

EPCAMR



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April 2009 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- ARIPPA Tour in Western PA with EPA, PA DEP Officials to Cambria Co-Gen Plant and AML/AMD Sites; EPCAMR Staff submitted a white paper to the ARIPPA Tech Symposium in August 2009 at the request of Jeff McNelly-Executive Director
- Presentation at LCCC on Iron Oxide Chalk for Earth Week and EPCAMR Activities to nearly **75** college students; Sought volunteers for future cleanup projects
- EPCAMR Staff created hundreds pieces of Iron Oxide Chalk for Earth Day at Wilkes-Barre's Riverfront Park where nearly **1000** students were in attendance
- Kyra Norton, Bloomsburg U. student was interviewed and will be an unpaid intern with EPCAMR for the Summer 2009 (May 18 thru August 14), unless funding becomes available through several grants that have been submitted and not yet awarded; Submitted EPCAMR Work Plan to her advisor at Bloomsburg U.
- Talked with Brad Bohr, Owner and Videographer who owns a video business called Level A Productions (www.levelaproductions.com) that specializes in video for organizations in Energy & The Environment; Shot a film with EPCAMR Staff in it a few years back on the US EPA Computer Recycling Program that we were involved with that provided recycled computers to local watershed groups in the Coal Region
- Provided Naomi Bases, Unison EC Company in Wilkes-Barre, PA with several volunteer opportunities for their employees to participate in with EPCAMR for Earth Day
- Sent an e-mail around to Lackawanna County Elementary School Teachers informing them of EPCAMR's previous involvement with many partners and other school districts through the PA DCNR Community Connections Program at the High School level to conduct tours on abandoned mine drainage, abandoned mine reclamation, historic preservation efforts throughout the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley; Informed them of the small grant in the amount of **\$500** that allowed us to purchase small art supplies such as molds, cups, plaster of Paris, and printing costs to create an EPCAMR Chalk Box for later distribution to schools and community programs that EPCAMR conducts throughout the Region. Under the grant EPCAMR would make presentations to elementary aged children in school districts throughout Lackawanna and Luzerne County that were interested. It only takes about 2 hours for the program and it is fun and exciting for the kids because they actually get to make iron oxide chalk that is recycled from abandoned mine drainage that we collect from treatment systems that removes the iron from the water that is impacted many of our streams and rivers. If you'd like to schedule a presentation, give me some dates and EPCAMR will work with you to get them into our calendar for the next month or two.
- Prepared **\$500** grant to Bear Creek Foundation, Inc. for a video camera and to provide tours and AMD Education student/teacher materials to the Bear Creek Charter Elementary School, Luzerne County

- Provided information to Kristen Klingaman, Chemistry Teacher at Tamaqua HS on AMD Facts specific to Schuylkill County and an AMD Monitoring Guide Book and AMD Education Module
- Attended the Huber Breaker Preservation Society General Membership Meeting to discuss the Fundraising Campaign for the Miner's Memorial
- Worked up a narrative report for the Shamokin Creek Feasibility Study Request for Qualifications in preparation to send it to the Foundation for PA Watersheds
- EPCAMR Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Presentation to the Bear Creek Charter School's After School Program
- Meeting with Costumes by Barbara, Luzerne, PA to review ideas and costume designs for ***The AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse Activity Book***, funded under the Scranton Area Foundation Grant
- EPCAMR AMD/Outreach Presentation to St. Theresa's Church Group, Shavertown, PA
- Worked with WNEP-16 News to get a news story on the June 13-14th Energy Expo at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds

