

EPCAMR



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April 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Participated in a recording session for WKOK AM Talk Radio Show, "Leaders & Lawmakers" with Mark Lawrence, Program Director for the Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation; The ½ interview focused on EPCAMR's work throughout the Anthracite Region and our support of AMD remediation efforts and reclamation of abandoned mines in the Western Middle Coalfields;
http://www.wkok.com/1070_WKOK/Leaders_Lawmakers.htm
- Presented with Carly at L.C.C.C. for "Green Week" to **20** college students on EPCAMR's work, the value of internships, information on becoming an OSM/VISTA, and conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop following the presentation
- Attended a coordinating meeting in Forty-Fort, of RiverFest 2008 partners to get an update on activities planned for June 21, 2008 and to provide an update on our AMD themed tile mosaic art project
- Participated in an Earth Day Festival at Wilkes-Barre's Riverfront Parks and conducted two separate educational programs to nearly **700** 4-5th grade students from throughout Luzerne County; One program was the creation of an AMD Tie-Dye Quilt with an Earth Day Theme and the other was the creation of an AMD-themed tile mosaic art piece representing the Wyoming Valley from an aerial perspective that was created by the children placing tile on a coffee table to be glued down and later grouted with a iron oxide grout mix
- Worked with Carly to come up with ideas to reach several of our local legislators to make them aware of the need for additional funding to support the National AmeriCorps Program; Discussed asking them to wear an EPCAMR/ ACCWT "Got AMD?" iron oxide T-shirt for a day to promote our cause or to create some AMD iron oxide chalk on the spot at their local offices that we will distribute to kids
- Interviewed by a freelance writer from Western PA on EPCAMR for a Fall Magazine Issue that will compliment a previous interview conducted with WPCAMR

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff made a presentation on RAMLIS to community leaders and representative's from Congressman Carney's Office, Shamokin, upon request of Ed Zygmunt, Carney's Legislative Assistant, and participated in a Shamokin Creek watershed tour with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and Habitat for Wildlife; Over **50** people attended the community forum at the CareerLink Placement Center in Shamokin; Congressman Carney would like to see a similar forum held in his Clarks Summit Office for the Lackawanna River Watershed during the summer 2008
- Provided a letter of acknowledgement and support for Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association's Growing Greener Grant for a Stream Channel Relocation Project on the Mehoopany Creek's North Branch Catlin Hollow, Wyoming County and offered up free GIS Mapping assistance to the group

Technical Assistance

- Provided a letter of support to the Abrahams Creek Watershed Association, located within the Wyoming Valley for PA DEP GG Grant to conduct a Watershed Assessment
- Prepared a letter of support for EC's Bliss Banks Reclamation Project to PA DEP GG
- Prepared a letter of support for PEC's DCNR Grant to conduct Rain Barrel workshops
- Prepared a letter of support for the Western PA Conservancy's Watershed Assistance Center to continue to provide technical assistance to groups in western PA under a PA DEP GG Grant
- Attended a field meeting with SRBC's AMD Watershed Coordinator-Tom Clark, several other SRBC Staff, EPCAMR Staff, and Bob Hedin-Hedin Environmental to investigate the Honey Pot AMD discharge (Susquehanna #7), just outside of Nanticoke, Southern Wyoming Valley, for a possible AMD Treatment design project submission under PA DEP GG this round; Worked on the draft of a PA DEP GG Grant for the discharge and submitted for comment to partners
- Meeting with Dale Freudenberger-D & L NHCC Project Manager to assist him with preparing a PA DEP GG Grant to support the Anthracite Region OSM/VISTA Alliance; Follow-up meeting was held with Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR to discuss recruiting alternatives and possibilities for upcoming OSM/VISTAs, particularly for the Jeddo/Nescopeck Creek Watershed position
- Attended a field meeting with Chris Gillis-Eco-Tech, LLC and Victoria Popple, landowner of property along the Lackawanna River near the Old Forge Borehole that is willing to become a partner with EPCAMR and others in the eventual treatment of the Old Forge Borehole; EPCAMR Staff walked the terrain along the River and on the property to get a lay of the landscape for the eventual location of the prototype treatment unit and possible full-scale construction of the AMD treatment system
- Meeting with Carly and John Dziak-Greater Pittston Historical Society to prepare a **\$1000** grant application to OSM/VISTA and the ACCWT for a Summer Associate (Anthracite Historian Research Assistant) 10 week full-time intern to work with John and EPCAMR on developing some historical anthracite related learning packets, a web-site for regional historical resources on abandoned mines, history, and people, places, and events; John would act as the Supervisor and EPCAMR would serve as the sponsor for the intern that would be paid by the Corporation for National Service and OSM/VISTA; Submitted the grant the same day
- Forwarded a request to Mike from Jim Chappelle, member of the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association, who would like to have created **2** GIS Maps of the watershed with AML features from RAMLIS and a topographic map of the watershed boundary
- Provided April Trent, ACCWT OSM/VISTA from the Beckley, WV with EPCAMR links to AMD resources from our website for some future outreach events in schools that she will be conducting
- Assisted Carly with completing her 1st Quarterly OSM/VISTA ACCWT Report
- Provided to ACCWT a database of AMD impacted communities within PA's newly created Anthracite OSM/VISTA Team conceptual area

