

EPCAMR



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September 2007 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Attended an Avoca Borough Council Meeting, Avoca to provide them with outreach materials on the Luzerne Conservation District, EPCAMR's "**AMD in Your Community**" Handbook, and provided them with example GIS Maps that our Program is willing to provide them as a public service under a grant received from the PA DEP Environmental Education Program; Provided them with business cards from Tanya D. who is also willing to conduct municipal outreach workshops in the future at the request of the municipality; **30** people in attendance
- Conducted an AMD Education & Outreach Program and AMD Tie-Dye Workshop at the Carbon County Mauch Chunk Lake Park's first annual Heritage Fest 2007 coordinated by a former EPCAMR Environmental Education Intern, Pam Kattner; **200** people in attendance; **25** AMD Tie-Dye T-shirts created; EPCAMR was a co-sponsor of the Heritage Festival
- EPCAMR Program Staff as well as volunteer EPCAMR Board members manned the EPCAMR Exhibit and Display at the Bloomsburg Fair working in alternating shifts throughout the entire week; The theme of this year's EPCAMR Exhibit was focused on Mining Accidents and Deaths in the Anthracite Coal Region as well as Historic Disasters, such as the Avondale Mine Disaster; EPCAMR promoted its partnership with the Mine Safety & Health Administration's **Stay Out-Stay Alive! Public Education Outreach Campaign** by giving away stickers, bookmarks, and coloring pages to children depicting pictures of abandoned mine hazards and risks at these sites; EPCAMR Program Staff also produced a GIS Map of all of the Priority 1 & 2 Health & Safety AML Sites that are still in need of reclamation across the EPCAMR Region; Literally **1000s** of people were in and out of the exhibit area
- Coordinated the setting up of a second **Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit** at the Widman Gallery, King's College from October 1 through the end of the month to showcase previously displayed artwork utilizing the iron oxides that EPCAMR has been collecting for several years trying to find beneficial resource recovery uses for the pigment; Contacted dozens of artists from across the region that previously exhibit to see if they were interested in bring the pieces down to Wilkes-Barre once again

Technical Assistance

- Conducted a conference call with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Harrisburg Office and other partnering organizations in the Ag industry working on ways to create partnerships and economic incentives to transport excess chicken manure from agricultural operations to abandoned mine land projects in the Northeast

- EPCAMR Regional Coordinator attended the OSM GeoSpatial Data Committee Task Force Meeting held in Albuquerque, NM to continue to further develop the data standards for the underground mining and abandoned mine extents, since having completed the first set of standards for the surface coal mining permit boundaries
- Provided Ryan Koch-Pocono NE RC & DC Coordinator with additional completed projects that he could incorporate into his Annual Plan of Work Progress Report where EPCAMR was listed as a partner to assist in providing some technical assistance to the RC & DC

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Program Staff attended the Hicks Creek Public Meeting conducted by the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority and Borton-Lawson Engineering to review the Watershed Study on alleviating the flooding problems in the watershed with various engineering alternatives; Incorporating alternatives into EPCAMR's **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project** at the upper reaches of the watershed above Slocum Ave. and Schooley Ave.
- Contacted Ian K. Palmer regarding the **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** to discuss setting up a meeting with him after reviewing his resume to discuss the possibility of having EPCAMR contract his services to assist with the data collection of needed information for the GIS Database to build the Mine Pool Mapping layers for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields; A meeting has been scheduled for October 3, 2007 at the Pottsville District Mining Office to discuss the project further and to meet with Dan Koury-PA DEP Project Officer
- Contacted PA DEP BAMR Staff-Todd Wood and Kim Snyder, to see if they have any abandoned mine reclamation project files to help us populate the databases that will help us create the necessary **GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project** data layers to complete the scope of work; EPCAMR is looking for borehole data in electronic format
- Reviewed and provided technical comments to Julie McMonagle-PEC NE Regional Director, a draft MOU between EPCAMR and the PEC NE Office on services and work that will be provided to EPCAMR for in-kind services and GIS Mapping needs to complete the **Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan**

Conferences and Trainings

- Attended the **Bucknell University Environmental Center 2nd Annual Susquehanna River Initiative Symposium** held at Bucknell University, co-sponsored by EPCAMR, WVIA, Geisenger Center for Health Research, Henry Luce Foundation, and the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, to bring together Anthracite Region Coal Operators, Watershed Groups, Colleges & Universities, and the general public to discuss ways in which increased lines of communications can be achieved by all parties on future AML reclamation projects; EPCAMR Regional Coordinator was a keynote morning speaker before the group of **75** people at the Langone Center, Lewisburg discussing ways to build organizational capacity within coalfield communities based on successes across the EPCAMR Region over the last decade

Conservation District Communications

- Conducted a meeting with the Luzerne Conservation District's newly hired Conservation Education person Tanya D., to provide her with contacts, organizations, phone numbers, environmental education handbooks and other resources to assist her with settling in to her new position; Since the EPCAMR Regional Coordinator had previously been the Education Partnership SubCommittee Chair for the District, we shared ideas and thoughts on how to reach out to various sectors of the County and discussed where the greatest needs were
- Coordinated with Maryruth Wagner-Columbia County Conservation District to schedule the **Fall 2007 EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting** for **October 25, 2007** at the Columbia County Ag Service Center; It had to be rescheduled from October 18th, 2007 due to 2 conflicting events, the PEC NE Dinner and the PA Anthracite Council Annual Meeting, where EPCAMR Board Members have been invited to meet with Anthracite Operators to discuss future partnerships in the Region on reclamation projects and remaining efforts

Internship Coordination

- Continued to conduct several phone interviews for an OSM/VISTA after being provided with several resumes by the new Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team Support Coordinator-Torie Bowman, from Beckley, WV