

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
EPCAMR Executive Director
Luzerne Conservation District AML Program Manager
Luzerne Conservation District
485 Smiths Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708
570-674-3411
rhughes@epcamr.org
www.orangewaternetwork.org

December 2008 Board Report

Education & Outreach

- Discussed talking points with Carly for the upcoming conference call with ACCWT Coordinators, OSM/VISTAs, and Supervisors on plans for Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Carly is partnering with Kat Krulack to conduct an AMD Outreach Event and Service Program at the Nanticoke Housing Authority and the McGlynn Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre for youth living in the low-income housing units
- EPCAMR Program Staff's RAMLIS CD Arc Info GIS Tool featured in Internationally acclaimed GIS Magazine, ESRI's **ARCNEWS**- <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/fall08articles/using-gis.html>
- Prepared a news article for the Lackawanna Conservation Alliance newsletter on our recent award of **\$500** from the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority to work with elementary school districts throughout Luzerne & Lackawanna Counties to create iron oxide chalk to send to Afghani students who lack basic implements in the classroom; Submitted the article to Stephanie Milewski-Environmental Program Officer; Attended an awards ceremony where EPCAMR was 1 of 9 awardees and the only environmental organization to receive a grant in this round at the Scranton Cultural Center
- Submitted EPCAMR comments online at www.change.gov to provide additional support for the Service commitment priorities established by the incoming President-elect Barack Obama, referencing how the ACCWT and the OSM/VISTAs, as well as the regional non-profit sector needs more students in service learning to assist communities in obtaining grants, conducting educational programs, building local capacity, and networking amongst local businesses and industries to support local environmental causes, particularly AMD; Forwarded the EPCAMR comments to the ACCWT ListServe
- Attended a meeting with the Wyoming Valley Montessori School (www.wvms.org) Curriculum Development Coordinator, Joel Williams and Lynn Klein, Admissions Director, at their request to see if there were future opportunities for EPCAMR to conduct outdoor environmental education programs related to AMD/AML for their students at various age levels; Sought their active participation in the recently awarded SAF and LHVA grants obtained by EPCAMR to work with elementary students; Attended a second meeting with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC to talk about additional partnerships with a member of the Montessori Board, Chris Miller, and Mark DePippa-Head of School; Provided Montessori School with some contacts for future grant possibilities through the NCAC

- EPCAMR received official notice from L.C.C.C. that it has become an approved Work Study organization for its students seeking internships that are entirely paid for by FAFSA and the Community College, as long as the sponsoring approved organization has a Work Plan and provides supervision over the intern(s); EPCAMR Executive Director worked with the Federal Work Study Program Officer to complete an Environmental Education Intern Work Plan that was approved as well; Rayne Browne, a student and EPCAMR volunteer on past community cleanups and AMD Tie Dye Workshops, is considering the first work study position after the New Year and has applied for the position
- Reviewed and approved of Carly's Public Service Announcements for EPCAMR that she'll be sending to regional radio and college stations for airtime; Created 6 total segments varying in length from :15, :30, :60 seconds to promote EPCAMR and the type of work that we do as well as to encourage local volunteers to join us in our community outreach efforts
- Worked with Bernie Maopolksi-Visual Impact Promotion Agency-Scranton (www.v-impact.com) who is helping EPCAMR secure a major sponsor for an upcoming March Outdoor Expo in Bloomsburg that he'll sell T-shirts to and EPCAMR can Tie-Dye and make a profit from the sale of the iron oxide shirts
- EPCAMR Executive Director was reappointed by the PACD Executive Board to the PACD Education & Outreach Subcommittee for 2 more years
- Worked on and completed a Progress Report and Reimbursement for the District's **PA DEP EE Grant on AMD Outreach** for 2008

