

EPCAMR



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September 2009 Board Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR's former OSM/VISTA Carly Trumann sent us an e-mail suggesting that if we have AMD Tie Dye programs for the upcoming Halloween or Fall season that we create pumpkins on the t-shirts utilizing a technique she found online for us; <http://jas.familyfun.go.com/crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=12054>
- EPCAMR staff filled a request from the Lackawanna County Conservation District for additional iron oxide powder for some educational events and chalk making activities that they will be conducting in October; EPCAMR will be allowing the LCCD and OSM/VISTAs to borrow our display board and some chalk molds for the programs
- Conducted a phone interview with Kevin Eckerle, an independent consultant at George Washington University hired by Amy Larkin, Director of Greenpeace Solutions, on a project aimed at calculating a truer cost of coal; In short, they are trying to identify real costs for economic externalities that are currently not priced into coal-generated electricity to show policymakers in Washington that coal is not a cheap fuel source; They were looking into PA AMLIS estimates for reclamation and stream remediation; Working with Mike to provide a summary of those numbers to Kevin based on PA's AMLIS current inventory
- Prepared a Letter of Support for Coal Ash as a beneficial use product in abandoned mine reclamation to the PA DEP, US EPA, and copied ARIPPA
- Met with Michelle Davies, a Leadership Wilkes-Barre Class of 2010 member, who was interested in pitching EPCAMR's project to continue to build on our work down at Avondale to this year's class as a Class Project where up to \$5000 would be raised to support the project; Don Carey, her boss, from Kraft Foods, came along to support her idea and because he is an active member of the Anthracite Living History Group
- EPCAMR was awarded a **\$1408** grant award from the Scranton Area Foundation to put together a set design, complete the remaining costumes for our **AMD Avengers vs Pollution Posse Coloring/Activity Book**, and create an environmental comedy skit to teach kids in elementary schools throughout the region; Nanticoke Elementary School's 4th grade class will be the first class to work on performing the play

Technical Assistance

- Worked with Mike to develop a **\$25,000** technical assistance proposal to the Pocono Forests & Waters Conservation Initiative Grant Program administered by PEC NE Office, funded by the PA DCNR to develop mine pool maps and to work with community groups and local municipalities on creating a digital set of GIS layers for

the Northern Anthracite Coalfields in the Lackawanna Valley Watershed; Developed the narrative and budget and sought support from other regional partners; Proposal due on October 22, 2009

- Worked with Ed Missal-General Manager of the NEPCO Power Company, McAdoo and Mike to develop a set of GIS Maps and Summary Statistics utilizing our RAMLIS GIS Tool that have a 15 miles radius around Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, and Pottsville of abandoned culm banks, piles, and silt ponds
- Worked with Mike to produce a few RAMLIS GIS Maps of the Sub watersheds containing SMCRA Priority 1 & 2 Features and PA DEP BAMR Hydrologic Unit Plans (HUP) for the Foundation for PA Watersheds and the William Penn Foundation, with an emphasis on the gap analysis in the Delaware River Watershed, including the Upper Schuylkill Headwaters; From the BAMR AMD Set Aside Program Implementation Guidelines and QHU Form, EPCAMR gathers that all AMLIS Features (not Just P1 & P2 but) might be eligible for the expenditures as long as they (a) significantly impact biological resources in the receiving stream and (b) are the subject of expenditures by the State (forfeiture of bonds or other state sources) to abate and treat mine drainage; EPCAMR is still evaluating the QHU Form and the Scoring Criteria to see if we can develop a technical assistance proposal to assist watershed groups state-wide on developing higher ranked and technically complete proposals for funding

Project Coordination

- Interviewed by Mike Stevens, WNEP-16 “On The PA Road” outdoors show, who hiked down to the Avondale AML Site with EPCAMR to do a story for an upcoming program on our work to preserve anthracite historical sites for tourism, education, recreational uses, and even paranormal activity groups
- Completed the Environmental Assessment Form (EA) Form for the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project** and forwarded it to Gary Greenfield-PA DEP NE Regional Office and Dennis Palladino-PA DEP BAMR Project Officer for approval and acceptance

Conferences and Trainings

- Attended a meeting with the Foundation for PA Watersheds coordinated by Gwen Johnson, PA DEP, WPCAMR, WPC, and other partners to coordinate a full day and a half Watershed Summit for May 15, 2010

Conservation District Communications

- Prepared draft agenda and revised budget for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting in mid September with Mike

Community Cleanups

- Worked with Kyra Norton and Rayne Browne -EPCAMR volunteers to remove graffiti from the abandoned Engine House wall located along State Route 11 at Avondale Hill with donated anti-graffiti paint donated by PA DOT; Cleaned up the Avondale Mine Site for the 140th Anniversary Dedication down at the site on September 6th, 2009, placed mulch at the site, and weeded areas in the gardens