing our iron oxide that we use for educational events; 100 4th graders at Heights Elementary will be given an AMD Tour of the Solomon's Creek watershed and will collect the iron oxide like the EPCAMR Staff do and bring it back for processing in the Solar Kiln to teach them how we can utilize solar energy to bake and dry our iron oxide; Meghan Gershey, an Environmental Engineering student at Wilkes University has offered to volunteer to help come up with several designs that we can modify pending the approval of the grant
- Submitted EPCAMR Letter of Support for the Beneficial use of coal ash for abandoned mine reclamation to ARIPPA, US EPA , & the Recycling First website (<http://www.recyclingfirst.org/form.php>)

- Talked with Mike Corcoran-Science Coordinator for the W-B Area SD about putting together a **\$7500** PA DEP Environmental Education Grant that would allow the **34** Science Teachers in the District to become educated and trained on incorporating “The Journey of AMD: Nature Interrupted” environmental education curriculum into their school’s curriculum district-wide; Wilkes-Barre Area is ecstatic about partnering with EPCAMR on these outdoor environmental education learning experiences and will provide teacher in-service credit hours for attending the Programs and Field Tours; Received signed and completed partner forms from the Earth Conservancy, Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and the Appalachian Coal Country Team; Created a pre-survey for the teachers to evaluate them on their knowledge of AMD and their local watersheds prior to implementing the Program, if funded
- Prepared our Summary Proposal Letter to the PA DEP Environmental Education Program about our new found partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Area SD and awaited a response to proceed with a full application; Received the response from Ann Devine with some clarifications that need to be made while submitting the full proposal that can be easily fixed
- Co-sponsored and convened the first annual CHALKFEST 2010 along the Wilkes-Barre River Common, along the Susquehanna River, inside of the new levee system and amphitheater; AMD Tie-Dyed over **42** shirts with children, passed out **200** free pieces of iron oxide chalk, and made over **500** pieces of iron oxide chalk with the children as a community awareness event on EPCAMR’s work in the Wyoming Valley (*See attached flyer*); **1000** people were in attendance
- Conducted an AMD Field Tour to Solomon’s Creek AMD boreholes and several combined sewer overflows with Scott Spinucci, AppleCart Productions, who was shooting a video documentary on the River Common and the Wyoming Valley; Interviewed by Scott for potential inclusion in the documentary; Scott would like to work with EPCAMR on some other projects that might involve film production and YOUTUBE clips about EPCAMR’s work in the region
- Prepared an EPCAMR Public Comment document response letter for the US EPA draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the draft PA DEP Watershed Implementation Plan; Submitted copies to the PA DEP, US EPA, local legislators, State Senators, State Congressmen, and other region non-profit partners interested in clean water and AMD
- Mike Remish, Public Affairs Director for Bold Gold Media, producer of a weekly half hour program called “Community Forum” which addresses various community topics asked EPCAMR Executive Director and OSM/VISTA to come and talk about the work that we are doing in the region; It is a pre taped show based out of their Scranton studio and played back on the morning of Halloween (<http://www.boldgoldmedia.com/abt/abt.aspx>); Conducted the Talk Show format interview on the 10-25
- Trying to set up a meeting with Joy Tetlak-Adelstein-Northeastern Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator for PennFuture who would like to partner and collaborate with EPCAMR on several initiatives in the region; PennFuture has a Wilkes-Barre Office; EPCAMR signed on to a plea to the State Senate to return to Harrisburg prior to Election Day and finish the job on the severance tax
- Received an interesting animation from one of our partners-the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team on the impacts of Marcellus Shale expansion in PA; (http://www.marcellus.psu.edu/images/permit_animation.gif)

- Carrie Wiles, Marketing Manager from the North Creek Nurseries, Ladenberg PA, mentioned that they are planning an event utilizing natural pigments to create art and a member of the PA Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) told them about EPCAMR's use of iron oxide pigments and they expressed an interest in receiving more info and possibly purchasing some for use in their event; EPCAMR followed up on the request
- Applied for a **\$1000** grant to support the printing costs of large format posters for EPCAMR's Marketing and Ad Campaign work that Marywood U. graphic design students are working on from the Office Depot Foundation (<http://www.officedepotfoundation.com/funding.asp>); Submitted a product wish list of office supply inventory materials as a part of the application process
- Submitted an Clean Water Contest article to the Choose Clean Water Coalition on EPCAMR's success with implementing TMDL Plans in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed's tributaries impacted by AMD and our Op-Ed piece to one of our local newspapers in the hopes of being selected for a headline story by the CCWC and a **\$500** award to help EPCAMR conduct outreach on AMD in the Chesapeake Bay tributaries that are in our region
- Planet Green registration approved for EPCAMR to be able to partake in a small fundraising effort that might lead to additional operational, unrestricted funds for our organization through the recycling of empty ink jet cartridges and cell phones (www.planetgreenrecycle.com/epcamr)

