

# EPCAMR



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September 2010 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Assisted with the editing of WPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Anne Daymut's, "The Formation of AMD" Video that we are jointly working on to provide to the US EPA Region III as a part of our PA DEP Section 319 Work Plan; Began making edits and comments on the guide book that the EPCAMR Staff is creating as a compendium booklet that will go along with the DVD
- EPCAMR Executive Director was a guest speaker on the importance of Growing Greener to our organization and those that work in our Coalition by Joy Tetlak-Adelstein-Northeastern PA Outreach Coordinator-Citizens for PA's Future (PennFuture); EPCAMR discussed the importance of understanding our underground hydrogeology of the Coal Region before we decide to drop wells all over the place; EPCAMR shared some thoughtful insight on our underground mine pool mapping initiative that we are undertaking currently to highlight the importance and potential re-use and resource recovery of abandoned mine drainage; EPCAMR is in support of the severance tax and that there be a dedicated interest in where some of these funds should go under the Environmental Stewardship Fund in partnership with our Conservation Districts; EPCAMR funding for our organization is also vital to continue the reclamation of abandoned mine lands, remediation of streams and rivers impacted by AMD, and to further the economic redevelopment potential of the reuse of underground abandoned mine pools throughout PA; EPCAMR is in the process of working with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission on completing an Anthracite Region AMD Strategy that will be addressing mine discharges and the potential underground mine pool storage capacities for future low flow augmentation and industrial reuse by economic developers and industries that might be in need of water; EPCAMR has been working in AMD for 15 years and have been providing support to local community groups, Conservation Districts, municipalities, and other regional non-profits that need technical assistance on AMD issues, reclamation issues, environmental education, and watershed restoration and improvement projects
- EPCAMR Executive Director attended PEC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony in Harrisburg, PA at the Garden Club, along the Susquehanna River, and was one of PEC's 40 Under 40 Award Winners for his public service to the environmental community in Northeastern PA surrounding the work of EPCAMR on abandoned mine lands, environmental education, and AMD remediation efforts; Prepared and completed a Press Release on the Award (*See attached Press Release*)
- Richard S. Chervenitski, Producer of ( [www.NEPADigital.com](http://www.NEPADigital.com) ) and ( <http://nepacrossroads.com/> ) would like to set up a Fall half-hour talk show on EPCAMR's work in the Region; EPCAMR Executive Director responded to his request and asked for him to work with us on scheduling a date in the early Fall 2010

- Registered EPCAMR Staff and OSM/VISTA for upcoming Fall Training being provided by the ACCWT; EPCAMR to lead a 2.5 hour training on “**How to read Topographic Maps, GIS Maps, and Symbology**” for OSM/VISTAs
- Scheduled a Fall Field Trip with Dallas Area High School Seniors for October 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Wyoming Valley to take them to the Dundee Wetlands to teach them about AMD Treatment and Monitoring; **27** students will be a part of the tour and program set up by JoAnn McAllister-Senior Science Teacher
- PPL continues to look for new ways to partner with school districts in the communities where we live and work; Alana Roberts, Community Relations Specialist, informed EPCAMR about some upcoming opportunities for schools and non-profit partners, near PPL facilities; PPL's Project Earth Environmental Education Grants Program awards up to \$5,000 to schools for projects that enhance established classroom curricula and academic standards, or support extracurricular activities of school organizations and clubs; EPCAMR Executive Director passed along the information to our OSM/VISTA for her to follow up on some contacts with a local elementary school in Wilkes-Barre to see if they are interested in partnering with us on a proposal
- Informed Jenn Callahan, Material Matters, Inc. that EPCAMR is in support of the beneficial use of Class A Biosolids as a soil amendment for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands as long as there is a groundwater monitoring program in place to determine whether or not any off-site impacts are related to the project; There is a shortage of topsoil on most abandoned mines and overburden material just does not give you the proper soil amendment properties that will encourage the revegetation of the land properly; EPCAMR has participated in and witnessed tours and scientific data supporting the outstanding growth of various grasses, legumes, and trees such as hybrid poplars on abandoned mine reclamation project sites to know that the biosolids does wonders for wildlife, wildlife habitat, vegetative ground cover, reducing runoff, and improving the aesthetic value of the land that once was barren and causing more harm than good as abandoned rock spoil that had the potential to create acid mine drainage runoff or soil erosion and sedimentation, if it were not for the application of biosolids
- Worked with EPCAMR OSM/VISTA, Wren to complete a newly created brochure on EPCAMR's Environmental Education Mine Drainage Menu of programs that we will be offering to schools, camps, nature camps, environmental fairs, and other groups that are interested in having EPCAMR provide workshops either at their schools or in the field;

## Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR's staff attended the 3-Day OSM TIPS Earth Vision 2D & 3D Modeling Training in Pittsburgh; Downloaded several tools, applications, and programs provided to EPCAMR from OSM; Prepared and completed a Press Release on the Training (*See attached Press Release*)
- Worked with Ray Clarke-Huber Breaker Preservation Society to enter the organization's financial records from the “Buy A Brick” Campaign into an accounting system on Excel for the group to easily track the donations and number of pavers solid towards the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial for the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields

- EPCAMR Executive Director passed along to Staff and our Board President some very interesting technical information from a concerned citizen who is very knowledgeable on the topic of the invasive Japanese knotweed plant; EPCAMR Executive Director thanked Mr. Tom Hydock, for his insight and research and field application knowledge of the infamous invasive plant that we are all too aware of; The information was provided to us based on a call for volunteers on EPCAMR's FaceBook networking site to assist us with clearing a line of site from the Old Forge borehole catwalk area down to the actual overflow of the mine discharge just to get a better access point for future monitoring of the site; We were only trying to opening things up temporarily to be able to get in there to monitor the discharge
- Worked with Wren-EPCAMR's OSM/VISTA to prepare and submit a Pepsi Challenge grant in the amount of **\$2000** on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- At the request of Sarah Sergeant, Project Director- Audubon PA, EPCAMR provided the organization with a GIS layer of AMD impacted streams for PA that was overlain with their Important Bird boundary Areas (IBA Boundary Layer)
- EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed, acknowledged, and supported the Lackawanna River Corridor Association's application to the Growing Greener Grants Center for the reclamation and stabilization of the riverfront property of Misty Ridge, along the Lackawanna River in Old Forge, PA; The area is the site of the former Misty Ridge Anthracite Mining Colliery and brownfield that contributes a significant amount of coal silt and sedimentation from the site to the Lackawanna River
- Prepared a Letter of Support for EMARR's Nescopeck/Little Nescopeck Creek Restoration Master Plan
- Informed the Huber Breaker Preservation Society President-Bill Best that the ( [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) ) website had been transferred over and revamped in WordPress by Mr. Bill Franz and improved from the previous version of the online website
- Completed a survey for Rachel Boothby, Outreach Coordinator-Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership- Ridgway, CO an OSM/VISTA on "Determining Watershed Success"
- Provided Eileen Cipriani-Exeter Councilwoman with a follow up response to her questions related to the Marcellus Shale drilling in the area; It was a difficult question to answer that is very complex, based on the underground mining geology and hydrogeology alone; Marcellus Shale is thousands of feet down and has to be grouted and encased in pipe that goes out horizontally once it is at the depth necessary to find the pockets of natural gas; More than a mile beneath parts of Pennsylvania lies a mostly untapped reservoir of natural gas. Geologists and energy companies have known for decades about the gas in the Marcellus Shale, but only recently have figured out a way to extract it from the thick black rock about 6,000 feet underground.

- Now gas drillers are leasing local land - more than 25,000 acres in Luzerne County alone - in an attempt to find and remove the gas, the value of which increases as energy prices soar; This lease is the closest one to West Wyoming. There are no leases in West Wyoming.  
<http://www.wbpub.com/scgi-bin/gas2.pl> --Here is the searchable database for Luzerne County Here are the HOT TOPICS links of all sorts on the Times-Leader website  
<http://www.timesleader.com/news/hottopics/shale>
- Informed by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation that our grant proposal submitted under the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund's Small Watershed Grants program entitled **Anthracite Area AMD Monitoring & Mine Pool Mapping Strategy** was not funded in the current round
- Provided our OSM/VISTA Wren with a copy of our AMD Anthrascapes Artists to see if they can connect her to a local potter who might be interested in utilizing our iron oxide in their pottery and sharing a percentage of the proceeds with EPCAMR
- Forwarded to the EPCAMR Staff some new 2009 poverty and income data from the Census Bureau that EPCAMR will be able to get by county, city, and congressional district, as well as racial/ethnic breakdowns and lots more ( <http://www.chn.org/issues/statistics/povertyday2010.html> )
- Provided Karl Borton from Borton Lawson Engineering with our EPCAMR Logo since we have been considered a major sponsor of the 2010 CHALKFEST on the River Common in Wilkes-Barre along the Susquehanna River; EPCAMR will be making AMD Tie Dyes for kids and iron oxide chalk that will be provided for free to area youth who will be participating in a large mural project on the concrete amphitheatre along the River

