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October 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff attended and co-presented at the **Susquehanna Water Science Forum**, hosted by the SRBC, Harrisburg, PA on our 3D Modeling of Mine Pools in the Susquehanna River Basin to over 120 attendees; <http://www.srbc.net/waterscienceforum/presentations.htm>
- Provided ARIPPA's Administrative Assistant, Cristy Doyle, from Camp Hill, PA with a regional tour of AMD, AML, and Co-Gen supported reclamation sites and projects throughout the Wyoming Valley on 10-11-13
- Participated in a PAEE EE Capacity Building Conference Call with other PAEE State Consortia Committee members to discuss the continued development of a State-wide Work Plan for building EE Capacity with non-traditional partners across PA as a part of our US EPA Region III Grant award; Created an Individual Work Plan for EPCAMR and submitted it along to the PA State Consortia and the US EPA Region III
- Mrs. Litchkofski, Greater Nanticoke Area Gifted Support Teacher requested a brochure from EPCAMR on our EE Programs offered; Forwarded her our link to our brochure; <http://epcamr.org/home/content/environmental-education-and-resources/environmental-education-outreach-programs/>
- Offered to make a presentation to the South Valley Partnership in Nanticoke, PA on our 3D Mine Pool Mapping Project and Underground Mine Mapping Efforts throughout the Anthracite Region
- Submitted photos to Skip Sensbach, Green Dog Pottery, who will be including them in a joint article that was prepared for Ceramics Monthly, a national magazine on Ceramics that will include our collective work on using iron oxides from AMD for art, glazes, and pottery

Technical Assistance

- Provided technical assistance to Ray Clarke-Huber Breaker Preservation Society on adding additional paver orders to the running count of pavers ordered in an Excel format document since the organization lacks the administrative capabilities to keep a tally on the fundraising effort for the **Huber Miner's Memorial AML Park Project**, Ashley, PA; Ray provided EPCAMR with an estimate for a multi-media building construction on the 3 acre park that was provided to John and Alana; Updated Ray on the script work that John Welsh, Photographer and Alana

Mauger, Blogger have been working on in relation to the development of a KickStarter/IndieGoGo video to assist with fundraising efforts for the Park; The Huber Breaker has been officially sold and is out of the Bankruptcy Courts; <http://www.timesleader.com/news/local-news/906316/Sale-of-historic-Huber-Breaker-final>

- Looked over a resume for Becca Linder, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and prepared a Letter of Recommendation for her to the Kirby Health Center where she was applying for an Environmental Laboratory position in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- EPCAMR Staff held a field meeting with Brent Means, GeoChemist-OSM and Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator, at the **Old Forge AMD Borehole** with Bernie McGurl, LRCA Executive Director to conduct hydrogen peroxide tests on the discharge to determine the feasibility of using the chemical to effectively treat the AMD
- Provided some information on AMD discharges to a colleague working for Taylor Environmental who is looking for mine water that has differential head pressures that might work with microhydro turbines and on abandoned mine land properties and owners, such as the EC
- Larry Kuhn, a Contractor from Muncy, PA who operates large heavy equipment that moves rock provided EPCAMR with a resume and asked to be included on future bids for reclamation projects in the future
- Provided technical assistance to Tyler Barnard, a senior at Penn State in Civil Engineering, who is working on his senior project designing a chemical treatment facility at an AMD site. His group is looking at hydrogen peroxide and rapid aeration followed by settling; He is looking for information on mechanical aeration equipment; EPCAMR provided him with one of our recent presentations from our 2013 PA AMR Conference on the topic that should prove very helpful and a useful website on the Maelstrom Oxidizer; <http://2013.treatminewater.com/presentations> and or <http://o2transfer.com>
- EPCAMR received a copy of the State Forest Research Agreement Guidelines Application forwarded to the Executive Director from Nick Lylo, District Forester-PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Lackawanna State Forest, to submit, to cover our regional work in AMD impacted watersheds throughout the EPCAMR Region where we might be conducting watershed assessments, fishery and biological surveys, or AMD or stream monitoring
- Provided Tom Clark-SRBC with some information on “The Wash”, an area in the Oley Creek Watershed that could use some reclamation and stream restoration in the future; The area sits upstream of Beech Mountain Lakes, a private gated community off SR 309, just outside of Hazleton; It’s within the Oley and McNair Mine Pool Basin; <http://citizensvoice.com/sports/battling-to-preserve-oley-creek-watershed-1.217204>