Project Coordination

- Attended a Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Hicks Creek Steering Committee Meeting, along with Karen Szwast, member of the Hicks Creek Watershed Association, in Wilkes-Barre, to update the County Engineer on the ***Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Board signed and finalized the contract agreement for services, scope of work, and budget under the ***Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***, for Skelly & Loy
- Corresponded with the two PSU Professors who will be working on the Economic Impact Analyses of the Potential Re-use of Mine Pool Water for the ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project*** to settle on how to proceed forward with working up a contract for the work; Submitted reimbursements for work completed by Roger, Ian, and EPCAMR
- Updated the EPCAMR Website with the most up-to-date Progress Report on the ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project***
- Prepared a ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project*** Agenda for an upcoming Project Status meeting for May 6, 2008 at the EPCAMR Office

Conferences and Trainings

- Conducted an AMD Field Sampling Training for Carly at the Grand Tunnel # 1 Slope discharge in Plymouth Township, the Honey Pot AMD discharge (Susquehanna #7) abandoned air shaft, and the Plainsville Boreholes discharge
- Participated in a History Subcommittee and AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to flush out details of the August 2008 10th Annual AMR & Coal Mining History Conference
- Set up a Strategic Planning Conference call with members of the EPCAMR Board with Peter Lane and Elaine Chaney-Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) for May 8, 2008; Provided some Strategic Planning Worksheets to the Committee for review and consideration

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted March 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 March 2008 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Worked with the other LCD Staff to coordinate and run the annual Luzerne County Enviro-Thon Event at PPL-Susquehanna; Served as a scorer of all student tests for the day; Nearly **175** students participated and **12** school districts were involved
- Reconciled EPCAMR Checking and PA Invest Accounts in preparation for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting on April 17, 2008
- Attended the 2nd Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting in Bloomsburg
- Prepared notes from an RC & DC Board Training Workshop attended by the Regional Coordinator and sent them around to Conservation District board members to the Pocono NE RC & DC
- Participated in a Conference call with members of the PA RC & DC, where EPCAMR is represented as an At-Large delegate, from the Pocono NE RC & DC to discuss PA RC & DC business; Quorum was not present, therefore no actions were taken, however, many discussions were held that will be presented to the full executive committee at another time
- Worked with Carly and Mike to revamp and shorten our 2008 EPCAMR Membership Application Form and Appeal Letter
- Completed a Pocono NE RC & DC Board Strength Assessment

Conservation District Communications

- Provided EPCAMR Board Executive Committee with a sample Employee Performance Evaluation Form that would allow them to begin to discuss how our evaluations are going to be completed this year
- Talked with Russ Wagner-PA DEP 319 Program about the upcoming submission of our PA DEP GG Grant; Worked up a draft FY09-10 319 GG Grant Work Plan and sent it to Mike for comments
- Provided Mark Rickard, District Manager from the Venango County Conservation District with some contractors for AMD Treatment system designs
- Informed the EPCAMR Board the our EPCAMR PA Sales and Use Tax Exemption as an Institution of Public Charity has been approved, retroactive to January 9 ,2008 and will need to be reviewed again in 2013

Community Cleanups on AML or around Streams Impacted by AMD

- EPCAMR Staff conducted and coordinated a litter cleanup and illegal dump site cleanup on the grounds of the abandoned Avondale Mine Colliery, Plymouth Township, and along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail for only **3** hours; **21** volunteers participated, including **10** Boy Scouts from Troop 154, Kingston; **200** bags of trash removed; **35** tires removed; **1.5** Ton of junk; All material was picked up by PA DOT as a part of the Great PA Cleanup; A press release was pre-leased before the event to the media to encourage other volunteers to show up; Prepared and submitted letters of request for donations of water and refreshments to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, Weis Markets, and Gerrity's Market
- Prepared a letter to the Boy Scouts Council, Troop 154 to support Mitchell Yamrus, who is going for his Eagle Scout Badge, letting them know of his intentions to work with EPCAMR on the community service project down at the Avondale Site
- Requested from the PEC NE Office whether or not any of our cleanup sites that we had submitted a few months back were approved for dumpsters and it turns out that they have chosen several other sites over the 3 suggested by EPCAMR, therefore we are looking at other ways to conduct those cleanups
- EPCAMR Staff and some Staff members from other LCD Programs conducted a cleanup down at the Luzerne Conservation District Wetlands, along Middle Road, Hanover Township; **6** Staff were able to participate and **1** community volunteer; **26** bags of trash were collected; **35** tires; **150** pounds of metal (**See picture below**)

