

EPCAMR



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July 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Submitted an opinion to the ACCWT List serve on the importance of writing letters to local legislators on the importance of supporting the OSM/VISTA Program in coalfield communities
- Interviewed Victoria Harkavy, Rockville- MD, for an OSM Summer Associate Internship for 10 weeks to work with a local historical society, the Greater Pittston Historical Society to develop local history education packets for students based on local people, places, and events relevant to the Anthracite History of the Region; Provided her with a copy of the work plan for her review; Completed the OSM/VISTA Sponsor Evaluation Form for Victoria and submitted it to Luke Elser-ACCWT; Sent a Letter to the Luzerne County Historical Society requesting a discounted rental use of an apartment for the OSM Summer Associate until the completion of the internship
- Coordinated a future AMD Tie-Dye Workshop and Anthrascapes Art Exhibit in conjunction with local artists from the Carbon County Art League and with PA DCNR with Dave Horvath, Park Director, for the Fall at the 2nd Annual Bluegrass & Anthracite Heritage Festival this year on Saturday, September 20th at the Mauch Chunk Lake Park, Carbon County, near Jim Thorpe
- Attended the SRBC Public Hearing in Danville, PA on their Comprehensive Plan Update; Provided comments for the record on EPCAMR's support of the plan, our letter of support for the Consumptive Use Fee Increase, extending our existing partnership with the SRBC in the EPCAMR Region, in terms of sharing GIS information and working on AMD remediation projects in the Middle Susquehanna Basin, as well as our continued relationship with the SRBC as a strong, active, and vocal member of the Water Quality Advisory Committee
- Conducted an AMD-Tie Dye and AMD/AML Outreach Program for a Summer Camp of **13** elementary students at PSU Wilkes-Barre with PSU Cooperative Extension and the LCD's Education Coordinator, Tanya Dierolf
- Worked with Mike to complete and edit an article for **ESRI's Quarterly ArcNews** publication, on our RAMLIS GIS Tool for Community Groups and our partnership with OSM through the TIPS Program; Forwarded the draft article to members of the OSM Geospatial Team; EPCAMR Staff will be talking to the editor of the publication during our presentation at the ESRI User's Conference in San Diego, CA in August
- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop and Outreach Program for **20** elementary students at the Children's Arc, Mountain Top

- Provided Carly with some guidance on upcoming Summer and Fall Project ideas, tasks, and goals to gear up for related to her OSM/VISTA work plan
- Worked with Carly to develop and finalize a Press Release on the Avondale Mine Site Beautification Award from Keep PA Beautiful for distribution to the local newspapers

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff is working with OSM-Pittsburgh to acquire an Atek Digitizer to assist us with our GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project through the OSM TIPS Program
- Nominated the Lackawanna River Watershed for a Year 2 Sub-basin Survey by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission; It was selected for an in-depth survey by the SRBC for 2008-2009; LVHA, LRCA, LCCD, and EPCAMR all supported the selection of the watershed
- Talked with Tom Galya, OSM about the AMLIS Sub-Group Team's direction on developing the initial AML GIS Data Standard
- Ordered our new 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 Staff were not able to make the Summer MRAB Meeting in the Anthracite Region in Pottsville to give a presentation on our RAMLIS and Mine Pool Mapping Project due to the change in the date of the EPCAMR Board Meeting, therefore the presentation has been rescheduled until the October 2008 Meeting

Project Coordination

- Received signed contract copies from Borton-Lawson Engineering for the **Hicks Creek NSCD Project** and obtained the necessary signature to send a final hard copy back to them following the EPCAMR Annual Meeting; Set up a field date with B-L and S-L, BAMR, and EPCAMR Staff on site for the 27th of August to begin working on the survey and initial design concept for the project
- Attended a Partners Meeting at PA DEP Wilkes-Barre on the **Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project** with PA DEP BAMR, PA DEP BWM, LRCA, and HDR to discuss permitting issues for the project and overview of the demonstration/pilot project
- Requested a CRP Report from Tran Triet, PA DEP, on William Delavan, a PSU Professor that will be replacing Jim Shortle on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** as an independent sub-contractor working on the economic impact analysis framework model for mine pool water re-use; Requested a copy of USGS's Quarterly Reports for the work that they have been conducting on the groundwater MOD-FLOW modeling; Completed quarterly report and reimbursement through July 31st 2008 and submitted to Dan Koury, PA DEP DMO Project Officer

Conferences and Trainings

- Coordinated with Andy and Bruce from WPCAMR to position the EPCAMR Staff where needed at the AMR Conference this year; Registration, A/V Tech Support, Exhibits, Moderators

