

EPCAMR



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October 2008 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Attended the Scranton Area Foundation's 2008 Partners in the Arts Grant Awards Ceremony at the Best Western, Wilkes-Barre, where EPCAMR received a **\$1691.00** grant to work with local costume artist in Luzerne who owns Costumes by Barbara and Arts YOUiverse artists to develop education skits to go along with our **AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse Activity Book** and costumes for the characters within the book; 1 of 48 grant awardees and the only environmental group to receive the award this year
- Attended a media event at the Huber Breaker, Ashley, PA in support of regional partners who are pushing for the US Post Office to dedicate a Coal Miner's Stamp; EPCAMR has been a supporter for many years on this issue; www.coalminerstamp.com
- Worked with Carly to complete and submit a small **\$500** educational mini-grant through the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority to buy materials and supplies to make EPCAMR Chalk with elementary school children in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties and send care packages overseas to Afghani students in need of school supplies
- EPCAMR Staff, Friends of the Nescopeck OSM/VISTA Kat Krulack, and EMARR Director Peter Haentjens, went on a field with **30** 7th grade students from the Hazleton Area School District's geo-caching in the Nescopeck Creek Watershed, to AMD Sites, AML Sites, Reclamation Sites, Illegal Dump Sites, and the Jeddo Mine Tunnel to teach them how to use their GPS Units as a part of their grant to locate these types of sites within their local community GPS Units that was funded under a PA DEP EE Grant supported by EPCAMR
- Attended the LCCC Craft Fair and assisted the LCCC Science Club set up an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt Workshop in Nanticoke, PA

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Executive Director attended a two-day technical meeting with OSM's Title IV GeoSpatial Team Sub-group in Salt Lake City, UT, funded by the OSM, since EPCAMR took the lead of the development of the first **Minimum Geospatial Data Standard for Abandoned Coal Mine Problem Areas** that will go on for further approvals by ASTM International, the FGDC; Discussed the first draft and a second standard developed by the Ohio AML Program point on the **Minimum Geospatial Data Standard for Abandoned Coal Mine Land Planning Units**; Details of the draft standards were presented at the National GSDC Meeting and approved and will now go on through the ASTM Standards Approval Process in December 2008
- Provided comments on the draft Luzerne/Lackawanna County Comprehensive Plans

- Attended the Earth Conservancy's South Valley Parkway Corridor Land Revitalization and Economic Redevelopment of AML Workshop at LCCC and provided technical input and support of the concept and information to other partners on EC's continued work to reclaim AML properties owned by EC; Participated in the South Valley AML Tour along with EC
- Attended the NPS Liaison Work Group Meeting at the PA F& BC Headquarters in Harrisburg to provide direction, comments, and input into the development of the NPS Resource Extraction sub-group goals and objectives for the 2008 update to the US EPA Region III; PA was the first state in the country to submit and have approved its' NPS Management Program Update for 2008; Looking for additional success stories from our Coalition
- Provided Carly with the water quality database from one of EPCAMR's student volunteers , Curtis Smith, who has been monitoring the # 1 Slope, Grand Tunnel discharge in Plymouth Township along with his father for nearly 2 years; Carly will be entering the data into Datashed which we will then be able to use in the future for possible AMD Treatment system design scenarios
- Forwarded the Newport Creek TMDL on to members of the Newport Township Community Organization that might like to comment on the draft plan, since there was very low attendance at the public meeting; EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA was the only one in the audience, along with a fire chief who opened the fire hall for the meeting
- Prepared a letter to the PA DEP 319 Program requesting additional funds to our Construction Line Item in our EPCAMR Budget to assist the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and the Northumberland County CD obtain the necessary funds to construct a fence at Site 15; EPCAMR was able to assist in securing an additional \$29,764.00 for the project; EPCAMR Executive Director attended the Luzerne Conservation District Board Meeting to obtain approval for the amendment to the contract sponsored by the District on October 9th
- Talked with Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR Environmental Program Manager about ways in which EPCAMR could possibly assist in the development of a Quick Response Anthracite Region O, M, & R Grant Request Program or a monitoring team for the existing publicly funded AMD Treatment Systems in the region that need continuous monitoring

