

EPCAMR



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August 2009 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Executive Director completed July 09 PA DEP 319 PG Reimbursement and Progress Report and submitted them to the 319 PG
- Picked up several more costumes of our AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse from Barbara Gavlick-Costumes by Barbara, to be used in the Fall 2009 when we do Education Programs in the schools on AMD
- Continued to conduct an AMD Water Monitoring Training in the field with Interns Kyra Norton and Shawn Jones; EPCAMR provided them with full certification before the completion of their internship
- Final Evaluation Meeting with Kyra's advisor, John Bodeman-Bloomsburg University; Interviewed by Rory Sweeney, Times-Leader staff reporter for an article in the news paper on EPCAMR's Internship Program
- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Outreach Program for the Carbon County Conservation District's Nature Camp in partnership with the Carbon County Environmental Education Center staff at Hickory Run State Park; **30** students reached
- Prepared **37** individual letters for each of the Legislators (Representatives and Senators) in the EPCAMR Region where we are actively involved in watershed projects in partnership with our Conservation Districts and their Watershed Specialist staff people; The letters were in support of dedicated funding to support these positions at the Conservation Districts; An additional letter was mailed to PA DEP Secretary John Hanger
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared **10** press releases and had Mike post them to our website and our FaceBook account; All releases can be found at www.orangewaternetwork.org in the News Scroll
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a Letter of Support and Confidence for Joe Pizarchik-PA DEP BAMR, who has been nominated for the next OSM Director position at the US Department of Interior and submitted the document to the Senate Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Confirmation Hearing Members
- EPCAMR was awarded a **\$1408.00** Environmental Education & Arts Grant from the Scranton Area Foundation to work with a local elementary school to create a comedy play based on EPCAMR's "**AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse Activity Book**"; Funds will be used for backdrops, sets, costumes, props, and stage materials

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff Meeting with Tom Clark and Andy Gavin-SRBC to discuss an Anthracite Region Strategy on obtaining water quality data for a cursory assessment of where the largest pollution loads are coming from in the Middle Susquehanna River Basin
- Reviewed EPCAMR files for water quality data and maps of mine pools that Mike could use for the Mine Pool Mapping Project and for SRBC to use in developing the Anthracite Strategy
- Provided comments to the US EPA Region III on their idea of developing an Appalachian Coalition around brownfields and AML sites; Participated in a conference call on the subject; Sent along a list of additional stakeholders for consideration in Northeastern PA and several GIS Maps of the Anthracite Heritage Alliance watershed coverages provided to OSM/VISTA related to how EPCAMR provides regional coordination to these groups
- Participated in an ACCWT Conference Call with OSM/VISTAs from across Appalachia to discuss, “Advocating Environmental Art in the Coalfields through AMD: Connecting Communities Supporting Abandoned Mine Reclamation & Watershed Restoration”; Discussed ways that EPCAMR has utilized the iron oxide in a positive and profitable way to educate community groups and youth on the types of reclamation and remediation work that we are all trying to complete in the region
- Participated on an OSM GeoSpatial Data Standards Task Force Team Meeting Conference Call to discuss the upcoming October Standards Meeting in Charleston, SC and to review and make comments to the continued developments of draft standards being worked on by the Team
- EPCAMR Staff participated in a Conference Call with John Dawes and Branden Diehl-Foundation for PA Watersheds on developing a proposal to the William Penn Foundation for the development of Qualified Hydrologic Units (QHUs) for the Delaware River Basin, Schuylkill River, and Upper Lehigh River Watershed in AMD impacted areas to assist these areas in being eligible for
- Referred Michael Wardell-Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) to the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and the Conservation District about hosting a biosolids demonstration field trip on AML sites in Schuylkill County

Project Coordination

- Received FINAL grant agreement for the **Illegal Dump Grant** that EPCAMR was awarded by the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management
- Field trip to Hicks Creek to conduct a baseline macro-invertebrate sampling with our interns of the upstream area before the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project**
- Conducted a WebEx online Meeting using our GIS Technical Assistance Center with the USGS and the Pottsville District Mining Office on discussions around changing some of the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping** underground hydrogeological interpretations that were initially being discussed that might need updating

Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- Trip with Kyra to Site 15 in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; Inspected the fence constructed around the AMD treatment systems, take pictures, and toured a few more AMD discharges in the watershed; Stopped at the Pioneer Tunnel to see if they had printed up any publicity yet on the Wyso Art Exhibit that is planned for the Pioneer Tunnel after Labor Day; EPCAMR will be posting information on our website and FaceBook site once they complete the flyer and announcement
- EPCAMR Staff were invited to speak to the ARIPPA Board of Trustees at the ARIPPA's 19th Annual Technical Convention in Harrisburg on our RAMLIS GIS Tool and how we might be able to partner with the Co-Gen Industry to assist them with identifying waste coal piles and future monitoring of AMD water quality; **25** members present

Community Cleanups

- Worked with the Interns to remove graffiti from the Avondale AML Site and PA DOT underpass leading to the community gardens location in Plymouth Township
- Worked on preparing a Narrative Report, In-Kind Report, Tracking Report of Volunteers, and an Invoice Request to the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management dating back to April 2009; Submitted the first invoice and necessary reports to go along with it for reimbursement; Nearly **\$24,000** has been donated in-kind since April on the project
- Constructed one of our recycled plastic picnic tables that will eventually go down to the Avondale AML Community Garden site once it is completed; Working on identifying a way to secure the picnic table to the site so that it doesn't get stolen

EPCAMR Program Administration

- EPCAMR Executive Director worked with Mike on making the necessary EPCAMR Policy Manual Updates to be reviewed by the EPCAMR Personnel Committee; Held a Personnel Committee Mtg on 8-12-09 to review the EPCAMR Personnel and Policy DRAFT documents prior to the September Board Meeting
- EPCAMR Executive Director worked with First National Bank to finalize the 90-day short term loan of **\$30,000** to keep EPCAMR operational until grant reimbursements come in to provide a cash flow balance; Paperwork would be signed at the Personnel Committee by the Executive Committee members present (President and Secretary to sign); Completed the STD-21 Review Form and submitted it to Sherry Morrow-PA DEP related to the number of Employees working for EPCAMR; EPCAMR is exempt
- EPCAMR Executive Director cleared all of EPCAMR's Accounts Payable for the month
- EPCAMR Executive Director received our Workers' Compensation Liability Coverage on behalf of EPCAMR and our State Workers' Insurance Fund (SWIF) Liability Coverage
- EPCAMR Executive Director completed the final close out deliverables which included the Final Narrative Report and Photos of the completed fence construction for Site 15 in the Shamokin Creek Watershed, and submitted them to the PA DEP Section 319 Program