

# EPCAMR



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## September 2008 Monthly Report

### Education and Outreach

- Exhibited and conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at the 2nd Annual Carbon County Anthracite Heritage & Bluegrass Festival in Jim Thorpe, PA
- Worked with Jeff McNelly to begin planning for an April 2009 AMR Tour with legislators and legislative aides
- Meeting with Luke Elser and Marie Watkins-ACCWT, WV for an EPCAMR Site visit with Carly throughout the Wyoming Valley Watershed to see projects that EPCAMR and the OSM/VISTA are working on throughout the year
- Worked with Mike to produce a flyer for a community interest group that would like to promote the idea of a Coal Miner's Stamp to the US Post Office; A rally will be held on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre on October 25th
- Joel Wilkinson, Curriculum Director for the Wyoming Valley Montessori School is interested in working with EPCAMR to provide some educational programs to the students of the school in the Fall 2008 and possibly beyond; Working to set up a meeting with him in the early Fall 2008 to discuss
- Working with Carly to develop a small \$2000 educational mini-grant through the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority to buy materials and supplies to make EPCAMR Chalk with children in schools
- Meeting with Tim Ference-Friends of the Nescopeck and Kat Krulak, OSM/VISTA for the FON to introduce her to EPCAMR and to certify her in AMD Monitoring
- Interviewed by Stacy Bouchard-ACCWT about how EPCAMR works with multiple levels of government to successfully complete community-based AMD/AML Projects throughout the Anthracite Region
- Meeting with Rayne Brown, a first year student, and Professor Brooke Yeager-LCCC; Rayne is interested in an internship with EPCAMR; EPCAMR is assisting her with working through her Work Study Office at LCCC to see if she can qualify for financial aid

- EPCAMR Staff and FON OSM/VISTA Kat Krulack went on a field excursion to locate a half dozen points that were GPS located into one of Hazleton Area School District's GPS Units that was funded under a PA DEP EE Grant supported by EPCAMR; EPCAMR Staff will be taken **30** 7<sup>th</sup> grade students out 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
- Prepared Letters of Invitation with Carly to go out to all legislators within the Luzerne-Lackawanna County area of EPCAMR Region to invite them to the Scranton Area Foundation Awards Reception on October 2, in Wilkes-Barre, where EPCAMR will be receiving a small grant award of **\$1619** towards the costumes designs and the development of environmental skits related to abandoned mine reclamation and our **AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse Activity Book** for elementary-aged students

### Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Executive Director led a second conference call with OSM's Title IV GeoSpatial Team Sub-group, 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 will be presented in late October at a National GSDC Meeting
- Worked on completing the Form 1023 Application for Non-Profit Status for the Anthracite Living History Group
- Provided SRBC with the websites of the two largest circulating papers in the Wyoming Valley to assist them with publicizing the Newport Creek TMDL Public Mtg on October 7th
- EPCAMR Executive Director applied for a **\$15,000** Center for Watershed Protection Mini-Grant to conduct municipal demonstration projects that would encourage stormwater BMPs being used in abandoned mine land impacted communities as opposed to encouraging infiltration into the mine pools
- EPCAMR Staff introduced Chris Gillis to Jon Dietz, Dietz-Gourley Consulting to see the AIS (Activated Iron Sludge) AMD Treatment System in the Shamokin Creek Watershed at the Scott Overflow
- Provided a Letter of Support for Marywood University's **\$161,000** Grant Proposal to Monroe County PA DCED to reclaim AML land owned by Marywood that would incorporate environmental art into the landscape
- Applied to ACCWT for an EPA Computer Recycled Lap Top for EPCAMR and was awarded it within a week by Luke Elser because of our support of the ACCWT and the OSM/VISTAs in the Anthracite Heritage Alliance

## **Project Coordination**

- Revised the Landowner Agreement language from a model PA DEP Agreement for the Newport Creek, Honey Pot AMD discharge design project that was submitted to PA DEP Growing Greener in partnership with SRBC; Provided the final revised document to Dave Labenski-Land Manager for Susquehanna Coal Company, who owns the land and is a supporter of the previously submitted proposal and Tom Clarke-SRBC AMD Coordinator
- Reviewing files for contract information related to PEC/EPCAMR Agreement for work related to the Catawissa Creek RCP