Technical Assistance

- Began reviewing and working on M & T Charitable Foundation proposal for **\$5000** to cover the costs of supporting several local college interns that would allow them to work with EPCAMR and our iron oxide drying collection, sampling, harvesting, processing, drying, and packaging project; Made a contact with the M & T Regional President who informed EPCAMR that we should find a Champion for our proposal, if we know of any employees that work for M & T on a corporate or employee level; Reviewed a set of First Federal Charitable Foundation Grant guidelines, a Hazleton area foundation, and lastly, reviewed Lockheed Martin's grant guidelines since they have a facility in the Archbald area in Lackawanna County; Grant leads were provided by our OSM/VISTA, Wren Dugan
- Reviewed Wren Dugan's OSM/VISTA Quarterly Report prior to submission to ACCWT
- EPCAMR Staff began working up a proposal for professional services to the Earth Conservancy to establish a baseline water quality monitoring program, macro-invertebrate monitoring, and pre & post construction AMD Treatment System monitoring of the Askam Borehole in the Nanticoke Creek watershed
- Began an initial AMD pre-screening Monitoring, Biological, and Habitat Assessment of the Nanticoke Creek, just above the Askam AMD Borehole, at the borehole, and below it to determine the time necessary to budget how much time in the field it would take to conduct a full blow assessment for 18 months
- Provided Scott Fanello, ACCWT with some information on the marketing of iron oxides throughout Appalachia and who is doing it and profiting from the sale of the AMD

- Responded to Ryan Latimer from SlopeGrowth (www.slopegrowth.com), an E & S company that deals with erosion control about the type of work EPCAMR does and that we typically do not utilize seeding material because we don't reclaim large tracts of abandoned mine lands; Directed him to PA DEP BAMR
- Forwarded Mike PA DEP BAMR's updated list of completed, planned, proposed reclamation and AMD remediation projects state-wide
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a letter of concern about the proposed Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)/ ATV Park master plan in Northumberland County around the Alaska AML site, owned by Northumberland County and felt that there needs to be additional stakeholder involvement from local environmental groups; EPCAMR received word from Dave Kaleta, Habitat for Wildlife (HFW), about the local issue and received information that the Alaska site wildlife area is simply too small of an area to accommodate the full size OHVs, ATVs and dirt bikes that don't seem to be able to have enough self control to stay out of the property legally. HFW could actually accomplish more on this site if we didn't have to be constantly doing damage control due to the above mentioned destructive individuals; The Alaska site is a community project as evidenced by the various individuals and groups that have participated in no small way to its success as a viable wildlife habitat area; Received a positive response from Mr. Pat Mack on the status of the project and some misinformation and miscommunications that were relayed to EPCAMR
- Nate Johnson- OSM/VISTA, Site Support Coordinator contacted EPCAMR because he wanted our input on a new program we are looking into that involves writing a grant to AmeriCorps to get State or National members for the ACCWT. State/National members can perform direct service, and thus build capacity by directly organizing and participating in projects; There is more emphasis on the members getting into the field and doing the project themselves in partnership with the sponsor; EPCAMR is interested; The position may not be filled until 2011 and ACCWT will need partners who are committed to receiving an AmeriCorps State/National member; Cost-share is still up in the air at the moment, however, it will be less than the cost share of an OSM/VISTA, which is **\$5500**
- Forwarded a list of organizations in the EPCAMR region which haven't re-filed using the 990-N postcard; The IRS is set to revoke their non-profit status as of 10-15, if they weren't filed
- Kelly Donaldson-PA Communications & Media Coordinator-Chesapeake Bay Foundation asked for statistics relevant to the Chesapeake Bay on AMD for an op-ed piece she was working on for the Scranton Times Tribune
- BioMost is working with the Babb Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) & the Antrim Treatment Trust to help install a Micro-Hydropower turbine; EPCAMR Executive Director provided a letter of support for the project; The Antrim Treatment Trust in cooperation with BCWA is in the process of obtaining Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval for the Antrim Micro-Hydropower Project (AMHP); The AMHP is project located in Antrim, PA (Duncan Township, Tioga County) and includes the installation of a micro-hydropower turbine to generate electricity using water from the existing treatment plant

