

EPCAMR



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May 2009 Board Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR would like to design to create an “outdoor” solar iron oxide drying kiln constructed with the ingenuity of an Eagle Scout to put together at our new office location at the EC in the Summer 2009; Forwarded the idea to Keith in our office to see if he knew of any interested Scouts who might take us up on the project; The Scout would need to supply the materials through donations and we’ll supply the design, location, and first batch of iron oxide that he can get himself by going on a tour with EPCAMR Staff to some AMD Sites to help us do a first test run; This would be for an ongoing project related to our AMD Tie Dying, Watershed Tours, and Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Programs in local elementary schools
- Information on the 2009 RiverFest is posted on www.rivercommon.org and www.wvwc.org; EPCAMR will be conducting AMD Tie Dyes and creating Iron Oxide Chalk as a children’s activity to teach youth how we are cleaning up the Susquehanna River
- Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Program at Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary with third graders; Classes of Mrs. Yustat, Mrs. Lach, Mrs. View, Mrs. Albanese, Mrs. Stelma, Mrs. Bartle, and Mr. Koslofsky. **200** students attended the EPCAMR Outreach Program and created iron oxide chalk.
- Created a Press Release announcing the addition of two new interns for the Summer 2009 to EPCAMR; Kyra Norton-Bloomsburg University and Shawn Jones-Montana State University; Forwarded to Mike to post on the EPCAMR website
- Attended Bear Creek Festival, Schuylkill County and made AMD Tie-Dye T-shirts with approximately **300** children and talked about EPCAMR’s work in the Region.
- Made a request to Orion Grassroots Network to ask for supplies to assist us in our outreach efforts to reach our youth in the Anthracite Coal Fields impacted by AMD that will get them outdoors, in the streams with us, both on impacted streams polluted by abandoned mines and in nearby unimpacted cold-water fisheries that are what the AMD streams can become with their help; **\$300** can allow us to purchase **25** pairs of children’s waders that we need to allow the students to get into the streams and off the stream banks to really investigate and become engaged and excited about what they can find and what they will not find when we are doing field programs with our partnering school districts
- Accepted Alana Robert’s help to come with EPCAMR and the OSM/VISTAs, Lindsay and Chris to John Marshall Elementary School’s entire 4th grade class, on June 4th consisting of around **60** students from Lackawanna County to participate in our Iron Oxide Chalk Talk Program.

- EPCAMR Executive Director was selected by Erika Bruckner, Associate Editor, to be featured in the July Issue of Happenings Magazine <http://www.HappeningsMagazinePA.com> to talk about our work in the field of abandoned mine drainage reclamation, mine drainage remediation, watershed restoration and environmental education; Filled out a questionnaire and was asked to attend a photo shoot in Clarks Summit on June 5th along with other selected environmental professionals that are being featured in the July's "Green Issue"
- Completed internship paperwork for Bloomsburg University prior to Kyra Norton's start date on May 11th and submitted it to her advisor
- Conducted an interview with Steve Cornia-LCCC student interested in a future internship with EPCAMR
- Provided Kyra with some background on the AMD Environmental Skits & Theatrical Play idea for an upcoming Scranton Area Foundation Project Stream (SAF) **\$3000** Grant
- Crestwood HS students made **7** blue bird boxes for the Avondale AML Garden Beautification Project; They each will be stained with iron oxide

Technical Assistance

- Answered a questionnaire to the best of EPCAMR's abilities that was sent by the Udall Foundation on the Executive Director's role on the SRBC Water Quality Advisory Committee over the last decade
- OSM TIPS informed EPCAMR that ArcPad 8.0 is available for us to upgrade our software version
- Completed revisions to EPCAMR's 319 Scope of Work for 2009-2010, incorporating comments made by EPA Region III that they would like to see EPCAMR and WPCAMR working on collaboratively; Revised the 2009-2010 EPCAMR 319 Budget and submitted an updated Work Plan to Russ Wagner-PA DEP BWM
- EPCAMR is providing technical grant writing assistance to LRCA who is going to submit a GG grant for a watershed restoration action strategy/plan, which is the next step before PA DEP BAMR can even consider the Lackawanna River AMD discharges that are in need of 30% Set-Aside funding; Hydrologic Unit Plans (HUPs) do not have funding attached right now because there isn't one for Old Forge or the Lackawanna River; A WRAS completed for the Lackawanna River that would include a prioritization of discharges for the entire either Upper or Lower Lackawanna Watershed is needed
- Reviewed several PA DEP EE Grant Applications as an unbiased grant reviewer and rater and submitted the rankings to Lisa Zell, PA DEP EE Program in Harrisburg
- Worked with Mike to generate LIDAR Data for Earth Conservancy Land Parcels in Luzerne & Lackawanna Counties
- Sat in on a conference call with John Dawes-Program Manager for the Foundation for PA Watersheds, Diane Schrauth and Andrew Johnson-Program Managers for the William Penn Foundation about coordinating a tour of Luzerne County Abandoned Mine sites on June 3rd