Project Coordination

- Worked on cutting checks for Ian Palmer and Roger Hornberger for work completed on the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** and on cutting checks for our consultant engineers on the Hicks Creek AML NSCD Project
- Mike has updated several GIS Layers (colliery boundaries, barrier pillars, and mine tunnels) for the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** and provided them to the project partners for further review
- EPCAMR's contracted engineering firms for the **Hicks Creek AML NSCD Project** are beginning to conduct their surveys and H & H Studies within the project area for the project this Fall

Conferences and Trainings

- Participated in a second conference call with WPCAMR, Foundation for PA Watersheds, and Trout Unlimited to discuss positions on the use and suggestions for the implementation and eventual release of the 30% Set Aside Funds for AMD remediation, O, M, & R
- Attended the 2008 PA Brownfields Conference on October 1 in Harrisburg due to the focus on Mine-Scarred Lands and our existing relationship with the US EPA and other partners in this field of interest; Sought out a partnership for the 2009 AMR Conference from the US EPA Region MSL Team

- Convened a conference call with our AMR Conference Planning Committee to further enter into discussions about planning for the 2009 Conference at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, PA; Dates being held are July 13-16, 2009; EPCAMR Executive Director asked Kathleen Ragley-Conference Planner at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, to send a draft copy of a contract that would allow us to secure the facilities at UPJ, the Living Learning Center, and housing accommodations on campus for the 2009 AMR Conference
- Attended the Fall Society of Mining Engineers Annual Meeting in Hazleton, PA to hear Dave Greenfield-PA DEP BAMR talk about lessons learned in the field of FGM for natural stream channel design projects on AML sites; EPCAMR wants to be sure that we don't run into similar problems with our Hicks Creek NSCD Project in Exeter, PA
- Attended the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable (ECRR) * ACCWT OSM/VISTA **Hope & Hard Work** Training in Canaan Valley Resort, WV, both as a Supervisor of an OSM/VISTA and as a Panel Presenter during the workshop on Building Community Partnerships & Coalition Building; **20** individuals attended the presentation that was given by the panel that the Executive Director was sitting on; Donated **12** books called **The PA Nonprofit Handbook: Everything You Need to Know to Start and Run Your Nonprofit Organization** to any PA OSM/VISTAs or their supervisors. It's a 6th Edition, by Gary M. Grobman; It had been distributed by the PA Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO)

Conservation District Communications

- Completed and submitted September 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report
- Prepared a draft **Conflict of Interest Policy** for review by the EPCAMR Board at the upcoming November 12, 2008 Meeting since it is a new requirement for non-profits
- Attended the 18th Annual PEC NE Dinner as an Honorary Reception Committee Member and to congratulate and support Tim Ference, FON/EPCAMR/and LCD Board Member on receiving one of the 2008 Environmental Partnership Awards
- Provided Cathy Haffner with a link to the Catawissa Creek Watershed Restoration Plan and Watershed Restoration Action Strategy partially developed by the EPCAMR Executive Director and Jane Earle
- Submitted an article to Amy Salanksy for the Fall 2008 Luzerne District newsletter on our "Ice Caves" AML Cleanup in Newport Township
- Provided information to Keith and Aaron on hydric soils web links for when they are looking into soils-related information on permit reviews; As opposed to only going to the Soil Survey books now, they can access the information via the web that contain GIS information and files

Here's the link to the website where I printed the Hydric Soils List for Luzerne County. <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Report.aspx?Survey=PA079&UseState=PA> . This link takes you directly to soils information only for Luzerne County. Select all or one of the map unit soils and a characteristic you are interested in (eg. Hydric Soils) then click the "generate report" button.

You can also view the Soil Survey Maps online it's called the Web Soil Survey (WSS). Here's the link: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> .