Technical Assistance

- Provided Senator Musto's Office with information on Kat Krulack-OSM/VISTA for the Nescopeck Watershed and the ACCWT; Convened a meeting with the Senator's Office, Pittston, and met with Leo Kucewicz, Legislative Director to the Senator, along with Kat and her Supervisor, Tim Ference to discuss the OSM/VISTAs, the Anthracite Heritage Alliance, EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA-Carly Trumann, and ACCWT Program; Senator Musto read about her involvement in AMD projects through the imbedded article in the Citizens' Voice-
http://citizensvoice.com/articles/2008/12/01/news/wb_voice.20081201.t.pg9.cv01cdnescopeck_s1.2129075_top7.txt
- Conducted a conference call with WPCAMR Regional Coordinator-Bruce Golden, and several EPA Officials (Fred Suffian, Frances Mulhern, and John Forren) from the Section 319 Program in Philadelphia to discuss ways that EPCAMR and WPCAMR can possibly obtain additional funds through a regional pilot or demonstration project on AMD that might leverage some of the SMCRA funds in PA DEP BAMR's budget; Explained how the money needs to be allocated and provided them with the newly defined definitions and information on the Approved Hydrologic Planning Units in the amended law; EPA was going to have a follow-up conference call with OSM Officials in Pittsburgh and get back to us after the Holidays; Mike provided EPA with revised GIS Maps showing TMDL status, 303 d Listing, Approved HPU's, AML Priority 1 & 2 Sites, sub-watersheds, and 319 Priority Watersheds, yet PA DEP BAMR and PA DEP 319 watersheds hardly coincide for funding priorities
- Reviewed Scope of Work from Hedin Environmental for the Grand Tunnel # 1 Slope AMD discharge in Plymouth Township and was satisfied with the tasks to be performed under Trout Unlimited's FREE AMD Technical Assistance Program; Met with Hedin Environmental at the site to sample the discharge, walk the entire AML area, survey the downstream area for possible AMD treatment, and to discuss future treatment design scenarios, based on the outcome of the water quality results sampled and willingness of the landowner to move forward with a potential project; Requested that Mike send Hedin the Mine Pool Extent derived from the Ash Report to assist in their evaluations of the site

- Provided Jackie Dickman, EC with information on the PACD Technical Assistance Request Program and informed her that she should follow up with Josh Longmore or Shawn Rybka for additional support for the Espy Run Wetlands Enhancement Project in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed
- Weatherly Borough Planning Commission Chair Jim Wetzel has requested assistance from EPCAMR on AMD discharges in the Upper Lehigh and would like to set up a meeting after the Holidays to come down to Weatherly and pull some of the regional partners together to discuss future possibilities to treat some of the discharges; WBPC is particularly interested in cleaning up Hazle Creek
- Provided Missy Kurian, a student at Lock Haven University with information on land reclamation and AMD remediation efforts for the Catawissa Creek Watershed
- Completed a Strategic Planning Survey for the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center at their request since EPCAMR is a member
- Convened a meeting with PA DCNR District Forester Nick Lylo and Service Forester Andy Duncan at the District Office to talk about future Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiatives (ARRI) and future AML Projects on State Forest Lands
- Provided a Letter of Support to PEC's OSM Applied Science Proposal in partnership with PSU
- Received word that Tom Cunningham-OSM will be EPCAMR's new TIPS Contact
- Reviewed the DRAFT AML Bonding Status standard document on the SharePoint site for the OSM GeoSpatial Data Standards Team and the DRAFT Lands Unsuitable for Mining standard posted by Joe Ritchey
- Assistance was requested by the Foundation for PA Watersheds to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) proposal for the Shamokin Creek Feasibility Study and to put together an independent review team to sift through and review submitted applicants who would be interested in performing the Scope of Work under the grant that will be provided by the Foundation for PA Watersheds; The Foundation for PA Watersheds currently doesn't have a way to review sub-contractors that are included in grant proposals and asked for technical assistance from EPCAMR to develop the RFQ

Project Coordination

- Forwarded EPCAMR Program Staff an article on raising trout in AMD that was brought to our attention by Mr. Chris Gillis, Solution Mining, Inc., our partner in the Old Forge Borehole AMD Project on the Lackawanna River; Received a copy of the draft contract agreement that EPCAMR will need to tweak and have signed by the EPCAMR Board in order to enter into an agreement with Solution Mining Inc. to receive professional service fees retroactive to May 2008 for work completed on the Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project and future anticipated work over the next two years; EPCAMR Executive Director made the necessary changes and will have it ready for signatures at the 1st Quarter Board Meeting on 1-15-09
- Began to work on an OSM Applied Sciences Grant for **\$200,000**; EPCAMR believes that we may have a good chance of getting funding since we're a non-profit partner with the OSM TIPS Team, a member of the National GeoSpatial Data Standards Team, already have an MOA with OSM, have partnered with the Appalachian Region Tech Transfer Team on one of our previous AMR Conferences, and are currently working in partnership with OSM on our mine pool mapping work for the Western & Southern Coalfields with the PA DEP and OSM; EPCAMR's intent is to move into the Northern Anthracite Coalfields and continue the laborious work of digitizing the mine maps for the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, in addition to compiling additional hydrogeological information on the two basins in the Anthracite Region and looking at a Bituminous Coalfield (Beech Creek Watershed, Centre & Clinton Counties); The grant has a lot more to do with applied sciences, trainings, and transferring technology, therefore we're considering working with universities with strong background in geology, hydrogeology, and GIS; The way that we are going to show the digitization of the mine pool maps and various underground hydrogeologic layers of information contained on the old mining maps has a broad national appeal and application that will keep us from just focusing in on the Northern Anthracite Coalfields; The way in which we methodically approach the digitization of the mine pool data to create useful layers of information and relational databases should give us a leg up on some other potential applications, and it will keep the process that can be applied elsewhere, in the forefront; Lock Haven University is going to be contacted by Mike and the EPCAMR Executive Director has already spoken with Bloomsburg University's Geography & GeoSciences Department (Dr. Springer), who is supportive of the grant application; LRCA and SRBC will be involved as well
- Reviewed and approved of Carly's Letters of Request for donations of plant materials for the Spring 2009 AML Beautifications at the Avondale and Huber Breaker Sites with minor editorial changes
- Requested that Jackie Dickman or Mike Dziak from EC, attend a meeting on 1-30-09 at the District Office with some regional partners (PGC, PA DCNR, Pheasants Forever, NRCS, Conservation Coalition, Pocono NE RC & DC, LCD, EPCAMR) to discuss future possible Grassland Reclamation on AML with WRCP Funding
- Received approval from PA DEP 319 Program to move forward with the request for reimbursement for the Fence Installation for Site 15 in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; Request will be included in the December request since the District has already received the fully executed amendment to the EPCAMR Contract agreement; Informed SCRA and NCCD of the good news
- Mailed out sub-contract payments to consultants working on the ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping and Hicks Creek NSCD Projects***