Project Coordination

- Discussed meeting agenda for upcoming meeting with PA DEP BAMR and SRBC on the Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project with Chris Gillis, HDR, and LRCA
- Continuing to look for quotes on EPCAMR Director's & Officer's Liability Insurance and Errors & Omissions Liability Insurance; Filled out Traveler's Insurance Policy Questionnaires and will be submitting them once EPCAMR receives signatures from the Board
- Continued to work on the EPCAMR Employee Policy Manual draft that we have; Have got it down to 15 pages from 24; There isn't anything in here that can be taken out of the Manual; There are only a few small sections that need to be added that are highlighted; We still need to look at LRCA's Employee Policy Manual to see if we are missing anything. LRCA's is only 10 pages, but there are some things to add. (ie. Amendments/Revisions, Promotions, Gifts and Gratuities); It also needs an Index of Pages; The one from ARIPPA can be reformatted to fit our needs with our logo and page notation. The Travel Policy remains to be weaved into the picture; The Procurement Policy looks good. I just need to look for updates to the laws
- Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative Tree Planting with OSM/VISTAs, Schuylkill Conservation District, OSM, and other volunteers in Schuylkill County; **2000** seedlings were planted by nearly **40** volunteers
- Discussed with Karen Szwast, Hicks Creek Watershed Association about the need to go to about a half dozen landowners to inform them of the ***Natural Stream Channel Design Project*** on Hicks Creek and to see if they are willing to sign the maintenance agreement to allow for future monitoring and maintenance of the stream channel; Requested a copy of the design drawings from Skelly & Loy to take with us to the households that will in the affected area
- Provided a reimbursement check to the Dauphin CCD for the ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project***

Conferences and Trainings

- Talked with Adam, an OSM/VISTA in Western PA to see if he'd be interested in putting together a poster board presentation for the AMR Conference in July 2009; EPCAMR has asked the Anthracite Heritage Alliance OSM/VISTA Team to put together a presentation for the region and then offered them up a free poster board spot at the Conference; The poster board should be on their work that they are doing in their respective watersheds, hopefully, most can have a spin on historical preservation or bituminous history along with their AMD and outreach work
- Another abstract was submitted to the Coal Heritage/History Subcommittee related to Brownfields and Historic Preservation of the Taylor Colliery in Lackawanna County for consideration; Several of the Committee members said that the abstract needs to beef up the historical preservation aspects of the project and history on the Taylor Colliery to qualify for a presentation; We already have two, potentially three presentations that are "brownfields/grayfields" related, however, the slots that we have available deal with the historical context and value of some of these AML sites and their reuse
- A historical presentation on the history of mining in the Paint Creek watershed as the backdrop for the eventual recovery and assessment of the Paint Creek, in Johnstown, PA would be a nice addition to the Conference this year, since it is right in J-town's backyard, literally; Tom Clarke-SRBC and Dr. Mary Lavigne-UPJ will co-present
- Attended a hands-on workshop on Social Marketing Training at Luzerne County Community College

- OSM will be providing **\$1000** towards the UPJ Facility Rental Fee for the AMR 2009 Conference

Conservation District Communications

- Followed up with Kathleen Banski, PACD EE Coordinator to let PACD know that EPCAMR is following up with the Watershed Specialists and Districts in the EPCAMR Region with regards to the WPCAMR survey as a reminder to complete them and to inform them that we are in full support of seeking ways to fully fund the watershed specialists positions as well; EPCAMR has talked with Andy and he's mentioned that they are waiting to see what they get back on the 15th of May to see what to do next
- Completed and submitted April 2009 LCD/EPCAMR and 319 Board Reports
- EPCAMR will be assisting the Pocono NE RC & DC in creating 7 posters for the upcoming Energy Expo on June 13-14th; We have to ask for the printing costs because we are donating quite a bit of services, people, and time already to the event and will be there that weekend and I am dedicating two staff people for the event; Sat in on several conference calls related to the Expo Planning
- Meeting with Josh to discuss transition and personnel issues related to Annual Leave and Sick Leave
- Completed EPCAMR Reconciliations, Deposits, and Transfers
- Began working on the new EPCAMR Office Renovations at the Earth Conservancy with interns and Mike to prepare for the mid-June 2009 move and transition

Community Cleanups

- EPCAMR was awarded **\$16,000** from the PA DEP Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Grant Program; EPCAMR is awaiting on the contract, but was told that we can reimburse expenses back to April 2009