

# EPCAMR



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## August 2008 Monthly Report

### Education and Outreach

- Confirmed attendance at the Schuylkill River National & Scenic Heritage Area Annual Meeting at the request of Kurt Zwinkl, Executive Director on September 10<sup>th</sup>, to provide an update on EPCAMR activities in the Upper Schuylkill Watershed
- Victoria Harkavy, anticipated EPACMR OSM Summer Associate Internship fell ill and had some personal health issues that prevented her from starting her internship on time with EPCAMR and after three weeks, it was too far into the program to get her approved through the ACCWT process; EPCAMR and the ACCWT had to inform her that the internship was no longer available; EPCAMR will continue to look for a Fall volunteer that might be majoring in History to work on the project since the Work Plan is already approved and ready to go
- Coordinated with Carly and Catherine Webster-Schuylkill County OSM/VISTA to see if they could partner up on a presentation requested by Pam Ulicny, a high school teacher from the Tri-Valley School District, Hegins, in October, since the Schuylkill IU is encouraging school programs on Anthracite Coal Mining Heritage Week
- Worked with Carly to produce an Iron Oxide Resource Recovery brochure to inform the public about the types of co-products and material uses for the iron oxide that EPCAMR has been marketing in the region for the last several years
- Worked with Carly to come up with a grant idea for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority's Small Grants program to purchase zip log backs and recycled paper for distribution of our iron oxide chalk and the iron oxide pigment to schools and watershed groups that are interested in obtaining the products from EPCAMR
- Worked with Carly to submit the Press Release on EPCAMR's recent acceptance of the Avondale Mine Site Beautification Award from Keep PA Beautiful for distribution to the local newspapers
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a 5 page comment letter and submitted it to the SRBC that detailed our support and additional comments for the updated Comprehensive Plan for the Basin
- EPCAMR Executive Director is working with Jennifer Frye, King's College to work out a supervision schedule for some Fall students that need community service hours as a part of their classroom curriculum

- EPCAMR awarded a **\$1691** grant from the Scranton Area Foundation and the PA Council on the Arts to create costume designs for our AMD Avengers vs. Pollution Posse Activity Book on abandoned mines and to work with local art groups and artists such as Arts YOUiverse and Costumes by Barbara to develop skits, improve, and create props for the educational activities; Work to begin on the project will occur after the Halloween Rush of 2008
- Worked with Carly to come up with some ideas for PSAs for EPCAMR to begin to advertise for free some of our work in the region and the need for volunteers on community cleanup projects
- Prepared and submitted written comments to OSM on their Final Rulemaking changes for the Title IV Reauthorization

### Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff worked with Bill Winters- OSM—Pittsburgh Field Office to set up a date (September 8) to pick up an Altek Digitizer to assist us with our **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** through the OSM TIPS Program
- Provided Ryan Jakubco, Senior Graduate student at Shippensburg University with information on the Reevesdale South Dip Tunnel AMD Project and referred him to PA DEP BAMR, Schuylkill CCD, and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association
- Submitted a letter of request to OSM for an official extension on the recent OSM Final Rulemaking for the Title IV AML Program and was awarded a two week period until August 29<sup>th</sup>; Began working with the PA AML Campaign to put together our draft comments upon further review of the Federal Register
- Received our EPCAMR Dryer for Iron Oxide from Ben Meadows that will allow us to dry 3 times as much iron oxide then what we were capable of prior to the purchase with our archaic toaster oven
- EPCAMR Executive Director led a conference call with OSM's Title IV GeoSpatial Team Sub-group, since EPCAMR has taken the lead of the development of the first **Minimum Geospatial Data Standard for Abandoned Coal Mine Problem Areas** that will go on for further approvals by ASTM International, the FGDC; Completed the first 6 page draft document of the Standard for distribution to the Sub-group and worked out a timeline for comments and additions/deletions to the draft standard before it is passed along to ASTM for concurrence
- EPCAMR Executive Director provided a set of notes on how to get better media coverage to the ACCWT ListServe after having attended the PA Association of RC & DC's Annual Meeting in Bloomsburg

## Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff coordinated and led a field tour meeting for the Hicks Creek NSCD Project with Borton-Lawson Engineering, Skelly & Loy, Hicks Creek Watershed Association, and PA DEP BAMR on August 27<sup>th</sup> to examine the current state of the stream morphology and any blockages; Determined where our starting point will be for the survey and some other logistical base mapping issues that will soon be underway
- Provided State Representative Jim Wanscaz a copy of the EPCAMR Letter of Support for SRBC's Consumptive Use Fee Increase and some links to EPCAMR/WPCAMR and [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) at his request for him to become more familiar with AMD and to get a good handle on the **Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project**
- Hosted a **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** meeting with Roger Hornberger and Mike to review the GIS layers that have been created thus far to begin to assemble the underground mine pool multi-colliery hydrologic units for the Western Middle Anthracite Fields; Provided Roger with a copy of a Progress Report and Reimbursement to pass along to Dan Koury, our PA DEP DMO Project Officer; Followed up in the middle of the month with a Conference Call with all Technical Committee partners to discuss GIS and MOD-FLOW and data incompatibility issues and how to resolve them; Provided Roger with written comments on Chapter 5 of the draft PA Geological Survey Publication that we are collectively working on

## Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR Staff attended the **2008 International ESRI User Conference** in San Diego, CA, participated in the OSM GeoSpatial Task Force Working Group Meeting, and co-presented on our RAMLIS GIS Tool for Community Groups; EPCAMR gave the PA DEP 319 Program, OSM, and the Foundation for PA Watersheds a lot of credit for allowing EPCAMR the time necessary to complete this technical assistance tool that has been distributed to hundreds of watershed groups throughout the Commonwealth of PA over the last year; The Assistance Director of OSM, under the US Department of Interior sat in on our presentation and was so impressed that afterwards, we were informed that OSM will be working to provide us with an ArcGIS Server license under our current MOA in order for EPCAMR to post all of our data to the internet
- Attended and assisted with the co-coordination of the **10th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation & PA Coal History Conference** in State College, PA; 185 attendees, 30 exhibitors, complete with an AMD Tour; Details and presentations from the Conference are posted on [www.treatminewater.com/2008](http://www.treatminewater.com/2008)
- Contacted Conference Planners from both University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, and the Pasquerella Convention Center to set up a meeting for September 8th to come out and see the facilities as possible locations for the 2009 PA AMR Conference

## Conservation District Communications

- Followed up with Glenda Feree-PA DEP 319 Program about EPCAMR's working capital advance for FY 08-09 and informed her that I would submit the July reimbursement since Susan was out of the office; Final Report worked on by EPCAMR Staff of all of the completed deliverables was also submitted to close out the FY 07-08 PA DEP 319 Grant

- Completed and submitted August 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 July 2008 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Assisted Ryan Koch-Pocono NE RC & DC Coordinator with the Field Tour in the Bloomsburg area for the PA RC & DC Annual Meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>; EPCAMR Executive Director had a chance to talk to the State Association members about our Resource Recovery efforts and brought along some iron oxide chalk for distribution to members
- Worked with Catherine Haffner to get her the information she needed to conduct an e-mail vote for the nominations for officers of EPCAMR that was slated at the Annual Meeting in July
- Received a Strategic Planning Proposal for facilitated services from Jennifer Handke to assist EPCAMR with updating our Strategic Plan; Will present it at the October 2008 Quarterly Meeting

### Community Cleanups on AML

- Provided Courtney Gabriel, an EPCAMR volunteer with a flyer for an upcoming cleanup on September 13<sup>th</sup>, along Mizdail Road and on State Forest Lands, in partnership with PA DCNR, PA Cleanways, and the Plymouth Township Planning Commission
- Worked with Zach Petroski, Lake-Lehman high school senior to continue to work on the final site design of the community garden on Avondale Hill in front of the abandoned pulley house to the long gone Avondale Mine Colliery Breaker; Plants were planted and a wooden garden bed needs to be installed as well as some paint on the defunct boreholes that were used to backfill the mine with a slurry and at one time help to put out the historic fire; The painting of the graffiti on the abandoned pulley house is completed with an “Avondale Hill Welcome You” greeting



Robert (center) with shovel uncovering the historic masonry foundation block of the Avondale Mine Colliery pulley house structure and Zach Petroski (right) with pick in hand trying to level out a garden bed for the community garden. Note the 12” diameter borehole (left of center)