Conferences and Trainings

- Worked with Mike to finalize a US EPA grant application for **\$25,000** to support the 11th and 12th Annual AMR Conferences; Received bios and support and intent letter from WPCAMR; Submitted the proposal
- Invited Richard Burkert, Executive Director of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (www.jaha.org) to become involved in our History Subcommittee of the AMR Conference Planning Committee; He gladly accepted and was informed that he'd be invited to participate in the next Conference Call in mid-January 2009
- Conference call with April Trent-ACCWT Training Coordinator, to discuss the evaluations of the recent Northern Coal Field Training held in West Virginia, topics for future trainings such as GIS/GPS Technology and our RAMLIS CD Tool, OSM/VISTAs in general, Scope of Work Plans, and Basic Engagement Plans
- Requested a demo copy of Peachtree Non-Profit Premium Edition Accounting software for review
- Updated Ryan Koch-Pocono NE RC & DC Coordinator on Marketing Progress made to date for the planned 2009 Alternative Energy Expo at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds; Trying to reach the Times-Leader Marketing Director and Don Jacobs-PA Outdoor Life to assist with publicity and the creation of an insert with "green" advertisers

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted November and December 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report
- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Annual Mtg in Pittston; Reviewed and approved the Council's 2009 Area Plan
- Jim Clauser of the Carbon Conservation District is interested in working with EPCAMR and Weatherly Borough on the Hazle Creek and will sit down with us after the Holidays and bring some other partners to the table
- Completed the EPCAMR 2009 Goals & Objectives with Action Items Work Plan for the Luzerne Conservation District Board
- Meeting with Josh, Bernie McGurl-newly appointed EPCAMR President, and Al Mabus to discuss the future transition of EPCAMR away from the Conservation District to act independently as a non-profit, that would take on Mike and Robert as their employees; A possible 6 month window has been discussed leading into the FY2009-2010 PA DEP 319 Program Grant Agreement; Follow-up needs to be discussed further with Russ Wagner on the issue
- Bill Reichert-Schuylkill Headwaters Association and Schuylkill Conservation District requested assistance that would allow EPCAMR to certify their two OSM/VISTAs during the 1st Quarter of 2009 in AMD Water Monitoring; Mike will follow up and schedule some dates as the weather warms up
- Renewed EPCAMR domain for another 5 years through www.elitehostingservice.com

Community Cleanups

- Prepared a PA DEP Waste Management Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant for **\$25,000** entitled Wyoming Valley PRIDE (***People Reaching Into Dumps Everyday***); Partnered with PA DOT, Newport Township Community Organization, City of Wilkes-Barre Community Revitalization Program, City of Wilkes-Barre-Public Works Department, Plymouth Township, Plymouth Township Planning Commission, ALHG, Exeter Borough, L.C.C.C., and Hicks Creek Watershed Association to conduct 6 cleanups in 2009; Travelled around the Wyoming Valley to obtain pictures of each of the sites for “before shots” to include with the application; Submitted the application



A Typical AML Dump Site on Curry Hill-Plymouth Township that was included in the Wyoming Valley PRIDE Illegal Dump Cleanup Grant submitted to the PA DEP