Conservation District Communications

- Worked up adjusted budget for the PA DEP 319 EPCAMR Program Grant for Garry Price, PA DEP Project Officer
- Talked with Bernie McGurl-LRCA Executive Director about upcoming EPCAMR Annual Meeting and some related Strategic Planning, Budget, and Personnel Committee Items; Discussed with Jen Hankey, the possibility of her conducting a day and a half Strategic Planning Workshop with the EPCAMR Board in the Fall 2008; Requested a proposal following her review of our draft Strategic Planning Worksheets, since the majority of the Board felt that we didn't have the funds to enter into the ICL Proposal; May meet in Wallenpaupack in the Fall; She was referred to EPCAMR by Karen Ely-PA DEP
- Completed and submitted July 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 June 2008 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Attended the Sullivan County Conservation District's Annual Meeting, McConnel's Dam, and AML Tour of the Biosolids Reclamation Project on White Ash Land Association property
- Attended and participated in the Pocono NE RC & CD Area Strategic Planning Meeting at Nescopeck State Park
- Forwarded a copy of the draft EPCAMR Strategic Planning Worksheets to staff; These worksheets were previously provided to the EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee for review and action; Requested that Staff provide comments on the worksheets, in addition to what was written by the Executive Director
- Facilitated a meeting with Ernie Keller and Alana Malar Roberts from the Lackawanna County Conservation District to assist them with developing a Strategic Plan for participating in future efforts that involve AMD work in Lackawanna County and to help in finding the niche in which their organization could fill, aside from the dozens of groups in the Conservation Alliance that are also supportive of such efforts to clean up AMD in the Lackawanna River Watershed
- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts prior to upcoming Annual Meeting on July 24th at the Northumberland County Conservation District; Finalized the catering of the event with the Chestnut Street Deli; Finalized the AMD Tour with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance; Finalized the draft agenda and posted to the website; Prepared documents, checks, contracts, and reports that needed to be distributed at the Board Meeting for review, approval, and signatures; Conducted the Annual Meeting at the NCCD
- Provided our EPCAMR Secretary with a blank copy of our EPCAMR Letterhead for her future use related to the 2008 Nominations and Election Process

- Talked with John Orr-Dauphin County Conservation District about EPCAMR's future involvement in the Phase II Bear Creek AMD Remediation Project; EPCAMR is offering technical assistance with the processing of the OSM Watershed Cooperative Agreement for additional construction funds towards the project, if necessary; Item to be discussed at EPCAMR Annual Mtg; Followed up with Terry Schmidt, Skelly-Loy about informing EPCAMR, if there is a need for assistance once the budget revisions are in on the project
- Signed the Bus Contract received from Ryan Koch for the PA RC & DC Annual Meeting scheduled for August 25th, 26th in Bloomsburg, PA and forwarded it to PJ Yoder & Son; Reviewed the by-law revisions that were made to the PA RC & DC By-Laws in preparation for the upcoming Annual Meeting; EPCAMR to bring some iron oxide chalk and pictures for distribution to members and will assist in coordinating the Tour Route for the day with the Pocono NE RC & DC Coordinator, Ryan Koch

Community Cleanups on AML

- Invoiced Julia Marano, Keep PA Beautiful in the amount of **\$9500** for the Site Beautification Award for the Avondale AML Site for park benches, kiosks, flowers, topsoil, signage, timbers for raised bed gardens, and picnic tables;
- Trip to Lowe's to pick up paint for a Beautification Project on Avondale Hill being completed by a junior at Lake Lehman High School as a community service project; Graffiti removal project and "Avondale Hill Welcomes You" greeting to be painted on an abandoned rotary wire pulley foundation that was once a part of the Avondale Mine Colliery grounds
- Coordinating an illegal dumpsite cleanup effort for September 13th at Avondale Hill AML Site, Lackawanna State Forest West Nanticoke Tract, and Mizdail Road with PA DCNR, PA Cleanways, Plymouth Township Planning Commission, and EPCAMR; Sent around flyer from PA Cleanways to potential volunteers for the project
- Investigated the "Ice/Bat Cave" AML Site in Newport Twp. upon the request of the local volunteers from the Newport Twp. Community Organization, prior to the cleanup project on the 14th of July; Conducted the AML Community Cleanup at the "Ice/Bat Cave", located in Newport Township in partnership with the **5** Newport Twp. Community Organization volunteers, PA DOT, **40** Wilkes University first year student volunteers, and Casey Cassa Coal Company; **1000** pounds of meta that was recycled, **50** tires, **70** bags of trash (**2000** pounds or **1** Ton); Interviewed for a Summer Newsletter (www.newporttownship.com) Article by the editors of the Newport Township Community Organization on EPCAMR's work in the Region in support of AML reclamation and AMD Remediation, particularly in the Newport Creek Watershed

