

EPCAMR



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November 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Finalized PowerPoint presentation on ***“Thinking Outside of the Box” Fundraising Ideas for Your Non-Profit Organization*** and ***Building Local Community Involvement*** for the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce’s Non-Profit Committee 2008 Non-Profit Summit 2008 and presented on November 6, 2008 at LCCC
- Meeting with Carly at ***Costumes by Barbara***, Luzerne, to discuss our Scranton Area Foundation Grant with her related to the designs for ***The AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse*** Activity Book; Barbara will be designing most, if not all of the costumes and props for the grant that will be utilized by school children in the coming year
- Requested a meeting with the Times-Leader’s Vice-President of Retail Advertising Marketing Director, Kim Dudick to discuss developing a marketing partnership relationship for the 2009 Pocono NE RC & DC Energy Expo being planned
- Spoke with Tom McHugh-edventures Consulting, Inc., a consultant with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA), who called EPCAMR to inform us that we were awarded a **\$500** grant to work with Lackawanna and Luzerne County Elementary School children to create recycled iron oxide chalk that will be distributed to school children in Afghanistan and to teach the students about abandoned mines, anthracite coal, and fossil fuels
- EPCAMR signed up for the Power to Save Program on WNEP-16’s website that will provide us with free advertising and marketing of our organization on their site related to the environment; awaiting approval from WNEP-16 to be posted and linked to their website
- Prepared an updated future work plan itinerary for Carly Truman for the remainder of her OSM/VISTA Community Service term that will last through February 2009

Technical Assistance

- Prepared a Letter of Support for Earth Conservancy’s Hanover #9 AML Reclamation Proposal to the US EPA Brownfields Program
- Field Investigation Meeting with Mr. Richard Kuchta, Shickshinny, with members of the Susquehanna River Greenway Partnership (Gary Bloss and Bob Skulsky) to explore the Warrior’s Path, along Shickshinny Creek and to discuss future partnerships and funding ideas for trail development to the State Historic Site; AML lands are adjacent to the property that are on SGL, however, his property is not impacted by AML

- Conference call with Pacific NW National Labs and Idaho National Labs who are working with EPCAMR and the Pocono NE RC & DC on obtaining free technical assistance and NASA Satellite Imagery and other groundwater modeling software tools for our work on AML, watershed restoration, stormwater, and AMD
- Talked with Branden Diehl-Foundation for PA Watersheds about preparing a Request for Technical Pre-Qualifications and a RFP specific to the Mine Pool Mapping Project in the Shamokin Creek Watershed and about setting up a Review Committee independent of the SCRA and NCCD to avoid any conflicts of interest
- Forwarded all of the EPCAMR 319 Contract amendment paperwork to the PA DEP 319 Program on the **Site 15 Fence Construction** Project in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; Russ advised that we should wait until all signatures are complete prior to making a request for reimbursement or starting construction on the fence
- Submitted comments on the Newport Creek TMDL to the SRBC
- EPCAMR Staff spent a considerable amount of time evaluating PA DEP BAMR's draft Hydrologic Unit Map and made some suggestions as to how to prioritize watershed restoration projects in combination with other PA DEP Program priorities that seem to be competing rather than complementing each other; Created some draft overlay GIS Maps of Priority 1 & 2 Health & Safety Hazard AML Sites and fitted them within the watersheds that were either priority watersheds for the PA DEP 319 Program, PA DEP BAMR, or had approved TMDLs and forwarded them off to the PA DEP 319 Program and PA DEP BAMR for further interpretation and follow-up discussion
- EPCAMR Executive Director spent time in partnership with Michele Sparich, Luzerne County Grant Writer to prepare and submit a community-wide **\$200,000** US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant for the Huber Breaker on behalf of the Luzerne County Commissioner's Office; Coordinated getting Letters of Support from all partners necessary to submit the application (HBPS, HB TF Committee, GPHS, ALHG, D & L NHCC, ACCWT, EC)
- EPCAMR Executive Director submitted a Technical Assistance Grant Request to Trout Unlimited to have them come out and evaluate the Grand Tunnel #1 Slope AMD discharge in Plymouth Township, the only acidic mine discharge that flows between 25-75 gpm into the Wyoming Valley; Partnered with the Plymouth Township Planning Commission and the private landowner, Mr. Jack Ostopick, who was amenable to a further investigation of the site since the discharge emanates from his property
- EPCAMR received a request from Jim Wetzel-Weatherly Borough Planning Commission and Jim Clauser-Carbon County Conservation District to assist them with taking a closer look at some of the Upper Lehigh AMD discharges, particularly the Hazle Creek discharge sometime after the X-Mas Holidays; EPCAMR offered to pull some partners together for a meeting in mid-January of some of our regional partners to address the issue and provided Jim with some avenues for technical assistance funding that is currently available through the Pocono NE RC & DC and Trout Unlimited
- Worked with Mike to discuss what information should be forwarded to Donna Carnahan-PA DEP 319 Program for the Resource Extraction SubCommittee Update Report