Technical Assistance

- Followed up with Wiconisco Creek Restoration Alliance to update them on EPCAMR activities in the watershed to report to their membership
- Received information from Bob Hedin on the ARRA Green Project Reserve; He was wondering if the Honey Pot AMD discharge could be a candidate site; Not sure how much needs to be "contracted by Feb 17 2010."; If they need the full construction project, could not make it in time; If they need substantial construction activity we could see drilling to move the discharge to floodplain site and building sedimentation ponds on township property; Expansion to flood plain for wetlands on EC property could occur later.
- Completed the "Buy A Brick" Fundraising Campaign Flyer for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society worked on by EPCAMR volunteer intern Rayne Browne
- Contacted Dale Freudenberger from the D & L to see if there are any D & L funds set aside for the Huber Breaker Preservation efforts to create a Miner's Memorial Park on the 3 acre property that they own; Ray Clarke, the President of the HBPS Board seems to think that funds were being held for the project by the D & L; He was talking \$22K.
- Prepared a Letter of Support for Earth Conservancy's Hanover #9 AML Reclamation Project to the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program
- Prepared an extension letter draft to DCED for Ray Clarke-HBPS for them to receive a 6 month extension through December 31, 2009 to complete Phase I of their Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation
- Prepared a Letter of Support for the Hicks Creek Watershed Association for their cleanup grant to PA American Water

- EPCAMR Staff field meeting/tour with EC and PACD Engineer at the Espy Run AMD Wetlands remediation site; EC interested in EPCAMR completing LIDAR data conversion for topographic survey of the site utilizing our GIS to assist PACD with making a larger AMD treatment site for the discharge
- EPCAMR staff conducted an AMD Water Quality Monitoring Workshop and AML Tour with 7 AHA OSM/VISTAs in order for them to obtain an EPCAMR AMD Monitoring Certificate
- Attended a Field Tour with Weatherly Borough, BAMR, Alder Run Engineering, and Cabot Corporation in Carbon and lower Luzerne Counties in the Hazle Creek Watershed to sample AMD discharges for water quality
- Worked with EC to estimate how much time it would take Mike to create LIDAR data topography sets for all of the EC parcels in Luzerne and Lackawanna County; Requested some financial assistance through a professional fee for service to bill the work back to the project which is outside of the EPCAMR Scope of Work

Project Coordination

- Completed a *Mine Pool Mapping Project* Reimbursement and Progress Report; Meeting held with a Professor Dave Thompson-PSU who has an interest in geothermal energy uses of mine pool water; EPCAMR Staff showed Dr. Thompson some of our RAMLIS and Mine Pool Mapping work; Reviewed Progress Reports and Invoices from Ian Palmer, Roger Hornberger, and the DCCD; Submitted payment to the contractors
- Directed Mike to send Branden Diehl-Foundation for PA Watersheds grant consultant, a few image files and screen shots of the 3-D model renderings that we've created in Earth Vision showing how robust the software is and what type of imagery that we are getting out of it to continue our work on mine pool mapping; The Western Middle Field Structural Contour map comes to mind as does the one that we did under Mt. Carmel with the DEM or Aerial draped over the structural contours
- Continued to work on the Avondale AML Reclamation Project with the W-B Vo-Tech Horticultural Class for 4 days in the month of April; Three gardens have been constructed and a concrete pad has been poured for benches at the site; grass needs to be planted, flowers need to be planted, soil needs to be moved around, and a still split rail wooden fence needs to be erected at the site; Crestwood High School will be created some blue-bird boxes for wildlife habitat improvement at the site; Topsoil was donated by the Basar's (Hanover Nursery) Top Soil Operation, Plymouth Township; Equipment (Bobcat) was donated by Chet Bendrick-Avondale Hill resident and EPCAMR volunteer; Submitted a **\$1000** Community Improvement Project Grant request to the Times-Leader newspaper for additional materials and supplies for the ongoing project
- Informed the Northumberland County Conservation District that EPCAMR has forwarded on the reimbursement for **\$8000** for the first installment of the fence installation at Site 15 in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; Jim Koharski from SCRA to send pictures
- Completed a revised ACCWT OSM/VISTA Work Plan and Volunteer Activity Description (VAD) for a future EPCAMR OSM/VISTA; Work Plan and VAD need approval from OSM prior to sponsoring the next OSM/VISTA position; Forwarded the information to April Trent-ACCWT

Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR Staff continued to coordinate the 2009 AMR Conference Planning by holding a conference call after developing an updated agenda for the meeting; Continued to move forward on the Conference Planning, Speakers, Theme, Budget, and Vendor, Sponsor, and Exhibitor topics