## **Conferences and Trainings**

- Participated in a conference call with the PA DEP-Bureau of Mineral Resources Deputy Secretary J. Scott Roberts to discuss EPCAMR/WPCAMR positions on the use and suggestions for the implementation and eventual release of the 30% Set Aside Funds for AMD remediation
- Registered to attend the 2008 PA Brownfields Conference on October 1 & 2nd 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
- Asked Ryan Koch, Pocono NE RC & DC to participate as a member of the State-wide AMR Conference Planning Committee for 2009; Ryan gladly accepted
- Singed up with [www.freeconferencecall.com](http://www.freeconferencecall.com) for future 2009 AMR Conference Planning Committee calls to coordinate next year's planning of the 11th Annual AMR Conference
- EPCAMR Staff met with Kathleen Ragley-Conference Planner at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, to see the facilities, Living Learning Center, and housing accommodations on campus for the 2009 PA AMR Conference, which tentatively has been set for July 13-16<sup>th</sup>, until further Conference Planning Committee meetings are held; Provided summary details to the full AMR Conference Planning Committee
- Attended the Greater Hazleton Area and Schuylkill County Energy Forum to discuss renewable energy options with PPL and other partners that might involve abandoned mine lands for alternative land uses such as wind generation facility sites, production of biofuels (switch grass), reuse of abandoned mine pool water for economic redevelopment
- Attended the Mid-Atlantic RC & DC Annual Conference as an appointed delegate by the Pocono NE RC & DC to exhibit and talk about our resource recovery efforts with mine drainage

## **Conservation District Communications**

- Mike-nominated Mike as the At-Large Pocono NE RC & DC member from Luzerne Cty
- Provided the Pocono NE RC & DC a summary report of my attendance, tour coordination with Ryan, and actions that were taken at the Annual Mtg of the State Association of RC & DC, held in Bloomsburg, PA

- Informed Peter Lane, ICL that EPCAMR will have to take up the proposal for the Strategic Planning effort at our Fall Meeting for further discussion since the quote is above what our grant could cover; A second proposal by Jennifer Handke will also be presented, which is also just a bit more than the grant funds that EPCAMR has secured through a grant from the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Both proposals were distributed to the EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee
- Completed and submitted August 2008 LCD/EPCAMR Board Report; Met with Josh to review 319 Reimbursement for July and August 2008 prior to submitting since the merit raise went into affect and changed some of the hourly rates
- Worked with Mike to poll EPCAMR Board members about planning the Fall 2008 Quarterly Meeting; It was decided to hold it on November 12 in Hazleton, PA at the Perkins
- Talked with John Orr-Dauphin CCD about issues that they are having with the land ownership of the Bear Creek Phase II AMD Remediation Project; PGC doesn't want to accept the 45 acres that will include the OM & R for the Phase II Treatment System; Topic will be brought up at the Fall 2008 EPCAMR Board Meeting for further discussion
- Prepared a draft Travel & Per Diem Policy for review by the EPCAMR Board at the upcoming November 12, 2008 Meeting since there is no travel budget in FY08-09 grant

### Community Cleanups on AML

- Worked with a freelance reporter for the Citizens Voice to get an article submitted in the newspaper for an upcoming Cleanup at the Lackawanna State Forest Tract, Plymouth Township, Mizdail Road, and Avondale Hill in partnership with PA Cleanways and PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
- Followed up with PA DEP to determine when our Keep PA Beautiful Grant Beautification Award for the Avondale AML Site Reclamation Project will be distributed
- Participated in the Lackawanna State Forest Cleanup on Avondale Hill, Mizdail Road Cleanup with our partners, PA DCNR, LCCC Science Club, and PA Cleanways; **13.7** Tons of trash were removed; **145** tires were picked up and **16** volunteers attended the event



**Picture 1.**



**Picture 2.**

**Cleanup Crew at the Lackawanna State Forest Tract on Avondale Hill (Picture 1)**

**Robert & Carly at the Anthracite Heritage & Bluegrass Festival in**

**Jim Thorpe at Mauch Chunk Lake Park conducting an AMD Tie Dye Workshop (Picture 2)**