Project Coordination

- Picked up **32** Nordik Ice and Polar Packs donated from CVS for EPCAMR to recycle and utilize during our AMD Water Monitoring Sampling, cold packs in case of minor injuries, or as a way to keep our drinks cold during cleanup events; CVS will be donating all of their packs to EPCAMR on a bi-weekly basis and we will be distributing them for free to watershed groups who are in need of ice packs
- Received EPCAMR's **\$5000** PA Fish & Boat Commission grant to conduct an Aquatic Resources Education and Outreach Program in the Wyoming Valley on AMD in partnership with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Wyoming Valley West, and Wilkes-Barre Area's 5th grade classes; Receipt of the funds were delayed by the PA State budget process
- Paid a **\$1000** towards our OSM/VISTA (Wren Dugan's) cost share with ACCWT; Requested a payment plan until additional matching funds are received from the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission
- Transferred via ACH **\$4471.24** from the Hicks Creek NSCD Pool 4 Account into the EPCAMR General Checking Account through PA Invest to cover expenses for the ***Hicks Creek NSCD Project***
- ARIPPA's Strategic Planning group recently met and recommended that the 2011 ARIPPA Budget include a **\$10K** Reclamation Award (**\$5K** to be equally shared by EP-WPCAMR); ARIPPA to work with both Coalitions to increase the pot size to spread more funding around the State and to support our administrative needs to implement the pass through program; A decision will be made on 11-9-10
- Discussed with Anne Daymut, our second joint project with WPCAMR on AMD treatment options; It just so happened that Art Rose, PSU and Clearfield Creek Watershed Association, published a paper earlier this year with WVU on this topic; He presented his review titled "Some Recent Advances in Passive treatment of Mine Drainage" at this year's AMR conference; His review is exactly what we will be doing in our next short film and booklet; Anne asked him if we could make a movie from his presentation and he was more than happy to allow us to take whatever we wanted
- Submitted a reimbursement request and Progress Report to the Pottsville District Mining Office on our the ***Western & Southern Anthracite Coal Fields Mine Pool Mapping Project***
- Discussed with Deb Nardone, Trout Unlimited, EPCAMR putting an application in for this upcoming round for Solomon's Creek, in the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, PA; It is an AMD impacted stream on the Federal 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters at several segments along its length before entering the Susquehanna River, however there are also tributaries that are holding native trout species that are kind of isolated in between AMD discharges to the Creek; EPCAMR is going to do a little more homework to see if there was any other types of assessments completed for the Creek, but we don't believe so; It is also where EPCAMR has strong local partnerships with several of the municipalities within the watershed and a number of other partners and environmental groups; It is also a watershed where we obtain some of our iron oxide that we utilize and recycle for some of our AMD education programs;

- EPCAMR would like to assess the entire watershed and come up with some recommendations for future implementation plans; PEC did a Rivers Conservation Plan for the Wyoming Valley and focused on the corridor and EPCAMR provided comments related to AMD in that plan for several areas, however, we do not recall that there was much of a focus on the entire Solomon's Creek Watershed; EPCAMR believes that we can do some good here and it is our home watershed for our operations too! We are located in Ashley, PA at the Earth Conservancy

Conference Coordination

- An entire Water Conference proceedings on Abandoned Mine Drainage from West Virginia in 2010 for those that could not attend; (www.wvwaterconference.org/docs/.../Mine%20Drainage.pdf)
- Kara Baylog, Eastern Coal Region Roundtable, CHHA AmeriCorps VISTA - Program Coordinator, asked for contacts in the coal, natural gas, energy production and timber companies in PA who might be appropriate for our State of the Region Roundtable Conference in West Virginia in March 2011; Provided her with contact information for Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. and sent a personal appeal to James Pagnotti to see if he was interested in presenting next year

Community Cleanup Coordination on Abandoned Mine Lands

- Working with Wilkes University Community Service Office to obtain some volunteers for a stream-side and road-side cleanup along Dundee Road, Hanover Township, Luzerne County, on 11-16-2010 near the Askam AMD Borehole location

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks
- Completed EPCAMR's Vendor Administration with the PA Department of General Services that will allow us to be made aware of grants, bids, requests for proposals from the PA DEP
- Completed and submitted our Quarterly Services Survey to the US Census
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for September 2010
- Attended a TMDL Clean Water Briefing Meeting in Ashley, PA with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the US EPA Region III
- Explained to our current web hosting company, Elitehostingservice.com that EPCAMR will be moving to a new web host, HostGator, thanks to a free grant that allows our site to be hosted for free because we are a non-profit; EPCAMR Staff had to set up an account on GoDaddy.com to make the redirect transfer of our www.orangewaternetwork.org site to www.epcamr.org
- Ryan Ewing, Outreach Coordinator for the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) would like for EPCAMR to adopt a resolution supporting the 2010 Federal Policy Priorities of the CCWC, which are all in line with EPCAMR's goals. This will be another nice partnership in the Maryland Bay Area that might benefit both EPCAMR and the CCWC. There is a little bit of re-granting (funding) to support the policies that could become available for EPCAMR down the road as well; Membership is free and the Executive Director has already signed up and established a working relationship with Ryan (<http://www.choosecleanwater.org/cms/>)

- EPCAMR Executive Director informed the PA Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils that I would no longer be officially appointed by the Pocono NE RC & DC because as of September 2010 due to a new change in the membership structure of the Pocono NE RC & DC, I am no longer a member of the Board at large; EPCAMR remains a partner with the RC & DC, but to avoid conflicts related to future funding opportunities and working on future projects together, the EPCAMR Board has decided it best if we just remain a partner
- Sent out information on EPCAMR Staff evaluations for 2010 to the Personnel Committee for review
- Sent out information on EPCAMR Strategic Planning Brainstorming Session from the last quarterly meeting and will send out a re-prioritized Strategic Planning Summary based on notes taken at the meeting; A big part of the Strategic Planning effort to move EPCAMR forward was asking fellow Board Members to bring some other groups, names, companies, sponsors, and new members to the table and seek their support of our efforts both financially, and as a regional partner; EPCAMR Staff is hoping that board members bring some names to the table at the November 18, 2010 Mtg.



Espy Run AMD Treatment Wetlands on the Earth Conservancy property, Hanover Twp. Luzerne Cty.