

EPCAMR



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February 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Provided orientation to the EPCAMR Program, Scope of Work, and OSM/VISTA Work Plan to Carly T. Trumann, our new VISTA; Assisted her in gathering her materials that she'll be taking to her mandatory OSM/VISTA Training in Atlanta, GA from February 5-8, 2008;
- Attended a coordinating meeting between OSM, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, Schuylkill National Heritage Corridor Commission, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Eastern Middle Anthracite Regional Recovery Inc., Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, Schuylkill River Greenway Association, Schuylkill Conservation District, PA DCNR Nescopeck State Park, Friends of the Nescopeck, Lackawanna County Conservation District, Preservation Action, and PA DEP BAMR; EPCAMR is assisting in the facilitation of the creation of an Anthracite Region OSM/VISTA Team that may soon sponsor up to 9 OSM/VISTAs for northeastern PA to work on community projects in the Anthracite Coalfields
- Attended a RiverFest Planning Committee Meeting in Forty-Fort along with several other partners, and our new OSM/VISTA to offer up ideas on 3 environmental art themed projects that EPCAMR will conduct at RiverFest, and for Earth Day; 2 projects will entail the creation of an aerial abstract view of the Wyoming Valley and a Summer Solstice sunburst mosaic tile pieces, filled with iron oxide grout, and stained iron oxide tiles created by students and community members; The 3rd project will be the creation of an AMD Art Quilt made up of hand-drawn art work created by kids at the Earth Day Festival on June 21st, 2008 at the Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks; All finished art pieces will be exhibited at the Luzerne National Bank and the Luzerne County Visitor's Center & Vacation Bureau in Wilkes-Barre
- Updated EPCAMR's information form on **Guide Star** online for 2007 to reflect the projects that were completed in 2007 for public review on the public charity website
- Completed a yearly Progress Report on the Luzerne Conservation District's Environmental Education Grant through December 2007 and submitted it to PA DEP EE Grants Center
- Talked with PA Trout Unlimited about the Trout In the Classroom Education Program; EPCAMR does a lot of different types of watershed programs and watershed tours with our local elementary schools throughout the Region, including discussions on fisheries, fishery impacts caused by AMD, and watershed restoration; EPCAMR would like to participate in a future workshop to obtain the training necessary to partner with some of our local schools districts to implement the Program
- EPCAMR will be setting up an Exhibit at the Anthracite Heritage Museum for its annual Charter Day on March 9th, 2008 at McDade Park, Scranton

- Confirmed with Catherine Webster-Schuylkill CD OSM/VISTA that EPCAMR will once again participate in the 2008 Bear Creek Festival on May 18 and conduct an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop
- Forwarded a grant application to Mike from Google for him to pursue to allow EPCAMR to obtain a free license and various useful extensions that will tie in nicely to our RAMLIS data; http://earth.google.com/outreach/program_details.html
- Worked with Carly to register EPCAMR with the Volunteer Action Center and Volunteer Match for upcoming community service projects; <http://www.1-800-volunteer.org/1800Vol/UWWB> & www.volunteermatch.org

Technical Assistance

- Prepared a Letter of Support for the Drums Elementary School's Environmental Education Grant Application to the PA DEP to obtain GPS Equipment that would allow their 5th grade students to monitor the AMD from the Jeddo Tunnel and other surrounding AMD discharges in the Nescopeck Creek Watershed; EPCAMR already works with the Hazleton Area School District and provides yearly watershed tours for the 3 local elementary schools in the area; EPCAMR has already provided the schools with all of our GIS data on RAMLIS for their use in the classroom as well as GIS Maps of the watershed
- Reviewed RAMLIS with Mike to conduct an investigation of a possible mine subsidence problem in Hanover Township, Lynnwood section, near the Susquehanna River and the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project; Provided a detailed two page technical review to the Hanover Township Supervisors, State Representative Yudichak's Office, and the Luzerne County Engineer's Office, of the mine maps in that area as well a hydrogeologic analyses of mine water flow in the surrounding area and its possible connection to the Susquehanna River and the Northwest Mine Pool Basin
- Prepared a Letter of Support for the Lackawanna County Conservation District's PA DEP Environmental Education Mini-Grant to fund several field visits for Lackawanna County High School students to AMD treated and untreated discharges; The teachers in the PA DCNR Community Connections Program are excited about their students learning about AMD/AML but are only able to bring 5 students; This program would allow them to bring their whole class and the grant would cover transportation and chemical testing supplies; EPCAMR will support the project by continuing to provide existing GIS mapping, water quality data, photographs, or even helping out with some of the field visits
- Prepared a Letter of Support at the request of Dave Kaleta, Habitat for Wildlife, Inc. (HFW), Shamokin, PA to the Northumberland County Commissioner's and the Northumberland County Conservation District, in support of the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the WISL Wildlife/Forest Game & Recreation Area created in 2007 by the HFW and the Ruffed Grouse Society; EPCAMR is going to also provide free GIS Mapping and technical assistance to the HFW in the coming months as they prepare their future grant applications because of their interest in abandoned mine land reclamation. EPCAMR also supports their position that the 2175.5 acre Northumberland County WISL Site be enrolled into the PA Game Commission's Forest Game Program which would provide the public and the County with some direct benefits under the House Bill 18/ACT 11 of 2007; See article on news coverage of field visit at http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19344906&BRD=2715&PAG=461&dept_id=558782&rft=6
- Provided Leadership Hazleton with options and ideas for funding opportunities for the Jeansville Memorial Project that they are working on in the Hazleton Area to honor local miners that drowned in yet another local historic mining disaster