## Project Coordination

- Worked on and completed a **Mine Pool Mapping Project** Progress Report and Reimbursement
- Sent around a grant application submittal idea to EPCAMR Staff from Planet Action, an organization that provides national high resolution imagery GIS data layers and photography to non-profits; Planet Action donates satellite imagery, geographic information and technology support to local projects that investigate and assess water resources, forestry, or awareness raising; Seeking a review of the selection criteria to see if it's worth the time and effort to submit a proposal; ( <http://www.planet-action.org/> )
- Provided the Narrative Progress Report2 to the PA DE-Bureau of Waste Management as a final Report on the tracking of all of our reimbursements and monthly progress on the **Illegal Dump Site Cleanups Grant Project**
- Reviewed two of ten current conditions maps from Tom Clark, SRBC AMD Coordinator of the worst segments of streams in the Western Middle Coal Fields for pH and Iron parameters only, based on water quality data compiled by EPCAMR and the SRBC from various sources as a part of the development of an **Anthracite AMD Remediation Strategy** for the Susquehanna River Basin

- EPCAMR Executive Director learned from Dauphin County Conservation District Manager, John Orr that it appears as if the Phase II work at Bear Creek will not happen; The owners of the land needed for construction of the treatment ponds have changed their minds by indicating that they do not wish to sell the land; Without the land, we have no project. This is depressing with all the work that has been spent on the project since we spent so much time and effort on the Phase I Completion in the Bear Creek subwatershed of the Wiconisco Creek
- Reviewed and commented on ARIPPA's draft Press Release regarding the **\$20,000** combined donation to the Coalitions that both of our organizations have granted out through a mini-grant program to groups in our region to leverage additional grant funds for AML-related projects

## Conference Coordination

- Set up the EPCAMR Conference Room for presentations and allowed PA DEP BAMR to borrow our LCD Project, LapTop, and Screen, that were a part of the NAAMLCP Conference that was being held in Scranton, PA; EPCAMR Staff were not able to present at the Conference due to lack of funds to cover the costs of the exorbitant registration costs, however our presentation still made it on the thumb drives that were distributed to all conference attendees; EPCAMR had waited for an answer from the PA DEP BAMR in Harrisburg about a waiver on the Conference Registration Fees and didn't get one at all up until the Conference
- Provided Kara Blaylog, the new Program Coordinator of the Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable. Information about the State of the Region Roundtable event they are planning for March 2011; It is our goal, through this conference, to create a model of relationship and consensus-building among stakeholders in balancing the demand for energy development and the need for clean water at this conference; The State of the Region Roundtable is the first step in developing lasting relationships among the people and organizations who depend on and impact water quality. These relationships will foster interdisciplinary strategies to meet the demand for energy and improved water quality with the understanding that both are critical to the sustainable development of our communities, the conservation and protection of natural resources, and economic growth throughout Appalachia and the eastern coal fields; ECRR have identified stakeholders under 5 broad categories, representing the energy industry, watershed non-profit groups, policy makers, governmental agencies (EPA, DEP, etc), and academia; They are currently work in 7 Appalachian states: Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Ohio and are looking forward to having people from each of these states; In order to have a successful conversations, they must have those people most relevant to the conversation of energy and water quality, and they must have people willing to work across the aisle with people they may not agree with; Consequently, they are being very careful in developing our invite lists; As the Executive Director of a well established watershed-based group in Pennsylvania, EPCAMR was asked to identify those people in PA who would bring the most to this conversation; They would like to begin speaking with the relevant stakeholders in PA to gauge interest, and find out what topics they are most interested in speaking about at this State of the Region Roundtable; EPCAMR provided topics that we would find helpful to discuss with business, government and academia

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's checking account with QuickBooks
- Sought free technical strategic planning assistance from Penn State Cooperative Extension Coordinators from around the EPCAMR Region to see if anyone could assist the EPCAMR Board with going through a brainstorming strategic planning session at our regularly scheduled Board Meeting
- Downloaded a free e-book from and passed it along to Mike for us to review and see if we can make some minor changes to our website to improve traffic and reduce navigation time that will make our homepage and website more user friendly; "Fire the Web Committee!"  
( <http://www.spinweb.net/ftwcdl> )
- Passed on an article to the EPCAMR Board and our membership on Governing vs Guiding Boards from a CEO's perspective
- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for August 2010
- Assisted Mike with transferring our EPCAMR Websites over to [www.HostGator.com](http://www.HostGator.com)



Some of EPCAMR's "AMD Avengers and Pollution Posse" Characters" at the shooting of the EPCAMR/WPCAMR Film-  
***The Formation of AMD***