

EPCAMR



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June 2009 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Received word from Happenings Magazine that the EPCAMR Executive Director was selected to be featured as a regional Green Hero in their 40th Anniversary edition of their monthly magazine for our work in abandoned mine reclamation and our education and outreach efforts in the region; Attended a photo shoot in Lackawanna County at Hull's Spring Hill Christmas Tree Farm http://www.happeningsmagazinepa.com/currentmagfiles_jul09.html
- Conducted an AMD Chalk Talk Program with **63** 4th grade elementary students from John Marshall, Lackawanna County
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District's Conservation Field Day and conducted a Fossil Education Program for the children present at the event
- EPCAMR made it into the Orion Grassroots Network's Top 5 Organizations Wish List Pilot Program that they are piloting for small supplies to help us with our environmental education and AMD Field Monitoring program; **\$300** in waders for elementary aged students is the fundraising campaign that we've put together, because they are supplies that we can sure use in the field to get the kids "feet wet"; EPCAMR was asking people and partners to please take a moment and go to the site and vote for us...Kids in Creeks! To help us get selected for the top vote getter; There are 4 other competing projects that are just as worthy ; The project was chosen and is being promoted for a month by the Network to the public through its channels and to fellow Network members, to Orion magazine readers, and anyone else we can think of to help us raise the funds in small increments or large using an online campaign tool; EPCAMR is a member of the OGN and has been featured in the Magazine several years ago; It is an excellent publication and they have an extension network of volunteer groups doing similar work across the Country; EPCAMR was eventually selected nationally by a wide margin of votes!
- Provided Gwen Johnson from the Foundation for PA Watersheds with EPCAMR's information
- Prepared a PA Performing Arts Grant with our intern Kyra Norton for **\$3000** to see if we can obtain funding to create an entire casting of costumes for EPCAMR's AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse Activity Book that we'd like to turn into a theatrical comedy performance that will be showcased by 4th grade elementary students at the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary

School, Luzerne County, in partnership with the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre and the Bloomsburg Theatre Group

- Attended the annual Wilkes-Barre RiverFestival 2009 in Nesbitt Park, Wilkes-Barre and conducted an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Workshop & AMD Outreach Program; **75** youth participated in making t-shirts that were donated by WET PAINT screen-printing company valued at **\$800**
- Attended a Wilkes University Freshman Orientation Service Day Event where **25** student volunteers assisted EPCAMR Staff in creating additional AMD Chalk for our iron oxide chalk inventory

Technical Assistance

- Provided Tom Cunningham, PG, with OSM, the number of licenses of ArcPad and users of GIS in the EPCAMR Office so that they can revised the OSM TIPS MOU for the next fiscal year
- Attended a meeting of the Pocono NE RC & DC to continue planning for the NE Energy Solutions Expo at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds, June 13 & 14; Interviewed by WNEP-16 to plug the event; Attended the NE Energy Expo and exhibited as well as conducted an AMD Outreach Program for children where **24** youth attended
- Prepared a **\$200,000** grant that was based on our OSM Applied Science Grant to continue to map mine pools throughout the Anthracite Region to the Tiffany & Company Foundation
- Received a **\$15,000** Foundation Award from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to partially fund the beginning efforts of our mine pool mapping throughout the Anthracite Region
- Provided Letters of Support for several AMD related projects for the upcoming round of Growing Greener; SRBC, City of Pottsville, Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association, Earth Conservancy, Lackawanna River Corridor Association

Project Coordination

- Checked with Project Officers on extension requests that were submitted months ago for the ***Hicks Creek NSCD Project*** and ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project*** that were anticipated not to be entirely completed by June 30, 2009 because of the delay in the issuance of our fully executed contracts; Waiting to hear back from both of the projects; However, EPCAMR will be requesting reimbursements through June 30, 2009 for both projects
- Submitted a Final Report to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority on our **\$500** grant that we received to purchase molds, to create and print chalk boxes, plaster of Paris, and other supplies to create Iron Oxide Chalk with elementary students throughout the EPCAMR Region
- Received Shamokin Creek's final invoices for Site 15 Fence Construction and include it in the Final Reimbursement for 319

