

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes

EPCAMR Executive Director

101 S. Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org

www.epcamr.org

September 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Contacted by Peter Cameron, News Reporter for the Citizen's Voice newspaper who was looking for environmental stories to cover; EPCAMR provided him with briefs on many of our projects and he planned to follow up; He forwarded EPCAMR the Citizen's Voice's new Environmental Beat News Reporter, Brendan Gibbons, who also followed up with EPCAMR and prepared a large story on our Mine Map Grant project and our underground mine mapping initiative throughout the Anthracite Coal Region; <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/into-the-void-mapping-abandoned-mines-in-3d-1.1560241>
- EPCAMR signed on to a Choose Clean Water Coalition letter to the US EPA regarding the Agency's purview to exercise its "residual designation authority" to require stormwater control permits
- Worked with David Svab, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern to compile hotlinks to resources, reference books, and other important documents that will eventually become a part of the Non-Formal EE Certification Program being led by PAEE; Forwarded dozens of links to the Chair of the WorkGroup for inclusion in the program brochure and on the PAEE website
- EPCAMR Staff presented at the NAAML 2013 Conference in W. Virginia and at the PA DEP Hydrogeologists Training Program held at King's Gap Environmental Education Center, in southeastern PA to over **30** Professional Geologists from across PA on our Mine Pool Mapping, work in the Lackawanna, work in the southern Anthracite Coal Fields, 3D Modeling of the Anthracite Region's underground mines and mine pools, and our more recent underground mine mapping initiative
- EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern, David Svab and the EPCAMR Executive Director conducted several 'Critters of the Creek' environmental education presentations at Camp Kresge, White Haven, PA for the annual EarthFest, hosted by the Bear Creek Charter Elementary School; **460** students were present and EPCAMR is invited to participate every year

Technical Assistance

- Forwarded an updated US Census Congressional Districts Map that could assist us when writing grants; http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/reference-cd113.html?eml=gd&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Technical Assistance

- Provided the Earth Conservancy with any and all available flow data that EPCAMR has on the Askam AMD Borehole, in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA to assist them with determining their potential electric costs for the Maelstrom Oxidizer that they will be installing at the future Askam Borehole AMD Wetlands Treatment System
- Gilberton and Girard Multi-Colliery Unit mining information (-mine water flow paths-tunnels-discharges-barrier pillars-Geology – Buck Mountain structure contours, synclines/anticlines, and faults-pumping plants) was requested by Joe Sassaman, Geologist Specialist for the PA DEP, BAMR Office in Harrisburg; As soon as Mike can find some down time to fulfill Joe's request, EPCAMR will provide the information that was requested in this area
- Reached out to Brian Taylor-CEO of Taylor Alternative Energy, Inc., who is interested in touring the Anthracite Region to look at large flow AMD discharges that might be conducive to his treatment technologies
- The Federal government "Shutdown" has left EPCAMR without a license to utilize EarthVision and an ArcGIS license to continue some of our mine mapping, digitizing, and geo-referencing work; OSM had informed all TIPS Users of the dilemma via e-mail before being furloughed temporarily from their work

Project Coordination

- Worked with Olde Mill Impressions to provide the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with the full order that was placed for the pavers and other supplies for the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park Project** and to place a second paver order
- Reviewed Jim Wetzel's data obtained for the last 5 months from the AMD monitoring points in the Hazle Creek Watershed for the **Hazle Creek AMD Monitoring Project**
- Worked with Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist to coordinate a **40** volunteer student work crew on October 17th to plant trees at the **Nockley's Stream Restoration Project** Site in Hanover Twp. and Wilkes-Barre; The students are a part of the Watershed Program coordinated by our partner and friend, Diane Madl, Environmental Education Specialist for the PA DCNR Hickory Run State Park Complex/Nescopeck State Park; Purchased a bunch of small shovels to plant the seedlings and plants under the PA American Water grant; Provided pictures to the WVSA and the Township Engineer for Hanover Township, (Reilly Engineering) for further investigation of a completely washed out area over a main sewer line at the confluence of where Nockley's Tributary enters Solomon Creek that would potentially be compromised should too much water come through this area or the terra cotta pipe breaks or collapses
- EPCAMR Executive Director and Watershed Outreach Intern, David Svab spent an entire week in the field performing restoration work, stream cleanups, tire removal, and removal of woody debris blockages in the Solomon Creek Watershed on Dead End Creek, Spring Run, Sulphur Run, Sugar Notch Run, and Nockley's Tributary; Coordinated a large weekend cleanup effort on September 21st, 2013 with 7 youth volunteers from the Nanticoke Jr. Trojans Football Team and an additional 7 adult community service volunteers; 25 tires were removed and 2.5 Tons of trash were collected in 3 hours on the 21st alone
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Project Coordination

