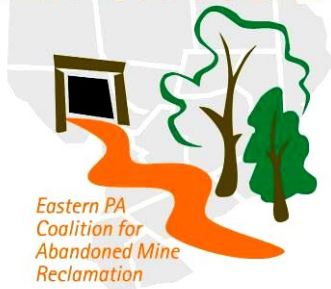


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff attended State Representative *Phyllis Mundy's* retirement dinner as guests of PennFuture's NE Office to thank her for her years of service and support of EPCAMR in the region and particularly, the Hicks Creek Watershed, in the Wyoming Valley
- EPCAMR Staff assisted with the **PA Anthracite Section SME** Southern Wyoming Valley Watershed Tour of AMD, AML, and historic mining sites with Tour Co-Leader, *Mike Korb*, PA DEP BAMR
- Participated as a guest Panel Speaker on AMD and EPCAMR's work in the region at the Western Pocono Trout Unlimited's Forum at the Penn State Hazleton Campus
- Meeting with *Mrs. Kordek* at Greater Nanticoke Area's Elementary Center to discuss the upcoming **AMD & Art Pottery EE Program** with the entire 4th & 5th grade around **350** students; EPCAMR will be coordinating 7 field trips to AMD sites locally within the School District and the Southern Wyoming Valley and in the Winter 2015 (January through March) will be going into the classroom to create art pieces out of clay and iron oxide glazes from our harvested iron oxide
- Meeting with *Lys Sparrow*, Co-Director of an upcoming documentary called RED ASH, on Centralia and Coal Ash to provide her with resources and information on the differences between the various types of ash and to provide her with an overview of the work EPCAMR does in the region; www.redashthefilm.com
- Attended the PEC NE Dinner with the EPCAMR Staff and some Board Members to honor and support *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President, and LRCA Executive Director who was chosen as the Thomas P. Shelburne Award Winner for 2014
- *Gabby Zawacki*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist, Part-Time, created some creative updated logo formats for EPCAMR based off of our older logo to use in our future outreach efforts
- PennFuture's *Jen Quinn*, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Central Office, made a request to EPCAMR to host the Choose Clean Water Coalition November 2014 Meeting at our Office to learn about and showcase the good work our partners in the Northeast
- Worked with Gabby and Elizabeth to create a new brochure on Seed Bombs for placement at our future illegal dump site cleanups throughout the region; EPCAMR will be making seed bombs with native wildflower seeds and our molds used for iron oxide chalk for sale on our website out of our recycled newspaper, copy paper, and other junk mail in our office; The sale of the seed bombs could become a small income revenue source for EPCAMR
- CBF embarked on the Clean Water Counts campaign in response to the PA DEP most recent statewide surface waters assessment; The results show that of the 86,000 miles of waterways flowing through the Commonwealth, nearly 20,000 miles are polluted; Top pollution sources are agricultural, urban/suburban runoff, and AMD; Berks, Luzerne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, York, Northumberland, and now Schuylkill counties have all joined the effort and have passed resolutions; cbf.org/PAForCleanWater

Technical Assistance

- Provided comments to *Amy Wolfe-Trout* Unlimited on the development of an Operation, Maintenance, & Repair Trust Fund for volunteer maintained AMD Treatment Systems across PA for the upcoming November Workgroup Discussion Meeting in Cambria County
- EPCAMR Staff removed the Orange Loop markings on the Mocanaqua Loop Trail at the request of EC due to a pending coal reprocessing permit that will be submitted to remove coal and waste coal that are along that section of the Trail System
- Provided some mine mapping technical assistance to *Scott Cannon*, Video Innovations, Plymouth, PA related to the Penn-East gas line upgrade that is supposed to go under the Susquehanna River in the West Wyoming Borough area and Plains Township, PA; Requested whether or not abandoned mines are in the vicinity; Informed him that there are places in the area from the former Westmoreland, #14, and Ewen Collieries that have been mined out; EPCAMR believes that there should be due diligence taken by PennEast Pipeline should they consider a route over the proposed area in question that we acknowledge are over abandoned mines in that portion of the Wyoming Valley; Underground mine maps and an hydrogeological assessment of the depth to competent rock overburden and the existing depths of the mine pool complex and coal veins that cross under the River for that portion of the Wyoming Valley should be investigated very closely before a gas line route is proposed to go under the Susquehanna River; Perhaps, they should consult with the PA DEP BAMR or PA DEP MSI to review existing maps in their inventory of this area or seek additional professional services that have a familiarity with the extend of the underground mining in Northeastern PA; EPCAMR believes that they should be concerned greatly that there could be the potential for mine subsidence, infiltration of surface water into the underground workings through fractured rock, excavation into the mine pool which could cause a new discharge to created, or a breach into the levee system.
- Assisted *Jim Wetzel*, Weatherly Borough, with finalizing and editing the draft ***Black Creek Flow Monitoring Study*** prior to submission to the Growing Greener Grant Center
- Notified by POLARIS that EPCAMR was awarded a **\$10000** grant from their TRAILS Program to purchase an ATV, field monitoring equipment, supplies, and other materials to support EPCAMR Staff going out and monitoring AMD discharges on abandoned mine lands, marking trails, gathering GPS points, and conducting watershed assessments in AMD impacted watersheds; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared the grant application earlier in June 2014 and submitted it to POLARIS
- Worked with Inquiring Systems, Inc. to develop a **2 year \$15,000 Northern Anthracite Appalachian Coalfields Waterboxx Research Phase III Project** grant proposal to plant tree seedlings using the Groassis Waterboxx Technology in the Anthracite Region and conduct complimentary research monitoring following the planting of the seedlings; The seedlings can be planting along streambanks, near schools, community parks, heritage trails, historic preservation sites, on abandoned mine lands, near AMD Treatment Systems, and on abandoned mine land reclamation sites; Submitted the grant and were notified less than a month later that EPCAMR will receive the funding in Spring of 2015 to begin the project; www.inquiringsystems.org