- Provided Jim Koharski, President of the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance with some funding resource alternatives to help the group secure nearly **\$7500** to install a fence around an AMD Treatment system (Site 15) in the watershed
- Informed PEC NE Office that EPCAMR had found out that Waste Management would no longer be accepting free dumpsters of waste/trash from Luzerne County, which may affect future COALS Cleanup Projects

Project Coordination

- Attended a meeting with Borton & Lawson Engineering's Paul DeBarry, Project Manager, to work out the draft contract agreement for services, scope of work, and budget under the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project**; Borton & Lawson Engineering will be conducting the topographic survey, 2' contour designs, photographic inventory of the reach that will be worked on, and hydrology & hydraulics for the watershed area; Reviewed and completed final contract agreement with Borton & Lawson
- Reviewed and completed the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** Wetlands Delineation and Identification Report
- Provided the PSU Landscape Architecture students some property boundary maps of the Avondale Mine Site Property owned by the Earth Conservancy for their project
- Reviewed a proposal from Penn-State Professors, Dr. Kleit and Dr. Shortle and talked with Dan Koury, PA DEP DMO Project Officer to discuss how they could possibly fill a role in our **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** by assisting us with developing the marketing aspects and framework for developing markets that might potentially be end-users of the mine pool water or the metals recovery processes that might ensue; Reviewed Progress Reports from Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger on the project and paid three invoices
- Attended a meeting with EMARR, Inc. in Hazleton to review projects that are underway in the southern part of Luzerne County related to AML and to discuss further the scope of work and requirements necessary to complete the OSM/VISTA application process to sponsor an OSM/VISTA team member for the Nescopeck Creek Watershed; Tim Ference, EPCAMR/LCD/FON Board member and volunteer will serve as the immediate supervisor for the position once recruited and filled; Discussed funding by multiple partners located in the Greater Hazleton area for the position
- Worked with Mike to visualize and graphically layout several of the PEC **Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservaⁿ Plan** GIS Maps, Themes, and Layers that are needed for the Catawissa Creek RCP Plan; Mike and Carly attended the public meeting to showcase several of the maps on February 25, 2008 at Semancheck's Restaurant in Ringtown

Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR's abstract was selected for the Water & Environment Symposium on EPCAMR's RAMLIS GIS Mapping Tool at the request of the PA Council of Professional Geologists, slated for May 8, 2008 in Camp Hill, PA; EPCAMR Program Staff to co-present
- Participated in an 2008 AMR Conference Call with Mike, Carly, and the AMR Conference Planning Committee to continue to flush out this year's 10th Annual AMR Conference to be held in Penn-State at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA from August 12th to the 14th

- Attended a Board Training Meeting in Harleysville, PA with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC
- Prepared and submitted a **\$2000** Convening Grant application to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to support the 10th Annual Conference on AMR & Historic Preservation; Forwarded a copy of last year's sponsorship letter to Andy McAllister-WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator who will be adjusting the costs for this year's conference

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted January 2007 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 January 2007 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Meeting with EPCAMR Vice President, Bernie McGurl at the OMEGA Bank, Wilkes-Barre to perform some administrative tasks to change over EPCAMR's non-profit checking account to a community checking, as well as to obtain debit cards for EPCAMR
- Prepared 3 Letters of Support for continued funding for the RC & DCs and submitted to the local US Congressmen and US Senators in the Pocono NE RC & DC Region
- Coordinated with the EPCAMR Executive Committee members who were trying to get a date together to discuss how to conduct evaluations of EPCAMR Program Staff and take up issues related to Personnel and Human Resources on behalf of EPCAMR
- Called around looking for organizations that could provide some assistance to EPCAMR in updating our Strategic Plan
- Prepared a Letter of Support at the request of Kathleen Banksi, PACD EE Coordinator, in support of a state-wide Conservation District Marketing Strategy
- Forwarded information around to the EPCAMR Board on the upcoming LCD Banquet requesting whether or not they want to buy tickets to attend or an ad in the Program
- Completed the Statement of Financial Interest Forms for Year 2007 and returned to LCD
- Created an EPCAMR Invoice system in our newly downloaded and updated Accounting Software, Quicken 2008, which will make tracking outstanding grant reimbursements, sub-contract agreements, or bills for professional service fees easier to manage

Community Cleanup Projects

- Provided Julie McMonagle, PEC NE Office COALS Program Manager with 3 potential sites for illegal dump site and streamside cleanups for the upcoming Spring and Summer 2008