

# EPCAMR



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## January 2009 Monthly Report

### Education and Outreach

- Followed up with **Costumes by Barbara**, Luzerne, to discuss our Scranton Area Foundation Grant with her related to the designs for **The AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse** Activity Book; Barbara is designing most, if not all of the costumes and props for the grant that will be utilized by school children in 2009
- Meeting with the Times-Leader's Vice-President of Retail Advertising Marketing Director, Kim Dudick and Kathy Pelleschi, Account Manager to discuss developing a marketing partnership relationship for the 2009 Pocono NE RC & DC Energy Expo being planned for June 2009 at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds
- Submitted an PA DEP EE AMD Outreach Progress Report and reimbursement on behalf of the Luzerne Conservation District
- Interviewed a potential summer intern candidate Shawn Jones, from Wilkes-Barre, who is currently enrolled at Montana State University and will be back in the area for the Summer of 2009; Provided him with a typical summer internship work plan and is working with him to develop a relationship with the Montana State University and their Federal Work Study or Internship Program, similar to the agreements that we have with several local universities and colleges
- Interviewed a potential intern candidate Rayne Browne, from Berwick, who is currently enrolled at Luzerne County Community College, and would like to intern with EPCAMR during the Spring 2009 semester; EPCAMR is awaiting for her Federal Work Study approval, where she would be paid by LCCC and all EPCAMR would have to do is track her hours through a log and provide supervision, direction, and a work plan for her time spent on EPCAMR activities, no more than 20 hours/week
- Conducted a meeting with Michael Spangenberg, Falls, Wyoming County, a gentleman who may be looking for some part-time GIS work and was interested in the Coalition; Discussed some future possibilities of the need for a potential part-time position to work on our OSM Applied Science grant, if funded later in the Summer 2009; Informed him that EPCAMR would keep his resume close at hand
- Provided a Letter of Support for the preservation of the Huber Breaker in Ashley, PA to the Luzerne County Commissioners and to the media that published the support letter online on one of their websites, the Times-Leader
- Attended the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board Meeting and co-presented with Mike to provide an update on our Anthracite Mine Pool Mapping Project; Obtained 3 additional Letters of Support from the MRAB, PA Anthracite Council, and the Citizens Advisory Council for our OSM Applied Sciences grant submittal

- EPCAMR Staff are working with Board Member, Bill Haas and Diane Schrauth, Program Manager from the William Penn Foundation to set up an AMD Tour in Luzerne County at their request, along with John Dawes, Foundation for PA Watersheds, in the Spring 2009, towards the end of April; Possibly interested in funding some work in the Susquehanna River Basin and or the Delaware Basin on AMD projects
- EPCAMR Staff followed up with Alana Roberts at the Lackawanna County Conservation District to discuss OSM/VISTA Water Monitoring and AMD Education Training opportunities for the Spring and Summer 2009 and the eventual coordination with the AHA
- Began working with Carly on an **Project Orange Thumb Fiskars** grant application to purchase equipment, landscaping materials for the Huber and Avondale AML Community Gardens Project
- Discussion with James Crossman, new individual EPCAMR member who is interested in getting involved in future EPCAMR projects as a volunteer
- Assisted Angel Bestwick, Dallas Area Elementary teacher with a Toyota Foundation proposal and provided her with a Letter of Support and technical grant writing assistance
- Provide the Schuylkill County OSM/VISTAs with links to AMD educational materials online and on our EPCAMR website

## Technical Assistance

- Continued to work on a **\$15,000** foundation proposal to the Cora L. Brooks Foundation to establish an EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center to focus on the Susquehanna & Delaware River Watersheds impacted by AMD; Developed a fully completed EPCAMR Operating Budget for 2008-2009 as a follow-up request from the Cora L. Brooks Foundation; Submitted the completed application
- Continued to develop for the Foundation for PA Watersheds a draft Request for Technical Pre-Qualifications and a RFP specific to the Mine Pool Mapping Project in the Shamokin Creek Watershed and about setting up a Review Committee independent of the SCRA and NCCD to avoid any conflicts of interest
- Continued to work on the **\$200,000** OSM Applied Science Grant application to continue to work on the Mine Pool Mapping of the Northern Anthracite and NorthCentral PA Coalfields; Received 3 Letters of Support from the PA DEP Mineral Resources Management Deputy Secretary, Scott Roberts, Lock Haven University, Mansfield University; Sought another letter from Bloomsburg University; Submitted the grant before the January 16<sup>th</sup> deadline
- Meeting with Jim Wetzel-Weatherly Borough Planning Commission and Jim Clauser-Carbon County Conservation District to assist them with taking a closer look at some of the Upper Lehigh AMD discharges, particularly the Hazle Creek discharge; EPCAMR pulled nearly a dozen partners together for a meeting to address the issue and provided Jim with some avenues for technical assistance funding that is currently available through the Pocono NE RC & DC C-SAW Technical Assistance Grant and Trout Unlimited's AMD Technical Assistance Grant; Produced a Hazle Creek map for the meeting for distribution using our RAMLIS tool to display and handout at the meeting
- Meeting with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission's Anthracite Heritage Alliance (AHA) OSM/VISTA Supervisor and Dorian-Hammond, the new Anthracite Regional Coordinator for the AHA to discuss coordination of events, trainings, and opportunities for collaboration with the 9 OSM/VISTAs that are in the EPCAMR Region