Conferences, Trainings, & Tours

- Tour of Luzerne County AMD and Abandoned Mine Land Areas with representatives from the Foundation for PA Watersheds, William Penn Foundation, and Haas Foundation; All three foundations are interested in supporting EPCAMR's work in the region;
 1. Old Forge AMD Borehole on the Lackawanna River
 2. Plainsville Borehole AMD on the Susquehanna River
 3. South Wilkes-Barre AMD Boreholes on Solomon's Creek-tributary to the Susquehanna River
 4. Susquehanna #7 Abandoned Mine Shaft AMD, locally known as the Honey Pot Discharge in the City of Nanticoke-discharges to Newport Creek-tributary to the Susquehanna River
 5. Newport Center Lake AMD; "Loch Mess"-Abandoned Flooded Water-filled Stripping Pit-discharges to Newport Creek-tributary to the Susquehanna River
 6. Huber Breaker/EPCAMR Office-Historic Preservation Efforts to save the last Northern Anthracite Coalfields Breaker standing in the Wyoming Valley-Ashley, PA

Discussion on EPCAMR's desire to map the underground mine pools for the entire Northern Anthracite Coalfields will be presented and the need for an Anthracite-based technical assistance center for community groups and local governments that EPCAMR has been longing to grow into, given our years of experience and existing relationships with a myriad of Coalition partners in the NE.

Discussion on upcoming 11th AMR Conference at the University of Pittsburgh @ Johnstown, Johnstown, PA-July 13-16, 2009- www.treatminewater.com; Discussion on the potential remediation efforts and further facilitation that would be needed to bring several of the sites to full treatment and remediation to improve the water quality and quality of life for the residents of the Wyoming Valley.

- Convened an AMR Conference Call to continue planning for the July 2009 AMR Conference in Johnstown, PA; Sent around reminders to speakers and planning committee members to follow up with their contacts to get their bios and summary of their presentations; Followed up with UPJ on facility management, exhibit space set up, food, and accommodations

Community Cleanups

- Revised our EPCAMR Budget for the Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant that we were recently awarded in the amount of **\$16,000** from the PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management and submitted it to the State for inclusion with the contract that they are preparing
- EPCAMR Interns were out documenting the amounts of trash and taking additional "before" shots of the illegal dump sites that we will be working on cleaning up over the Summer 2009 and into the Fall 2009

Community Meetings

- Discussed upcoming meeting topic of discussion at Duryea Borough with Project Partners from the Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project; Attended the meeting to gain further support for the project and to clarify residents concerns over the value of the project; http://www.timesleader.com/news/Residents_protest_river_cleanup_05-31-2009.html

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Provided EPCAMR's CPA with our Grant Accounts and PA Invest Account information for completion of the 2008 990s; EPCAMR received an official extension from the IRS to complete our information until August 15, 2009
- Sent down May 2009 Board Reports for EPCAMR Staff to the PA DEP 319 Program
- EPCAMR Executive Director held a Conference Call with EPCAMR Board Executive Committee on Personnel Matters as we transition away from the Luzerne Conservation District to our own facility and employment relationship with EPCAMR including time, salaries, benefits, and health care issues
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District Board Meeting to inform them on the status of our transition process to the Earth Conservancy Office in July 2009
- Spent many hours after work renovating the new office location at the Earth Conservancy in Ashley, PA in preparation the June 18th, 2009 EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting; Painted the office's wooden trim frames with iron oxide paint, painted the walls, heating system covers, and doors; Laid a new floor and wall to wall rug, replaced ceiling tiles and constructed a new drop ceiling for the 1200 sq. ft office space
- Prepared a Request Letter for Working Capital from the PA DEP 319 Program for the new FY09-10 Contract with EPCAMR and submitted it to Russ Wagner, Project Officer
- Worked with Josh Longmore-Luzerne Conservation District and Russ Wagner-PA DEP 319 figure out a way to reallocate some funding from December 2008 into an Administrative Category to cover additional District costs that they'd like to have covered since our Salaries and Benefits were fully covered through 2008 with additional income brought in by other EPCAMR grants
- Meeting with John Morgan, Zagraban Accounting to discuss payroll options with them for EPCAMR
- Received word from Russ Wagner that EPCAMR will be funded on a multi-year contract from the US EPA Region III in the amount of **\$370,500** over **3** years; Revised our work plan and budget and submitted it to PA DEP and US EPA Region III for final contract approval; An allocation of **\$123,500** will be given each year for the next **3** years starting on July 1, 2009
- By June 30, 2009, EPCAMR staff are busy settling into the new office area and juggling several grants that need to be closed out by June 30, 2009 with reimbursements to be submitted or are awaiting official extensions, and continuing to work on coordination of the 11th Annual State-wide Conference for Abandoned Mine Reclamation