

EPCAMR



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June 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Attended the Marywood University Art & Environment Reclamation Project Meeting with Carly Trumann to meet OSM/VISTA from Marywood working on a reclamation project that is trying to incorporate the surrounding AML landscape into an environmental awareness outdoor recreation site along Clark's Creek, a tributary to the Lackawanna River
- Conducted a Southern Wyoming Valley AMD Watershed Tour, Water Sampling Program, Tile Mosaic Project, and AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the entire 5th grade elementary of the Dallas School District, including Wycallis Elementary and Dallas Elementary totaling nearly **240** students
- Worked with Carly to complete and submit a **\$3000** Council for the Arts Grant to purchase fabric and materials to create costume designs for the EPCAMR "AMD Avengers vs Pollution Posse" activity book and to work with local artists to assist in the creation of the costumes that would allow EPCAMR to incorporate environmental skits into our watershed education programs with elementary students from around the EPCAMR Region
- Attended the PA DCNR Pocono Forest & Waters Landscape Initiative Meeting of Environmental Educators and Regional Non-Profit organizations to become more familiar with PA DCNR's new "iConserve" approach to watershed and landscape restoration as well as regional coordination of environmental education opportunities and partnerships throughout the Poconos; Provided input on EPCAMR's Outreach Programs to PA DCNR for incorporation into their initiative; EPCAMR already works with PA DCNR on several Community Connections Watershed Education Programs throughout the EPCAMR Region
- Attended the Wyoming Valley RiverFest 2008 at Nesbitt Park, Wilkes-Barre and continued to complete the Wyoming Valley's tile mosaic art project with youth to showcase the number of streams impacted by AMD in the Wyoming Valley and to raise awareness of the problem; **50** children participated actively in creating the tile mosaic coffee table
- Worked with Carly to develop and send around to local media outlets a Press Release on EPCAMR's AMD Tour provided to Doug Austen, PA F&BC Executive Director and Tim Schaeffer-Policy Director to the Old Forge Borehole, Lackawanna County and to the Jeddo Mine Tunnel, Luzerne County; Discussed access issues with the PA F & BC and continuing to work collaboratively with them realizing that the value of land downstream of AMD discharges right now are probably not at a premium along a particular river or stream corridor and acquisition of land along these areas could be vital, because as soon as the streams are cleaned up, private land ownership could come into play and limited access could end up a dilemma that we will face as well

- Worked with Carly to draft and send a letter to **45** local municipalities within the Wyoming Valley Watershed impacted by AMD to offer technical assistance, environmental education, grant writing, or community project development support under her OSM/VISTA Work Plan

Technical Assistance

- Attended the PA DEP BAMR and BMR Meeting to review the draft guidelines on how to address AMD Treatability and Project Selection Guidelines to provide input into the process; Broke out into educational sessions and feedback groups to provide input to the future Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning Process; EPCAMR will review the guidelines in further detail in July 2008 and provide additional comments, if necessary
- Provided Bill Gongaware, Chemstream, with a tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley's AMD sources to see if he'd be interested in developing AMD treatment technologies for his company to work with EPCAMR on future grant applications to treat some relatively large AMD discharges in Luzerne County
- Attended the 319 NPS Liaison Work Group Meeting for the mid-year review of the Program
- Attended the OSM GeoSpatial Data Standards National Team Meeting in Denver, CO to continue to work on the development of GIS data standards for the National Map and for approval by the FGDC; Selected to work on the development of the first AMLIS Standard for GeoSpatial data along with a team member from Ohio AML Program, VA DMME, OSM in Washington DC, and PA DEP MRM
- Provided information to Att. Kuhl, on AML projects in the Newport Township area
- Provided a Letter of Support for an increase in the Consumptive Use Fee for the SRBC and discussed recommendations for re-using AMD and mine pool water for industrial re-use and economic redevelopment as well as improving water quality and quantity within the Basin
- Provided Stephanie Milewski, Project Coordinator for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, a copy of EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA Work Plan
- Provided a Letter of Support to the PEC NE Office at their request in support of a bank removal project in partnership with Mt. Carmel Co-Generation Facility at the Loree Banks, Larksville, Luzerne County; 500,000 Tons of culm into 200,000 MW of electricity potentially to be converted in this Energy Harvest Grant
- Provided a Letter of Support to the PA Anthracite Council at the request of Duane Feagley, Executive Director, on supporting remaining incentives for the Anthracite Industry in NEPA to OSM that was submitted before a hearing in Pottsville on June 25th, 2008

Project Coordination

- Finalized signed contract to Borton-Lawson Engineering and awaiting copies for signature their files and to now begin to set up our initial summer meetings to get started on the ***Hicks Creek NSCD Project***

Conferences and Trainings

- Participated in a History SubCommittee and AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to continue to flush out details of the August 2008 10th Annual AMR & Coal Mining History Conference; Continued to make contacts with speakers from Eastern PA
- Received a **\$2000** award from the Foundation for PA Watersheds to support the 10th Annual AMR Conference in August 2008

Conservation District Communications

- Attended a PA Association of RC & DC Executive Committee Meeting to assist in the coordination of the annual meeting and Pocono NE RC & DC Field Tour
- Attended the Lackawanna River Watershed Working Group meeting with the LRCA, BAMR, Lackawanna Watershed 2000, Lackawanna County Conservation District, and many other partners at Congressman Carney's District Office to discuss future prioritization of AML/AMD reclamation projects
- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Quarterly Meeting
- Completed and submitted May 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report, as well as the PA DEP 319 May 2008 Invoice to Harrisburg, PA
- Attended the NEPA Alliance & NCAC Annual Awards Dinner to accept a Runner-up 2008 Environmental Action Award with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC; EPCAMR is an active organization in the RC & DC
- Attended an LCD Staff Meeting
- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts and made a bank deposit and talked with EPCAMR CPA Basil Lynch about finalizing our EPCAMR 990 for 2007
- Followed up with the EPCAMR Board Personnel Committee by providing Mike's and my completed self-evaluations

Community Cleanups on AML

- Worked on the cleanup and preparation of the Avondale AML mine site for the eventual placement of the Keating Memorial Marker honoring a local amateur historian's efforts to preserve story and memories of the tragic Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869; Worked with Scouts from Troop 154, Kingston on the project and dedicated on May 31st, 2008
- Provided Dale Freudenberger-Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission Program Director with a tour of the Avondale AML Mine Site for assistance with developing future signage and trail interpretive signage for the site and to discuss future possibilities for funding
- Notified from the PA DEP Waste Management Bureau and Keep PA Beautiful that EPCAMR was awarded a **\$9500** Site Beautification Award for the Avondale AML Site for park benches, kiosks, flowers, topsoil, signage, timbers for raised bed gardens, and picnic tables; Received the completed future conceptual design site plan for Alex Jones-PSU Graduate Student from the School of Landscape Architecture
- Coordinated an AML Community Cleanup at the 'Ice Caves", located in Newport Township in partnership with the Newport Township Community Organization and Casey Cassa Coal Company; Received permission from Ted Casey to access the site and conduct a cleanup on July 14th

Avondale Hill, circa, 1946