- Reviewed and commented on the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's Water Resources Plan 2009 Update
- Worked with R.I. Lampus Company to see if they could provide EPCAMR with samples of their ECO-TEK pavers made out of Environ-Oxide for the Huber AML Memorial Park in Ashley, PA; Submitted to them the necessary square footage of the pathways that will need pavers
- Provided Peter Haentjens, EMARR, with a copy of a powerpoint that details some previous work on karst columns for AMD treatment in Clinton County, PA using bag lime, that was forwarded to EPCAMR by a former PA DEP BAMR staff member, Mike Klimkos, who is now with the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program
- Secured **18** volunteers for one of our future anticipated cleanup projects during the Month of May from Travelocity, who want to participate with us during their "Give Time Together" Campaign in the early Summer 2009
- Completed an information sheet for the Volunteer Guide for the Lehigh Valley on EPCAMR
- Completed a Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) survey to assist them with their annual plan or work; EPCAMR is free associate member of MABA
- Signed EPCAMR up as a Conservation Volunteer Organization with the PA DCNR

## Project Coordination

- Worked on cutting checks for Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger for work completed on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project**, Completed the 1099-MISC Income and 1096-Annual Summary Form Transmittal of Returns and submitted them to the IRS, Ian, and Roger
- Completed a **Mine Pool Mapping Project** reimbursement and Progress Report and submitted it to Dan Koury; Prepared a grant extension letter and submitted it along to PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Center
- Coordinated and attended a meeting with the Pottsville DMO, Ian and Roger for the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** to discuss how we were going to proceed with working on the Southern Coal Fields Mine Pool Mapping efforts now that the Western Middle Field is pretty much completed
- Attended an update meeting with Duryea Borough officials, Solution Mining, Inc. and HDR on the **Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project**; Completed an Invoice for Solution Mining Inc. for work completed on the project since April 2008 and provided a signed copy of the Contract Agreement from our EPCAMR Board to Solution Mining Inc. for our professional services over the next two years on the project
- EPCAMR Staff attended a **Grasslands AML Project** discussion meeting with the Pocono NE RC & DC, USDA-NRCS, PA Game Commission, and the Earth Conservancy to seek funds and re-write a previously submitted proposal to the PA Wild Conservation Resource Program



Carly creating Iron Oxide Chalk with youth from the W-B Boulevard Townhomes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR staff submitted a **\$25,000** EPA Grant to support the 2009-10 AMR Conference and staff support of the coordination of the Conference
- Held an 2009 AMR Conference call after developing the agenda for the meeting; Continued to move forward on the Conference Planning
- Received confirmation from OSM that Tom Cunningham will be our new TIPS Information Technology contact within the Federal Program related to our GIS Work and Trainings
- Assisting the Schuylkill RiverKeeper with publicizing the Schuylkill River 2009 Watershed Congress

## Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted December 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report and PA DEO 319 Reimbursement
- Developed the EPCAMR Agenda and Attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting in Hazleton, PA
- Sat down with Mike to plan out our calendar of events and meetings for the coming three months ahead
- Completed 5 letters of recommendation to Yale, UC-Davis, Bainbridge, Antioch University, and Harvard on Carly's behalf as she begins to seek acceptance into several graduate schools across the country
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for Eric Bella, the senior at Lake-Lehman High School, EPCAMR volunteer, and Anthracite Living History Group (ALHG) Co-Chair; Eric has applied to PSU for Mining Engineering and was recently accepted into the program
- Installed QuickBooks Premier for Non-Profits on the EPCAMR computer and began to review several tutorials about how to navigate through the software program and all of its useful tools to advance the bookkeeping and non-profit accounting principals of EPCAMR's grant accounts and operating budget; Transferred all Quicken data files over to QuickBooks Premier and began to reconcile all of our EPCAMR Accounts
- Prepared a Congratulations Award to the Newport Township Community Organization, who the EPCAMR Staff has nominated to receive the EPCAMR Partnership Award in Luzerne County; The NTCO has worked with EPCAMR over the last several years to conduct litter cleanups on AML sites and has provided other educational opportunities for kids and college students to become involved in community service projects throughout the Southern Wyoming Valley; They will receive their award at the Luzerne Conservation District's Annual Banquet on February 21, at the Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre; Copied State Representative Yudichak and the Newport Township Board of Supervisors
- EPCAMR was informed by the PA DEP 319 Program that the NPS Liaison Work Group meetings will no longer meet as a group bi-annually in Harrisburg; Communication will be via e-mail and telephone as a cost cutting measure due to a Commonwealth budget shortfall within PA DEP
- Received the Luzerne Conservation District's new policy on requesting public records