- Convened a Coal Heritage/Coal Mining History Conference Call; Marc Brodzik's film ***Hard Coal*** as well as Chris Perkel and Georgie Roland's film ***The Town That Was***. The introduced by Dr. J. Philip Mosley, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State Worthington Scranton and member of the Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates was suggested for showing at the Conference by Dale F.; Dale making a contact with the filmmakers; The film ***Hard Coal: Last of the Bootleg Miners*** has won the Best Feature Documentary Award at the 2009 DIY Film Festival in Los Angeles, and an official selection of the 2009 Carolina Film Festival and 2009 Buffalo-Niagara Film Festival. The film ***The Town That Was*** is the story of the coal seam fire under the town of Centralia, and the efforts of the youngest remaining resident, John Lokitis, to keep his hometown alive
- Asked Dorian Rolfe-Hammond-ACCWT Regional Coordinator if he could follow up with the AHA OSM/VISTAs to see if they are going to each bring a poster board to the AMR Conference on their work that they are doing in the Anthracite Region; Hopefully, most can have a spin on historical preservation or anthracite history along with their AMD and outreach work. We will need to know if they are going to select two members of the team to co-present or one member on their work at the Conference on behalf of the larger group; We talked about each of them gathering 5-6 slides a piece and putting one PowerPoint together; The AHA will need to put a paragraph or two together to submit to Mike and myself who will forward it to the History/Coal Heritage SubCommittee for review and approval. We need historical context from each of our respective watersheds represented. The slides of your PowerPoint should be indicative of the state of affairs within the watershed from a historical perspective..Miner's memorials, remnant structures, breakers, community gardens, places that pay tribute to the Miners, museums, exhibits, etc.; We need something on opportunities to educate the public on their own local history and places that we can begin exploring with our youth...something like that...opportunities to explore the watershed history and not just the pollution...How about oral history quotes from old miners in each of the watersheds that you work in on their outlook for the future based on your efforts....is it futile? Is it encouraging? Is it worth it? Would they help if they were able to?
- Convened a separate conference call with Budget Committee to discuss grants, registration price points, and sponsorship potential by other interested parties
- Attended the NEPA Philanthropy Workshop sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, NE Chapter to receive information on various types of fundraising ideas for small-shop non-profits, like ourselves
- Mailed an invoice to PA DEP for **\$2500** to assist with the Conference Coordination of the 2009 Event

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted March 2009 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report and PA DEP 319 Program Reimbursement
- Participated in a conference call and a meeting with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC on the upcoming Summer ***Energy Expo***; www.pnesolutions.org
- Attended the PSATS Convention in Hershey, PA to man the State Association of RC & DC Exhibit, distribute EPCAMR information, and Pocono NE RC & DC information, particularly on the upcoming Energy Expo in June

- Obtained quotes for rubber roof repair from several roofing contractors at EC; Called Bernie Turzinski to confirm the carpet quote for replacement at EC; Once roof repair is completed, EPCAMR Executive Director will get someone in to replace the drop ceiling that was previously damaged by water; Work to be completed by early May on the roof; (anticipated new office location for EPCAMR come July 2009); Have already taken care of the phone and Voice over IP internet installation with Service Electric and Prolog
- Completed EPCAMR reconciliations in QuickBooks and made an EPCAMR deposit
- Assisted District Staff with the 2009 Annual Enviro-Thon at PPL, Susquehanna River lands, Berwick
- Made revisions to EPCAMR PA DEP 319 Work Plan/Scope of Work and sent along the comments to Russ Wagner and Bruce Golden for comment
- EPCAMR signed on to a Letter of Support prepared by Clean Water Action related to addressing the issues of E & S Controls on Marcellus Shale Oil & Gas Well sites and Conservation Districts responsibilities and duties to keep them in check
- Provided Josh with a copy of Bernie McGurl's LRCA Willary Foundation Proposal for creating a more integrated, formal stakeholder group to work on the Old Forge Borehole Project. Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties



Avondale Marker and Community Garden along State Route 11, below Avondale Hill