

EPCAMR



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March 2009 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Talked with Angela Lambert, PA DCNR Lackawanna State Forest District Environmental Education Specialist to see if she could help us develop a teacher workshop at the LVHA on how to create the iron oxide chalk in schools as a part of our LVHA EE Mini-Grant
- Attended Eric Bella and Zach Petroski's Senior Project Presentations at Lake Lehman Jr. Sr. High School; Both students have contributed a few hundred of hours of community service at the Avondale Site over the last year
- Attended the Eckley's Miners' Village Charter Day Celebration, Eckley, PA to exhibit and show support for the Museum that was potentially going to be on the list of state-wide museums for staffing reductions and more seasonal operations throughout the year due to the State budget cuts
- EPCAMR Executive Director attended the SRBC Quarterly Meeting in Scranton, PA to receive the **William W. Jeanes, Sr. Award for Environmental Excellence** for over a decade of contributions and services to protecting and enhancing the water quality of the Basin; Only 6 people within the Basin have received this prestigious award; <http://www.srbc.net/about/commawards/jeanes/jeanes.htm>
- Meeting with Rayne Brown, EPCAMR volunteer and student at LCCC who is interested in becoming an intern with EPCAMR in the Summer 2009; Rayne will be working on developing a "Buy a Brick" Fundraising Campaign flyer for the Huber Breaker Memorial Park, Ashley, PA; Attended a Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board Meeting to discuss the Memorial Park reclamation, monument, and paver projects
- Interviewed Kyra Norton, a junior from Bloomsburg University, who is interested in an internship with EPCAMR for the Summer 2009 as a part of her curriculum requirement at Bloomsburg; EPCAMR has an agreement in place to act as a sponsor for students from Bloomsburg and to serve as in a supervisory capacity to the student, who still has to pay for their own credits for the class and credit hours they wish to obtain
- Mailed iron oxide powder out to Katie Testa, Watershed Coordinator with the Lake Fork Watershed Stakeholders, Lake City, CO for making AMD Tie Dyes with kids
- Followed up with Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA Executive Director to let him know that EPCAMR will be represented on the Tour on April 2nd with the legislative aides and other PA DEP, and US EPA Officials that will be touring AMD sites, Ebensburg waste coal pile, and the Cambria Co-Gen Plant

Technical Assistance

- Met with two Lackawanna County AHA OSM/VISTAs, Chris and Lindsey at the EPCAMR Office to provide them with an overview of AMD Work and Project Coordination in the Region that EPCAMR is providing to community groups and the ACCWT; Provided them with plenty of education materials, 3-ring binders full of watershed related information that is directly related to their OSM/VISTA community development objectives and goals; Will be providing all 7 OSM/VISTAs with AMD & Biological Monitoring Certification in April 2009
- Suggested that Rusty Bennett, of the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association talk to WPCAMR about their "Quick Response O M & R Fund for additional limestone sand for their dosing needs in Wyoming County, PA
- Provided a Letter of Support to Megan Boone-Community Service Coordinator, Wilkes University for a VISTA Grant Application they are submitting to have students become more involved in service learning projects with local non-profits that are built on environmental sustainability projects guided by Wilkes University Faculty
- Produced a fundraising flyer for the Anthracite Living History Group

Project Coordination

- Worked on cutting checks for Dauphin CCD, Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger for work completed on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project**; Completed a **Mine Pool Mapping Project** reimbursement and Progress Report that was submitted to Dan Koury; Trying to coordinate a date to go out and conduct AMD monitoring and flow monitoring of the Southern Anthracite Field discharges with Roger, Dan, Jim, and Mike in the middle of April 2009
- Chaperoned students from the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech Horticulture Class, under the direction of Ms. Janice Leiby, to the Avondale AML Mine Site where they will be assisting in the design and construction of a several community gardens at the historic mine site before school's out in June 2009; Conducted a cleanup of brush and invasives at the site
- Chaperoned students from the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech Machine Shop Class, under the direction of Mr. Dennis Gallagher, to the Avondale AML Engine House Site, along State Route 11, in Plymouth Township, where they will be painting and removing graffiti from the 12' high x 56' long abandoned Engine House that fronts the highway; A rust-proof and reflective metal welcome sign with a Township Motto will be designed and created for the wall; PA DOT has given approval for the project that is in their right of way, as long as no advertising billboards go up on the wall; They will also be cutting rebar for the lower Avondale Community Gardens Site at their shop in preparation for the installation of the 4 raised bed gardens
- Field Tour to the **Old Forge Borehole AMD Project** site with Chris Gillis (Solution Mining Inc. LLC, Bernie McGurl (LRCA), and Tom Kerr for an interview and photo opportunity with the **Times Leader** on potential federal stimulus funds coming to PA for environmental restoration projects and green infrastructure; <http://www.orangewaternetwork.org/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=266>
- Prepared and submitted the **Hicks Creek NSCD Project** Progress Report and Reimbursement to PA DEP BAMR Project Officer Dennis Palladino and requested an official grant deadline extension of 1 year to June 2010; Worked with Mike to provide the property owner information to Skelly & Loy; Talked with Karen Szwast to see if she would be available in mid-April to go knock on some landowner's doors to get the access agreements signed to allow the construction phase to begin once the design is complete; Received the H & H Study from Borton-Lawson, the topographic survey, and cross-sections of the stream channel that were provided to Skelly & Loy for further design of the natural stream channel structures

Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR Staff continued to coordinate the 2009 AMR Conference Planning by holding a conference call after developing an updated agenda for the meeting; Continued to move forward on the Conference Planning, Speakers, Theme, Budget, and Vendor, Sponsor, and Exhibitor topics
- Followed up with Kathleen Ragley-Clawson, our Conference Planner at UPJ to provide her with some estimates on attendance so that she can plan for staffing accordingly for that week and the dorm room availability
- Followed up with Tracey Vernon, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Community Revitalization & Local Government Support Department of Environmental Protection and Kristeen Gaffney, US EPA Region III Brownfields Program about their willingness to co-present on promoting renewable energy on abandoned mine lands at the Conference
- Convened a separate conference call with Budget Committee to discuss grants, registration price points, and sponsorship potential by other interested parties
- Prepared a request for members of the Coal Heritage/History Sub Committee to begin to think about speakers, ideas, and complimentary themes or tours for this particular portion of the Annual Conference; Many speakers have been suggested, just no confirmations as of yet or follow-up
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a Letter of Request for Funding from the former PA DEP Secretary Dave Hess at Crisci Associates, who has donated **\$500** in sponsorship towards scholarships for non-profit watershed group members attending
- Attended a PA CleanWays Illegal Dump Cleanup Workshop at the PA DEP Wilkes-Barre Regional Office and was asked to speak on EPCAMR Technical Assistance that could be provided to groups in the NE Region given our experience and successful completion of dozens of cleanup efforts on AML lands and streamside cleanups
- Completed an agenda for the AMD Field Study Monitoring Certification Program that Mike and I will be hosting for the AHA OSM/VISTAs; Forwarded it to all OSM/VISTAs through Dorian Roffe-Hammond-ACCWT AHA Regional Coordinator; Provided all names of attendees to Mike for Certificates

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted February 2009 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report and PA DEP 319 Program Reimbursement
- Completed EPCAMR reconciliations in QuickBooks and began developing a Chart of Accounts
- Participated in a conference call and a meeting with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC on the upcoming Summer **Energy Expo**; www.pnesolutions.org
- Attended the Pocono NE RC & DC Meeting, Pittston, PA; Mentioned to them that the Forestry Committee should consider becoming a signatory to the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) as EPCAMR has done; Put them in touch with Dave Hamilton-OSM for more information
- Attended an Oil & Gas Well Field Tour coordinated by Fortuna Energy in Troy, Bradford County, PA along with members of the Pocono NE RC & DC and the Lackawanna County Conservation District

- Attended an EPCAMR Personnel Committee Meeting in Hazleton, PA to begin to flush out a draft Personnel Policy Manual for presentation to the EPCAMR Board; Began obtaining quotes for Health Insurance/Dental/Vision from several insurance carriers in the Region; Began looking into General Liability Insurance, Workmen's Compensation Insurance, and Payroll Services for EPCAMR as well
- Attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting at the Earth Conservancy Building, Ashley, PA; Toured the new EPCAMR Office Rental Space with Board Members and sought approval for "move in" expenses and renovations necessary to maintain a functioning, full service Office by July 1, 2009
- Attended the PA Association of RC & DC Meeting in Harrisburg, PA; They would like to exhibit at the 11TH Annual AMR Conference in Johnstown, PA



Old Forge AMD Borehole at the Confluence with the Lackawanna River

March 29, 2009 (left to right) Chris Gillis; Thomas J. Kerr; Robert E. Hughes- Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation; Bernard McGurl-Lackawanna River Corridor Association; Michael A. Hewitt, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Clark Van Orden/photo (TL)