

EPCAMR



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February 2009 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Submitted an Environmental Education Mini-Grant Progress Report to the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority on the *AMD Chalk Elementary School Programs* in Luzerne & Lackawanna County
- Completed a **Project Orange Thumb FISKARS** grant application to receive equipment, landscaping materials for the Avondale Mine Disaster AML Community Gardens Project to assist in the further reclamation of the abandoned historic site
- Submitted final close out reports for Carly Trumann, EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA and mailed them to the ACCWT in Beckley, WV
- Worked with Davis' Trophy Shop to come up with a design for the 2008 EPCAMR Environmental Partnership Award that was given out to the Newport Township Community Organization at the Luzerne Conservation District's Annual Banquet on February 21st, 2009
- EPCAMR Staff worked with William Penn Foundation Board Member, Bill Haas and Diane Schrauth, Program Manager to set up an AMD Tour in Luzerne County at their request, along with John Dawes, Foundation for PA Watersheds, on April 28th, 2009; William Penn Foundation is possibly interested in funding some work with EPCAMR in the Susquehanna River Basin and or the Delaware Basin on AMD projects
- Created an invoice for the Lackawanna County Conservation District for the Iron Oxide powder ordered for an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop
- Trip to JoAnn Fabrics to pick up additional chalk molds and plaster of Paris for the LVHA sponsored AMD Chalk Elementary School Programs; Received our EPCAMR Iron Oxide Chalk Box templates from Zodiac Printing Services that were designed and paid for out of the LVHA Mini-Grant
- Prepared a Letter of Support and Collaboration to Dr. David Kargbo-Temple University to become actively involved in the Environmental Futures Program in Northumberland County with the other local partners, NCCD, SCRA, SEEDCO, IntelliWatt, Bucknell U., Representative Belfanti's Office and others
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for T. Allan Comp, OSM, and ACCWT Director for the 2009 River Network Hero Award and submitted it to ACCWT
- Prepared Letters of Support to Senator Specter, Senator Casey, and Congressman Kanjorski for keeping the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program funding included in the Title IV AML funding package for community watershed groups and non-profit partners in Eastern PA that utilize those funds to assist in the construction of AMD remediation projects

- Attended the PA Fish & Boat Commission Open House at LCCC at the invitation of Dr. Doug Austen, Executive Director to discuss future partnership opportunities and PA F&BC's Strategic Plan
- Suggested a webinar call for the Fall 2009 SRBC Water Quality Advisory Committee Meeting to Dave Heicher-Chief, SRBC
- Provided comments to Jeff McNelly, Executive Director, to the draft ARIPPA Tour Agenda slated for April 2, 2009
- Sunny Weiland-Lackawanna Intermediate Unit provided EPCAMR with a list of Lackawanna County Elementary teachers to contact to gauge their interest and involvement in the *AMD Chalk Elementary School Programs*; EPCAMR to follow up with the teachers; Coordinated with the Greater Nanticoke Elementary Center Principal and Third Grade who are interested in setting up a program in their school in the month of May 2009

Technical Assistance

- Continued to receive additional letters of support from the PA Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB), the PA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) for EPCAMR's **\$200,000** OSM Applied Science Grant application to continue to work on the Mine Pool Mapping of the Northern Anthracite and NorthCentral PA Coalfields; Forwarded a copy of the proposal to Senator Musto's Office and Congressman Kanjorski's Office for additional letters of support and to make them fully aware of our intentions to pursue this Federal funding opportunity for Northeastern and NorthCentral PA
- Received R.I. Lampus Company sample ECO-TEK pavers made out of Environ-Oxide for the Huber AML Memorial Park design and construction in Ashley, PA; Submitted to them the necessary square footage of the pathways that will need pavers; Will be working with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to implement a fundraising campaign for the number of pavers needed for the project
- Provided PPL with EPCAMR's perspective on the potential for mine pool re-use for industrial needs to generate electricity and steam power through the consumptive use process determined by the SRBC; Mike attended a Mine Pool Forum with PA DEP, PPL representatives and others in Harrisburg
- Invited to participate in a meeting with Mr. James Pagnotti, President of Pagnotti Enterprises, probably the largest anthracite landowner of mines and abandoned mines in Luzerne County, IntelliWatt-NJ, and Dr. David Kargbo-Temple University to discuss future opportunities for abandoned mine reclamation throughout the EPCAMR region that dealt particularly with the SEEDCO area in Shamokin, Northumberland County; All parties were looking for ways to grow switch grass as a biofuels for a new electric generating plant in the area that is being proposed; Discuss ways in which EPCAMR could partner up with Pagnotti Enterprises to share GIS information and future data sets, if we were allowed access to historic mine maps once EPCAMR begins to work on the Northern Anthracite Coalfields mine pool project; Provided IntelliWatt with contacts in the mushroom and spent mushroom compost growers industry and the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) for future reference
- Provided an updated Letter of Support to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority at the request of Commissioner Urban for the Coal Brook AML Realignment Project
- Signed off on a Schuylkill County GIS Request form to secure necessary data for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan

- Prepared and submitted a **\$50,000** grant to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to secure additional organizational capacity funding that would allow EPCAMR to hire a full-time GIS Analyst to help build up our proposal to create an AMR Technical Assistance Center for Northeastern PA
- Provided technical assistance to Kat Krulack, OS/VISTA, on the development of the draft Save the Date Flyer for the Wonders of our Watershed Program with the Jeddo/Nescopeck Partnership
- Began reviewing comments from data stewards from across the country on the previously submitted Problem Area and Planning Unit AML Data Standards as a part of our OSM National GeoSpatial Data Standards Team review
- Sent Kat Bawden-OSM/VISTA Recruit Coordinator our AMD Resource Recovery brochure http://www.orangewaternetwork.org/storage/iron_oxide_recovery_pamphlet2.pdf

Project Coordination

- Worked on cutting checks for Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger for work completed on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project**; Completed a **Mine Pool Mapping Project** reimbursement revision and submitted it to Dan Koury
- Reviewed **Catawissa Creek RCP Project** GIS maps with Mike prior to having them presented by PEC and EPCAMR at a Catawissa Creek Restoration Association Meeting on the 25th of February
- Updated Ryan Koch, Pocono NE RC & DC on my conversation with Don Jacobs-PA Outdoor Life and WNEP-16 on becoming media sponsors for the **NE PA Energy Solutions Expo** planned for the Luzerne County Fairgrounds in the Summer 2009; Suggested that Ryan sign the Pocono NE RC & DC up on the WNEP-16 website's *Power To Save Initiative* for additional publicity

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
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a Letter of Request for Funding from the PA DEP towards the State-wide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference for **\$2500** to J. Scott Roberts, PA DEP Deputy Secretary of Mineral Resources Management
- EPCAMR Executive Director requested financial assistance for **\$2000-2500** from the Office of Surface Mining, Pittsburgh through Lois Uranowksi, Appalachian Region Tech Transfer Program Manager
- Began targeting potential sponsors, vendors, and exhibitors for our 2009 AMR Conference and made some cold calls to large industrial renewable energy companies to see if they were interested in exhibiting or becoming a sponsor or vendor at our annual AMR Conference; Prepared an advance notice release on the Conference and submitted electronically to the EPCAMR database and media outlets and completed a Vendor, Sponsor, Exhibitor Letter for distribution after figuring out price cut-offs for space
- EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with Gander Mountain in Johnstown and they are going to give us **\$1750** worth of "Gander Box coupons" where attendees could get **\$10** off of a **\$50** purchase throughout the year.

- Provided Lime Doser Consulting, WV with information on Vendor Sponsorship for the 2009 AMR & Coal Mining Heritage Conference

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted January 2009 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report and PA DEP 319 Program Reimbursement
- Completed EPCAMR reconciliations in QuickBooks and continued to learn how to better use the accounting software package tutorials as I fumbled through the various tasks associated with the various accounts
- Meeting with EPCAMR's CPA, Kovalchik & Kollar Associates to complete a form that was requested by the Cora Brooks Foundation related to our Operating Budget over a 4 year period; Submitted it to Michael Cox, Program Director for the Foundation
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District's Annual Banquet at Genetti's Restaurant, Wilkes-Barre
- Requested a free copy of the Dewey & Key NonProfit Leadership Study
- Informed the EPCAMR Board that the Executive Director was selected by the SRBC for the 2009 William Jeanes Sr. Environmental Service Award for over 10 years of dedication to working in the Susquehanna River Basin to address AMD, AML, public education and outreach, and community service projects to improve the health of the watershed
- Relayed to Josh that Peter Heantjens-EMARR Executive Director was interested in becoming an active voting Board Member to the EPCAMR Board; The Luzerne Conservation District would need to nominate and appoint him to the Board; Peter needs to provide a brief background on his resume and reasons for his interest to become involved with EPCAMR to Josh to present to the Board prior to his appointment, if it is decided upon by the District Board
- Provided Jen with a news article on the upcoming 11th Annual AMR & Coal Mining Heritage Conference that EPCAMR will be coordinating in July 2009 for the District Newsletter



Site of the Future Avondale Mine Disaster Memorial Community Gardens