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff picked up and dropped off **25** tires at the Luzerne County Recycling Drop-off event, held at the Hanover Area Senior High School parking lot, that we collected from the **Nockley’s Tributary Stream Restoration Project** site in the Solomon Creek watershed

- EPCAMR Staff and Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist developed an agenda and conducted an Educational Field Tour of **Nockley's Tributary for a Non-Point Source Educational Program** funded by PACD, Inc., and a live stakes tree planting of **125** trees with **40** students from local high schools a part of the PA DCNR Watershed Education Program
- Convened a Conference Call with the California District Mining Office and PA DEP BAMR to review additional procedures on how to proceed with the **MSI Mine Map Grant** and prioritize our workload in regards to scanning, geo-referencing, and digitizing; Completed our first reimbursement; EPCAMR Staff forwarded along the Hard Drive with scanned map images to the PA DEP California District Mining Office; Received our remote access request forms and passwords to the PA DEP Intranet system to be able to access PHUMMIS; Awaiting VPN Access and confirmation from Harrisburg's IT Department in the PA DEP Central Office
- Mr. Bill May, from Wilkes-Barre, read an article on the MSI Mine Map Grant and informed EPCAMR that he had worked in the Engineering Department of Glen Alden Coal Company in 1951-1952 as a mine surveyor and was interested in donating to EPCAMR an original copy of the Buried Valley of the Susquehanna River Mine Map Set, Bulletin #494; EPCAMR gladly accepted the copy;
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc12440/m1/> and
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc12653/>
- Worked through Lisa Vogley, Sales Manager from GEI Wide Format to obtain a quote on a 56" ColorTrac Thick Scanner with a free floor stand for **\$11,000** that would be covered through our **MSI Mine Map Grant** that is necessary for EPCAMR to scan the larger Anthracite Mine Maps; Retail, the scanner would have cost \$19,999, but since we purchased our 36" ColorTrac Scanner recently and we had some customer service and parts issues with the first piece of equipment, they were able to give us a great price;
- Provided a Quick Credit Application on behalf of EPCAMR to GEI that allowed us to have a 30-day payment window to be able to receive our reimbursement from the PA DEP MSI Program so that we didn't have a cashflow problem during the project; Informed David Williams from PA DEP Deep Mine Safety that EPCAMR will be getting the larger color format scanner to accommodate much, if not all of the larger maps in their repository; EPCAMR Staff continued ordering the necessary equipment and supplies to perform the job
- **Provided Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project** partners and Carol Kafer, President of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA), with EPCAMR's Field Water Quality Sampling results of the Bernie Mine (Guten Drift) and several sampling points above and below Birch Creek from 8-27-13 compiled by our EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern, David Svab
- Submitted a letter of extension through June 30, 2014 to the PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Center for our **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project** after finding out that the Grants Center had misplaced it; Informed the partners that our grant has officially been extended and that prior to 10-2-13, we had not been able to move forward with the project until we had received the official extension letter approval; EPCAMR needs to follow up with PA DOT on access from the PA DOT Road Right of Way and review the EA Enclosures as we begin to finalize things for the Joint Permit Application; EPCAMR has our approval letter from the Luzerne Conservation District on the E & S Plan in house
- Scheduled a meeting with Senator Lisa Baker with LRCA, SRBC, and EPCAMR to discuss the **Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Plan** and Treatment of the Old Forge AMD and Duryea Discharges and to educate her on the 3D mine pool modeling work of EPCAMR

- Requested a brief extension of the **SRBC Mine Pool Mapping Grant** agreement from SRBC

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Reviewed the Final Invoice from the Ramada Inn Conference Center, State College, PA for our **2013 PA AMR Conference** and detailed the expenses to our PA AMR Conference Committee via Conference Call prior to payment; Mailed out the Watershed Hero Award donations to the **6** watershed groups that were randomly picked to receive a small donation from the PA AMR Conference Committee as a part of our special event celebrating our 15th Anniversary Conference; Forwarded Anne Daymut-WPCAMR Watershed Specialist a copy of the draft PA AMR Conference Letterhead created by Brani-Hunter Davenport from PACD
- Convened the first Conference Call for the planning of the **16th Anniversary PA AMR Conference** with the theme of **“Collaboration is Essential”** to be held in State College, PA at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center on June 26-27th, 2014; Worked with Jeff McNelly-ARIPPA to schedule a date to meet at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in November 2013 to review the planning and schedule of events for the June 2014 combined conference with the ARIPPA organization that will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary; Attended the MRAB Meeting to inform the members of the upcoming Conference in 2014
- Attended the **North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE)** National Conference, Baltimore, MD, as an Advisory Board member and PA State Consortia member of PAEE working to develop PA’s first Non-Formal Environmental Educator Certification Program; Participated in an USEPA Environmental Educator Capacity Workshop
- EPCAMR Staff presented an Abstract that was accepted by Dr. Yasser Ayad, Professor, GIS Department of Anthropology, Geography and Earth Sciences, Clarion University of PA attended the **8th Annual NW PA GIS Conference** in Clarion, PA to present on our 3D Modeling of Mine Pools to over **40** attendees;
<http://www.clarion.edu/gisconference/>

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Meeting with Shuana Fultz, an artist from the Chincilla area of Lackawanna County, who offered to become an EPCAMR Volunteer Artist who has undertaken our Canvas Artist role to create the background scenes for our EPCAMR Activity Book, called **The AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse**
- Meeting with Frank Norek, Nanticoke, PA who is interested in grant-writing and community development in the area and asked for technical assistance and mentorship in grant-writing; EPCAMR Executive Director provided Frank with some pointers, presentation, and networking contacts with the NCAC and the NEPA Alliance; Frank is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Development Coordinator volunteer to help us search out small educational grant opportunities and partnerships to allow us to expand our mission, particularly in the area of marketing our iron oxide processing and sale of the natural pigment and the creation of art pieces, products, mugs, bowls, saucers, containers
- Communicated with Todd Stires, future potential intern with EPCAMR, once he graduates from Penn-State in May 2014, who has remained in contact with us, while out at the Main Campus, in State College; He’s originally from the Lake Scranton Area and is interested in helping us with

working on the Duryea Swamps Monitoring and the two tributaries (Campbell's Run and Red Run that drain into the Swamps before entering the Lackawanna River)

- Alyssa Vincent, from N. Carolina is interested in working on a Pollution/Photo PowerPoint presentation or Art Poster on AMD for EPCAMR as a volunteer project in the Spring 2014
- Informed Nick Williams, Danielle Hritzak, and Serena Kozokas, another three EPCAMR Community Service Volunteers about a future **Waterboxx Phase II Tree Planting Project** that EPCAMR will be coordinating at the Espy Run AMD Treatment site in Hanover Twp., probably in late November 2013; Once completed, EPCAMR was asked to submit an article to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership newsletter
- Noa Spott, is another interested volunteer in EPCAMR from the Green Ridge Section of Scranton, PA; EPCAMR will follow up with him when opportunities become available in the Lackawanna River Watershed

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR PA Invest Accounts and organization and filing of our State Worker's Insurance Fund (SWIF) Account documentation
- Provided Kovalchik & Kollar with our 2012 Accountant's Copy for their audit and submission of our 990s for 2012 as well as our Annual Report for 2012
- Completed and submitted the August and September 2013 PA DEP 319 Progress and monthly EPCAMR Board Reports and Reimbursements
- Attended Matthew Sowcik's, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies & Director of Leadership Education at Wilkes University Leadership Development Session on 10-23-13 at Wilkes University to hear a presentation on Leadership Development and to interpret the results of the 360 degree Leadership Assessment Survey filled out by many of EPCAMR's colleagues and partners
- Interviewed several candidates for the EPCAMR Bookkeeper position and eventually decided to hire Dierdre A. Jolley, from Sweet Valley, PA between 4-8 hrs/week to assist EPCAMR with Bookkeeping/Accounting and some clerical duties in the EPCAMR Office now that our staff has increased and our increased number of grants need more documentation for our reimbursements
- Interviewed and hired Bridgette Robinson and Kelsey Biondo, as Part-Time GIS Technicians, under the MSI Grant for 29.5 hrs/week over the course of the next three years to scan, catalogue, geo-reference, and digitize Anthracite Region Mine Maps for the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program, the PA DEP, PA DEP BAMR, and the PA DEP Bureau of Deep Mine Safety; Kelsey had previously been an EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern and Bridgette worked with Bernie McGurl at LRCA on a GIS Stormwater/CSO Project in the Lackawanna River Watershed; Provided them with an orientation and completed their administrative W-4 paperwork necessary for payroll and provided them with a copy of the EPCAMR Personnel Policy
- Reviewed a brochure from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance and their new Director, Ms. Jackie Guild