Project Coordination

- Meeting with Tom Clark and Pierre MaCoy from SRBC to discuss final reporting edits and submission of specific formats for the mine pool mapping data for the ***SRBC Mine Pool Mapping*** cooperative agreement
- Travelled with several of the EPCAMR Staff to Centralia to meet with Mostik's Waste Hauling and Joe Sapienza to pre-plan placement of dumpsters and to evaluate the total amount of waste at each of the sites to determine the size of the dumpsters needed for the ***Centralia Cleanup*** on October 25th; Ordered No Dumping Signs for Centralia; EPCAMR Staff worked on designing and having VISTAPRINT print two sponsor banners for the event; Northwestern Academy, Coal Township, Northumberland County, joined the partnership to bring some adjudicated youth to the cleanup to volunteer and help with the cleanup; Coordinated the Centralia Cleanup with our regional partners; **60** volunteers participated; **175** tires were collected by Lakin Tires, and recycled and **5.6** Ton of trash were collected in **6** hours; Followed up with Keep PA Beautiful's *Michelle Dunn* to provide her with our totals for the cleanup

- Prepared Letter of Request to transfer funds from the Construction Line to the Salary/Benefits Line in the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project** and provided it to our new Project Officer Gregg Davis, PA DEP BAMR
- Meeting with *Beth Coleman*, GreenWay Pavements, and *Ray Clarke-Huber* Breaker Preservation Society to review stormwater management solutions for the reclamation of the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley, PA; Looking for a product to lay down over the culm that won't allow too much runoff; Researching the Eco-Raster, permeable paver interlocking grid system for a parking lot area; www.greenwaypavements.com

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; Decided to brainstorm on a theme for this year's conference, discussed potential topics for presentations, format of the conference, pre-conference tour, golf fundraiser, and website development once the theme is selected; Golf and Conference Rooms Contract review from the Ramada will be on the November 2015 Meeting agenda; Fairway Laboratories is interested in becoming a sponsor for 2015 following EPCAMR's pursuit of a partnership with *Kara Shettler*, at the 2014 Conference; Hydro East is also interested in becoming a sponsor after meeting with them at the ARIPPA Tech Symposium
- Attended the **43rd Annual NAAEE Conference** in Ottawa, CA from October 7-11th, and made **5** presentations on our EPCAMR's work in the Northern Anthracite Coalfields as they relate to Environmental Education, Community Capacity Building, and Serving Underserved Coalfield Populations in distressed communities; A full scholarship was awarded to the Executive Director to cover the costs of the registration to attend the Conference due to already working with the EE Capacity Consortia from PA as a Leadership Team member affiliated with PAEE; www.naaee.org
- Participated in the PA Community of Learners Webinar on Networking and building capacity among partners in community organizations and reported on all the presentations that were made and attended by members of the PA Leadership Team from EE Capacity

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Boy Scout Troop 418 in Glen Lyon, PA is looking for a community service project and was directed to EPCAMR by EC; Suggested some smaller trail cleanups in the late Fall 2014 or late Spring 2015 and or assisting the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with scraping, priming, and painting the perimeter fence; Followed up with *Matthew Matyas*, Scout Leader
- *Maribeth Gillen*, Carbondale, PA is interested in photography and becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer; Suggested that she fill out our online Volunteer Form
- *Stephanie Simon-Dowlig*, Scranton, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer Community Fundraiser for EPCAMR; Suggested that she fill out our online Volunteer Form
- *Diane Czajkowski*, Ashley, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer with EPCAMR who will create some iron oxide art pieces that we might be able to sell online with a percentage of the sale going to her for creating the work and the remaining portion of the sale going to EPCAMR to support our organization
- *John Jacobs*, Wilkes-Barre, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer Community Fundraiser for EPCAMR; Suggested that he fill out our online Volunteer Form; Going to try and get a meeting together with those volunteers that are interested in helping out that have similar interests to see if we can form a small Community Development Fundraising Committee
- *Paul Warmer*, Taylor, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer photographer with EPCAMR; Suggested that he fill out our online Volunteer Form

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed and forwarded EPCAMR Executive Director's September Monthly Report to Mike for inclusion with our quarterly reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program
- *Elizabeth Rosser*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist completed our tax exemption paperwork for Home Depot and WALMART to save us some tax expenses on the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or materials for projects
- Forwarded the Notice of Payment Frequency Change Employer Withholding document from the PA Department of Revenue to RJ Zagrapan, our CPA
- Updated EPCAMR's information to continue participating in the PA Federal Surplus Property Program; Added *Kelsey Biondo*, newest full-time employee to the list as an authorized representative
- *Karl Brown* asked if the EPCAMR Executive Director would be interested in being nominated as a candidate for the newly formed Aggregate Advisory Board under Act 137; EPCAMR Executive Director was requested to submit resume to the State Conservation Commission
- EPCAMR Executive Director had Mike complete his evaluation for the year and completed a self-evaluation, then forwarded to the EPCAMR Personnel Committee for review and consideration, prior to the November 20th, 2014 Board Meeting



Some cleanup shots from the Centralia, PA Cleanup coordinated by EPCAMR and Joe Sapienza II