- Convened a Conference Call with the California District Mining Office and PA DEP BAMR to review procedures on how to proceed with the **MSI Mine Map Grant** and prioritize our workload in regards to scanning, geo-referencing, and digitizing; Our Project Officer, Jim Charowsky, sent along our reimbursement form, Inventory Control forms, and Progress Reporting forms; EPCAMR Staff are waiting on approvals from the PA DEP IT Department to be able to input attribute data into the PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS); EPCAMR Staff signed and mailed hard copies of documents that we needed to sign that were internal Management Directives from the PA DEP before we can gain access to the intranet
- EPCAMR was informed by our Project Officer for the **Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** that the Grants Center couldn't locate our extension letter; EPCAMR resubmitted the letter to the PA DEP and the Grants Center in Harrisburg, PA to obtain our official approval process for the extension until June 30, 2014; We are ready to work with Exeter Borough to fill out the Initial Joint Permit Application to have it submitted to the PA DEP for review and we have to complete a few of the Enclosures that go along with the JP; We also have to make contact with the PA DOT Regional Office about access to the Creek; The Grant Center approved the request on September 12, 2013 and forwarded it on to the Comptroller's Office of Budget for final approval before we can continue working on the project; Both EPCAMR and Skelly & Loy have been stalled by not having the official extension letter beyond the June 30, 2013 deadline on project
- Communicated with Brent Means-OSM and Tom Clark-SRBC to provide water quality data and a request for Brent to come to the Old Forge AMD Borehole to run some field tests on the potential for a Hydrogen Peroxide AMD Treatment Plant; Brent will be coming up to the Anthracite Region on October 30th for a tour and visit to the site to run tests; Provided Bernie McGurl-LRCA with a breakdown on the EPCAMR Budget Estimate on our letterhead for the **\$23,500** over **2** years that was submitted with the CFA Proposal to look at Old Forge AMD Borehole and land acquisition and a tentative scope of work responsibilities that we'll be undertaking, if funded
- Conducted stream restoration projects, tire and trash removal, and woody debris removal efforts on Dead End Creek, Sulfur Run, Spring Run, Sugar Notch Run with David Svab and Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist under the **PA American Water** grant in the Solomon Creek Watershed

Conference Coordination

- Worked with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR Watershed Coordinator to complete the survey questionnaire that the PA AMR Conference Committee will be sending out to Conservation District Watershed Specialists and our Conference Mailing List to figure out how we can increase attendance in 2014
- EPCAMR Staff were able to receive a 50% discounted registration to attend the **2013 National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Program (NAAML P) Conference** in Glade Springs, WV, where we were selected to present on our 3D Mine Mapping Efforts in the Anthracite Region and the work on the Lackawanna River Mine Pools connected to the Old Forge Borehole; EPCAMR was the only non-profit organization selected to present at the 2013 Conference due to the highly technical skilled and innovative nature of our GIS and modeling work that is not being done anywhere else in the country, quite like we are doing it

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Nicholas Williams is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and submitted his form for review
- Shifa Hyat, an international volunteer from Canada, had an interest in looking into whether or not Canada would work with EPCAMR on some time of development research effort on the reuse of iron oxides in AMD; EPCAMR Executive Director directed Mr. Hyat to look into Canadian government sources to see if they would work collaboratively with EPCAMR
- A local Naval Reservist Group, led by Karen Burke, contacted EPCAMR to provide some community service to our Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration Project; 4 Reservists assisted us with removing tires that were deeply rooted within the stream bed of the tributary to Solomon Creek on a Sunday morning in September
- Provided a letter of recommendation for Robert Ide, an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer from the Exeter area that he'll be submitting as a part of his transcripts to area graduate schools that he is applying for
- Jill Mayo, EPCAMR Grey Literature Researcher, has created a Microsoft Access 2010 database for all of the references that she has been adding to a comprehensive data file in Excel and forwarded us a working copy
- Conducted an Upper Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration Cleanup with **14** volunteers, **7** of which, were youth football players from the Nanticoke Jr. Trojans; Removed **28** tires and **2.5** Tons of debris in **3** hours

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Set up a Grainger Account for EPCAMR (www.grainger.com)
- Matthew Sowcik, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies & Director of Leadership Education at Wilkes University asked the EPCAMR Executive Director to participate in a Leadership Development Session on October 23, 2013 at Wilkes University to benefit the students and to provide EPCAMR with a 360 degree Leadership Assessment Survey
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared an updated proposal and scope of work that was revised and submitted to the **PA DEP 319 Program** for **\$250,000** over **2** years beginning in October of 2014 that would carry us through September 30, 2016, pending funding secured from the Clean Water Act dispersed by the US EPA Region 3
- Created the job descriptions for the part-time GIS Technicians and GIS Specialist position under the MSI Grant; Provided Kelsey Biondo, Bridgette Robinson, and Justyna Sacharzewska a copy of each; Forwarded a copy of the descriptions to our Project Officer, Jim Charowsky
- Created a job description for the part-time EPCAMR Bookkeeper and posted it to the EPCAMR website, our Social Media site on FaceBook, and sent it along to our personal contacts to see if we can obtain resumes to fill the position
- EPCAMR Executive Director has renewed the EPCAMR Staff Health Care Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield into the current rate for the next two years as a locked in rate due to the anticipated increases that would be unavoidable under the new Affordable Health Care Act that goes into effect on October 1, 2013; All small businesses were expected to take a hit in their premiums early on in this new health care structure, if they didn't renew their current agreements until some stability and certainty is developed under the new law