Project Coordination

- Worked on cutting checks for Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger for work completed on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project**
- Coordinated and attended a meeting with the USGS, Pottsville DMO, and PA DEP BAMR for the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** to review the MOD-FLOW modeling data that Dan Goode and Chuck Cravotta have been working on for several months

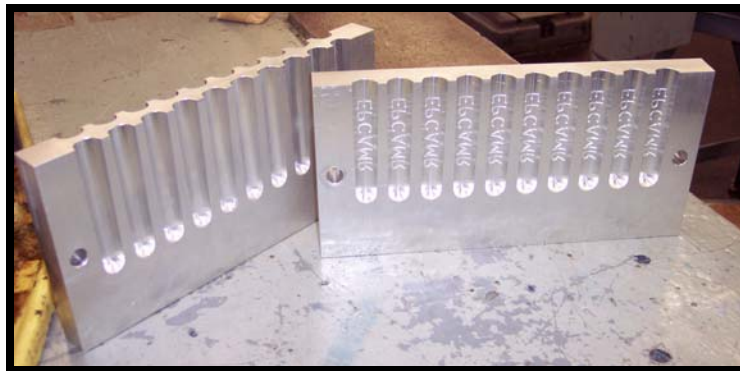
- Prepared a quarterly progress report for the **Hicks Creek AML NSCD Project** and submitted reimbursements for engineering costs; Worked on revising the Landowner Agreement Form that would allow access to the stream directly from all properties that are being impacted by the severe down cutting of the stream channel in the upper reach of the project for future maintenance purposes and monitoring; Contacted Karen Szwast-Hicks Creek Watershed Association to assist EPCAMR in meeting with the landowners to have the agreements signed;

Conferences and Trainings

- EPCAMR Staff are continuing to work on a **\$25,000 EPA Grant** to support the 2009-10 AMR Conference and staff support of the coordination of the Conference
- Received the final contract from UPJ to host the 2009 AMR Conference from Kathleen Ragley
- Sent out a request for all those participating History SubCommittee members who were a part of the 2008 PA AMR & History Conference to begin thinking about ideas for the 2009 Conference and to get back to me following the X-Mas Holidays as we begin to prepare for the July 2009 AMR & History Conference in Johnstown, PA

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted October 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report
- Attended the LCD Staff Meeting
- Attended the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting in Hazleton, PA
- After receiving a copy of ARIPPA's Employee Policy Manual, EPCAMR Executive Director began combing through it and making necessary revisions that might allow EPCAMR to combine it with language from the LCD Employee Personnel Policy Manual as it continues to develop a future draft Employee Policy Manual; A Conflict of Interest Policy was also drafted and created by the EPCAMR Executive Director based on direction from the IRS that is encouraging the development of such a policy for non-profit organizations; The **Conflict of Interest Policy** was adopted at the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting



EPCAMR Chalk Block Mold designed by the West Side Vocational Career Center that will be used to create iron oxide chalk to provide to elementary students throughout Luzerne & Lackawanna Counties under one of our recently awarded grants from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority