

# EPCAMR



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## September 2006 Monthly Report

### Luzerne County Highlights

- Prepared and invited **13** legislators within Luzerne and Lackawanna County to attend an awards presentation being conducted by the Scranton Area Foundation and the PA Council on the Arts; EPCAMR received a **\$1520** grant to purchase art supplies that will be utilized in classrooms during educational presentations on the use of iron oxide from mine drainage as a pigment
- Reviewed a USGS Water Resources Scientific Investigation Report on AMD in the Newport and Nanticoke Creek Watersheds as a peer reviewer and provided comments back to the USGS
- Completed a press release inviting the news media and public to attend a community celebration on Avondale Hill, Plymouth Township on 9-17-06 to mark the near completion of the Avondale Hill AML Industrial Art Project and Community Garden; **75** community members showed up for the community cook-out
- Investigated and assessed an illegal dumping site in Exeter Borough, Hicks Creek Watershed, with members of the Hicks Creek Watershed Association; Aaron Szwast, an Eagle Scout, is planning on leading a cleanup effort at the site in October 2006 and will be organizing volunteers from the Wyoming Area School District as a senior community service project; Cleanup will be a part of the COALS Program within PA DEP
- Meeting was held with Joe Wade, Wade Financial Group, and an investor from Illinois who was interested in touring waste coal piles in Luzerne County; conducted a tour of several waste coal piles
- Meeting was held with a representative from Global Energy Resources, from Alabama who was also interested in touring waste coal piles in Luzerne County; Conducted a tour of several waste coal piles
- EPCAMR Program Staff attended the Scranton Area Foundation, PA Council on the Arts Award Presentation at the Lackawanna Radisson Hotel, Scranton to receive our **\$1520** grant award to assist our program with purchasing art supplies for our iron oxide awareness in art program within the school system; State Representative Jim Wanszac was able to attend and present the checks
- Provided the Luzerne Conservation District with fundraising ideas from the EPCAMR Program for the anticipated March 2007 Annual Banquet and District Fundraiser
- EPCAMR received the fully executed PA Fish & Boat Commission grant agreement for the **\$3300** that will be used to take urban youth on AMD Watershed Tours and a fishing derby in Luzerne County
- Conducted a site visit with Commission Steve Urban to the Newport Township AML site located on the Penobscot Mountain Rail Trail and along Newport Creek, Kirmar Parkway, that received extensive flooding damages caused by the June 2006 rains; Spoke with several local residents and will be looking into the OSM

Clean Streams Initiative for potential funding for a stream restoration project on a tributary to the Newport Creek that is causing some of the flooding problems due to channel alteration from past mining

- Attended the COALS Kick-off Media Presentation in Avoca Borough, Luzerne County with PA DEP Secretary Katie McGinty at the future site of the HOPE Church; an 11 acre AML site is currently undergoing some much needed cleanup and reclamation that was assisted by EPCAMR, the Luzerne Conservation District, and the COALS Program
- Conducted an AMD Watershed Tour and Iron Oxide Fall Harvest Trip around the Southern Wyoming Valley with 25 art students and several teachers and artists from Keystone College under the direction of Professor Judith Keats; Professor Keat's mixed media art class will be using iron oxide collected on the tour for their entire semester and incorporating their works of art into the planned Spring 2007 Anthrascapes Art Exhibit in the Scranton Area at the AfA Gallery
- Coordinated with PAEE Steering Committee on continual planning efforts to convene the 2007 PAEE State-wide Conference that will be held in downtown Wilkes-Barre

### **EPCAMR Region Highlights**

- Conducted a phone interview with Erik Hoffner-Editorialist and writer for the Nationally-acclaimed environmental magazine-ORION; EPCAMR will be featured in its Fall 2006 edition on some of the capacity building and coalition building efforts that we provide as services to Appalachian Coalfield Communities in Northeastern PA
- EPCAMR Staff set-up, manned, and conducted outreach efforts in shifts at the annual Bloomsburg Fair, Columbia County from September 23-September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye AMD Educational Workshop with 94 1<sup>st</sup> grade students from the Blue Ridge Elementary School, Susquehanna County, at the request of a teacher, who happens to be a member of the AfA (Association for the Arts), who has also created a few pieces of artwork for a future show in the Scranton Area at the AfA Gallery in downtown Scranton
- Meeting with Carol Gargon-Art Professor at Keystone College, who is interested in having her art students get involved in a community art project along the Lackawanna River, near Taylor, in partnership with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association; She was seeking ideas on how to incorporate iron oxide into the project which involves the construction of a labyrinth-like trail within the floodplain of the Lackawanna River
- Attended a Projects Committee Meeting of the Pocono NE RC & DC, Bloomsburg, Columbia County to update the Area Plan that Ryan Koch, RC & DC Coordinator and the Council will adopt at its upcoming annual meeting on 10-6-06
- Provided input for continued planning for the 2007 Mid-Atlantic Association of RC & DC Regional Conference in Hershey, PA in coordination with Susan Parry, Capital Region RC & DC Coordinator
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is planning on a 2-day watershed Conference in State College, in February 2007, under the direction of Matt Royer on tributary watershed issues and requested that EPCAMR provide some technical assistance in planning the conference