

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes-October 2006 Monthly Report
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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District Fundraising Committee Meeting at the office to discuss ways to enhance the 2007 District Banquet
- Attended the Post-Evaluation Meeting with members of the 2006 Susquehanna RiverFest Planning Committee, coordinated by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, to make recommendations and determine what the 2007 Susquehanna RiverFest Event may look like and what the needs and coordination efforts, as well as funding levels will be necessary
- Meeting with Professor Ken Klemow, Wilkes University to provide him with file boxes on the Council for the Research and Reclamation of Disturbed Lands in PA (CRRDL in PA) state-wide non-profit environmental professional organization, since he was elected the new Secretary/Treasurer, a position that had been held by myself for the last 5 years; Discussed the potential availability for future interns from Wilkes University, and informed him that the District will shortly be developing a more formal internship application process and guidelines that should help us make determinations on future needs and roles for interns at the District; Discussed talking with Earth Conservancy about constructing drying pads for iron oxide at the Phase II Wetlands along Dundee Road, Hanover Twp.
- Presented as a Panel Member on Luzerne County Environmental Issues and Regional Abandoned Mine Land Issues at the 16th Annual Small Cities Conference, Wilkes-Barre, sponsored by the Joint Urban Studies Center
- Meeting with Mike Korb, who informed us that he will be working on developing some implementation projects for Luzerne County that tie into the Susquehanna River Greenway Partnership as well as the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor that makes its way from the Mountain Top Area down into Ashley with its terminus at the Levee System in the Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre; Interested in having our Program offer up ideas for future projects
- Attended the Dallas Area High School to make a presentation to Mrs. Healey's Environmental Club on the Luzerne Conservation District's Enviro-Thon Program; 15 students were informed of the exciting opportunity at the District and will be competing in the 2007 Luzerne Conservation District Enviro-Thon
- Attended a Duryea Borough Council Meeting with Mike Hewitt and Chris Gillis to discuss future AMD Treatment possibilities at the Old Forge Borehole, which is located right on the Lackawanna River and just upstream of Duryea Borough; Made a presentation to gain their support for future submission of grants and funding for the project
- Attended the Hicks Creek Watershed AML Cleanup in Exeter Borough, and assisted in its coordination with Aaron Szwast, Karen Szwast, LCCC Environmental Club Students, Boy Scouts, and Wyoming Area and Seton Catholic High School Students, as a continued effort under the COALS Program; Approximately **450** tires were collected and **6.5 Tons** of trash were removed from the two sites, with nearly **50 volunteers** participating on the cold and rainy morning

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coordinated with Lackawanna County Officials to obtain a copy of the Abandoned Mine Land Resolution to provide to the PA AML Campaign
- Attended the annual State-wide Non-Point Source Liaison WorkGroup Meeting and Resource Extraction SubCommittee Meeting to provide examples of highlights of the WorkGroup and its state-wide partners working on abandoned mine reclamation and AMD remediation efforts; Continued to serve as Chair of the Resource Extraction SubCommittee to facilitate discussions on AMD/AMR Success Stories to include in the EPA Work Plan for 2007
- Continued working on developing a Lackawanna County Trails Map that covers abandoned mine lands and inactive abandoned railroad lines throughout the County for the Deutsch Institute
- Attended the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting, Bloomsburg
- Attended the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board and the Reclamation Technical Committee Meeting, Harrisburg; Passed a resolution in support of a Federal Good Samaritan Legislative Act on issues related to surface coal mining and the reclamation of abandoned mine lands; Previous legislation has never included abandoned coal mines in their packages; Reviewed the draft Action Plan for the MRAB Orphan Mine Discharge Task Force and asked to provide additional comments and updates to the plan on work related to EPCAMR/WPCAMR Projects across the State in partnership with Conservation Districts
- Worked with Mike to develop an estimated budget and submitted it with the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable (ECRR) and Trout Unlimited (TU) EPA Grant Proposals that would allow our Program to assist with conducting additional PASSING GO Organizational Development and Capacity Building Workshops for community groups in Eastern PA
- Typed up the 2005 Meeting Minutes from the annual CRRDL in PA Meeting held in Karthaus, PA and forwarded a draft template for the 2007 annual meeting that has yet to be determined to Professor Ken Klemow, who has taken over the reigns for that organization; A 2006 Meeting was not conducted due to conflicts by some members of the existing Board