

# EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes  
Luzerne Conservation District AML Program Manager-EPCAMR

EPCAMR Regional Coordinator  
[www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org)  
[rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)  
570-674-7993

## October 2007 Monthly Report

### Education and Outreach

- Attended a lecture for the King's College community to discuss EPCAMR's role and the partnership that we maintain with regional artists who have hung works of art at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ***Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit*** at the Widman Gallery, King's College to showcase previously displayed artwork utilizing the iron oxides that EPCAMR has been collecting for several years trying to find beneficial resource recovery uses for the pigment; Interviewed by a local King's College Art Critic about the Exhibit for their local student newspaper; Attended an artists reception during the middle of the month on the "Third Friday" of October, when the public are most likely to generate foot traffic through the exhibit in Downtown Wilkes-Barre; **25** pieces of art work are on exhibit at the Art Show
- Presented an AMD/AML Outreach Awareness Program to **15** college geology/education/landscape architect students from Keystone College and **6** high school student artists interested in working on an Iron Oxide Book Binding Project with their teacher Ivana Pavelka, who is a Photography Professor at Keystone College, that has exhibited artwork with EPCAMR at both ***Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibits***
- Conducted an AMD/AML Outreach Watershed Tour with **3** Hazleton Area Junior High Schools (Drums, Valley, & Freeland) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted Classes (**30** students) of the Audenreid AMD Treatment System and discussed other projects and problems associated with various other mine discharges within their school districts such as the Jeddo, Gowen, and Derringer Mine Tunnels
- EPCAMR played a role in creating a new one-hour DVD documentary about mining and abandoned mine drainage in Pennsylvania entitled, "***Hope for Polluted Waters***"; WVIA premiered the DVD;

<http://www.wvia.org/hdtheaterstudio/ExplorerHome.html>; ***Hope for Polluted Waters*** tells the personal stories of the individuals and groups working throughout the coal-mining regions of Pennsylvania to clean up the abandoned mine drainage (AMD) that pollutes over 4,000 miles of waterways in the state.

The focus of the story is the people themselves; their passions, frustrations, challenges and ultimately their triumphs over pollution. Dedication drives these individuals, whose goal is a better future. These emotions are evident in every one of the volunteers who is trying to correct the wrongs of the past. . While AMD is caused by historic mining activities, the program focuses on history more than to explain what AMD is, how it was created, and what it has done to the communities and environments it has impacted. The main focus is truly on the personal stories and everyday actions of people in today's world.

- EPCAMR Program Staff created our first ever, bumper sticker for EPCAMR to promote our organization, our work, and our website; EPCAMR Board approved the purchase of 1000 bumper stickers for future outreach programs; EPCAMR will sell them for **\$1** each

## Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff and Board Members were interviewed by Lynn Hocker-Whispering Creek, and John Dawes-Foundation for PA Watersheds about our organization's ability to complete abandoned mine reclamation projects, environmental education and outreach efforts, partnership abilities, networking, public relations, and ability to leverage multiple funding sources for regional projects throughout the Anthracite Region; An evaluation and interviewing process is being completed state-wide with some leading environmental organizations that have stood out over the years that are still addressing abandoned mine drainage and abandoned mine reclamation issues in PA; Encouraged to apply for a **\$2000.00** Convening Grant to assist the EPCAMR Board with updating its Strategic Plan and redefining our organization's Board Development
- Continuing to work with Mike on developing a "LEAP" Grant Proposal to the Environmental Support Center in Washington D.C. for nearly **\$10,000** in donated professional services and other consultant services to assist EPCAMR with securing additional funds to build our organization from within as we begin to move forward after being in existence for nearly a decade and continuing to do good work
- Provided Mike Korb-GTS Technologies, Inc. a link to the Mahanoy Creek ScarLift Abandoned Mine Reclamation Report
- Provided a letter of support for Earth Conservancy's Brownfields Cleanup Grant Application to install a Maelstrom Oxidizer aeration system to the Phase II Wetlands Treatment System at Dundee, along Nanticoke Creek

## Project Coordination

- Finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) with the Dauphin County Conservation District to serve as a pass-through partner with the USGS to provide modeling services and hydrogeological services related to the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project**
- Contacted Ian K. Palmer regarding the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** to discuss setting up a meeting with him after to finalize an independent contract for services to assist with the data collection of needed information for the GIS Database to build the Mine Pool Mapping layers for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields; A meeting has been scheduled for November 7th, 2007 at the Pottsville District Mining Office to discuss the project further and to meet with Dan Koury-PA DEP Project Officer
- Submitted a signed Contract for Independent Services and an MOA on behalf of EPCAMR to work with PEC on two separate projects related to abandoned mine reclamation; One for GIS Mapping needs to complete the **Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan** and the other for GIS Mapping needs to identify locations where chicken poultry manure can be applied to abandoned mine lands (**Manure & Mine Lands Project**) in Schuylkill County, however the area must be in the Susquehanna River Basin

## Conferences and Trainings

- Provided some comments to Andy McAllister-WPCAMR on our planned Conference Call for to begin the discussions on the coordination of the 2008 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Submitted an abstract co-authored by Mike Hewitt and myself at the request of the OSM for the March 2008 GeoSpatial Technology Conference to be held in Atlanta, GA on our RAMLIS 7.0 GIS Mapping Tool
- Provided Duncan Wilson, ACCWT Clean Streams Practicum Coordinator with some presentation materials that were provided at last Fall's ACCWT Training for the OSM/VISTAs; EPCAMR Program Staff were not able to make it down to this year's training, however, we were able to provide training materials for the OSM/VISTAs for their packets
- Requested the use of the Musto Environmental Education Center from Diane Madl, PA DCNR for a future planned Strategic Planning 2-Day Training for the EPCAMR Board of Trustees to update our Strategic Plan and to discuss future Board Development; Request was granted

## Conservation District Communications

- Attended and facilitated the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting, Bloomsburg, PA at the Columbia County Conservation District
- Provided Tanya D.-LCD Conservation Education Coordinator with contact information for St. Vincent's College that would allow her to obtain a complete copy of the "***Nature Interrupted***" K-12 AMD Curriculum
- Provided Tanya D. with copies of recently completed Environmental Education Grants that were awarded to either EPCAMR or the Luzerne Conservation District over the last few years to give her some idea of what to submit in a future grant application to the PA DEP or EPA
- Provided Northumberland County Conservation District with a copy of EPCAMR's Scope of Work, Work Plan for our OSM/VISTA position; NCCD is applying for one as well
- Received a copy of LCD Staff Billable Breakdown charges from Sue K.-LCD that EPCAMR can use on future grant applications when submitting for reimbursement for time worked on various projects
- Provided Catherine Webster, a newly hired OSM/VISTA for the Schuylkill Conservation District, who will be starting work in November 2007, a copy of EPCAMR's Scope of Work, Work Plan to give her some guidelines as to the types of projects that she might undertake while at the SCD

## Internship Coordination

- Continued to conduct several phone interviews for an OSM/VISTA after being provided with several resumes by the new Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team Support Coordinator-Torie Bowman, from Beckley, WV

## Volunteer Community or Streamside Cleanups

- Submitted a volunteer summary sheet to the United Way of necessary skills for volunteers who would like to assist EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District on future cleanups in our AMD impacted watersheds throughout the Region