

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
EPCAMR Executive Director
101 S. Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org
www.epcamr.org

September 2011 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Peter Fox, an avid amateur historian from the Harrisburg area is interested in touring the Huber Breaker; Forwarded his contact information to Bill Best-President of the HBPS; Talked with Jake Pacer-an Acquisition Consultant from Cherokee Capital LLC, who was interested in possibly purchasing the Huber Breaker, salvaging the material, and then donating the site back to the community
- Meeting with Paula Longo-Environmental Education Teacher for the Bear Creek Charter Elementary School to discuss outdoor environmental education programming and field trips for the Elementary School
- Created an EPCAMR Press Release on the ARIPPA EPCAMR Awards to the three grant recipients: Schuylkill Headwaters (\$3000), EMARR (\$1000), and the HBPS (\$1000) that leveraged over \$160,000 in matching funds; <http://epcamr.org/home/2011/epcamr-awards-5000-in-community-grants-to-regional-projects-throughout-the-anthracite-region-supporting-abandoned-mine-land-reclamation-in-partnership-with-the-anthracite-region-independent-power-pro/>
- Provided Stephanie DeBalko and her photographer from *THE WEEKENDER Magazine* with an AMD Tour of the Wyoming Valley to explain to them EPCAMR's work on recovering the iron oxide for purposeful uses and recycling of the iron oxide for multiple resource recovery efforts; The magazine intends on making it a COVER STORY for EPCAMR; http://www.theweekender.com/cover/Ultimate_recycling_10-11-2011.html
- Worked with Mike Corcoran from W-B Area SD to set up some outdoor environmental education experiences with the Heights Elementary 4th Grade Class in mid-October for a total of 85 students to participate in the same program as the 5th Grade Classes did from W-B Area under the EPCAMR *PA F & BC "Tree Trout" Grant* and the W-B Area SD *PPL Mini-Education Grant*
- Coordinating setting up a meeting with Kate Gibbons-Outreach Coordinator for the NE for PennFuture
- Committed EPCAMR to being a member of the Environmental Education Working Group for PAEE who is working with the NAEE to certify PA Non-Formal Educators; EPCAMR will likely be one of the first regional non-profit organizations to become a Nationally Certified Environmental Education Organization along with our Staff

Technical Assistance

- Meeting with John Dawes Consulting, LLC about developing EPCAMR's updated marketing plan through their CreateAThon community service program
- Informed by Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator that the OSM Applied Science grants have been cancelled for fiscal year 2012 and are not guarantees for 2013 due to budget cuts; EPCAMR had intended to use this source of funding to propose our project to install additional pressure transducers in many of the boreholes throughout the Anthracite Region to get constant long-term readings of both, pressure, elevation, and velocity
- Met with Tom Barnard and Brian Nabereznay-The Institute for Energy & Environmental Research at Wilkes University to provide him and his staff with information on potential areas to install a continuous flow monitor on the S. Branch of Mehoopany Creek
- Worked with Tom Clark-SRBC and Mike Hewitt to develop an Excel Sheet Flow Calculator for determining AMD flows across several types of weirs, pipes, or channel cross-sections
- Worked with Elaine DiNome and Mick Kuhns from OSM to be able to secure surplus Federal Equipment and Supplies from the W-B OSM Office as they begin to close it down prior to this Winter 2011; Prepared a Memo to her informing her of the type of equipment that we could use for our purposes as well items that might assist us with our TIPS work with OSM
- Talked with Charlie McGarrel-PA Fish & Boat Commission about some of the water quality associated with Carbon Run in the Shamokin Creek Watershed and the recent release of trout fingerlings into it by Habitat 4 Wildlife and the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance; They would like to electro-shock the stream in the Spring and were wondering about the possibilities of the trout holding over until then; EPCAMR provided the PA F & BC with our assessment of that possibility and whether or not it was feasible to electro-shock and we agreed that it would be a good idea
- Provided West Wyoming Borough some detailed investigative analyses for the abandoned mine land areas around W. Brady Street and forwarded our summary of our findings to the Council and the PA DEP BAMR to see if they could provide any further assistance to the landowners in that area that are experiencing flooding issues from an overflowing small stripping pit into their backyard coming off the mountain

Project Coordination

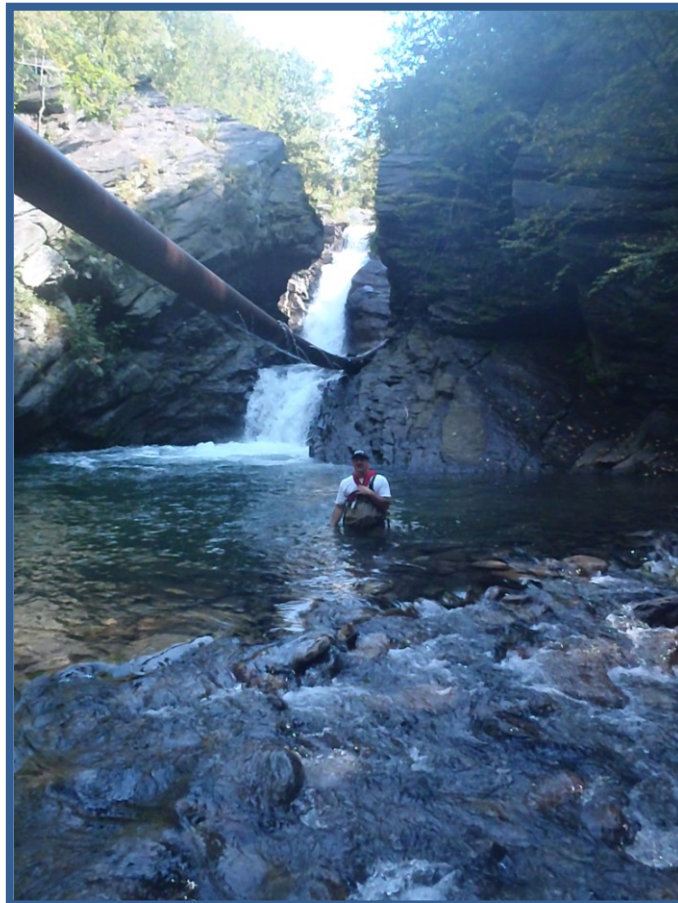
- Submitted Final Invoices, A compilation CD of photos, and Final Reflective Narrative and Expense Reports to the PA F&BC for our ***Cultivating Tree Trout in the Wyoming Valley AMD Aquatic Resources Awareness Program***; Received our official close-out letter on the grant that it was administratively complete and financially audited with satisfaction of the PA F&BC for completeness

- Began field work on the ***Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan*** by stream walking the Solomon Creek Main Stem, taking photos, chemistry samples, identifying fish, identifying macros, and conducting visual habitat assessments throughout the corridor; Completed the Main Stem from Ashley Street upstream to along SR 309 near Solomon's Gap, near Mountain Top; Provided an update to our Project Manager Samantha Kutskel; Received some historical background information on the Crystal Springs Reservoir and Water Company on Pine Run, a majority tributary to the Solomon Creek Watershed from Steven Koonrad, a avid local historian
- Mike Corcoran-Science Coordinator for the Wilkes-Barre Area SD provided EPCAMR with an updated copy of the Environment & Ecology Standards for the upcoming Teacher Trainings/In-Services and for reference; Assisted Mike with preparing his reporting to PPL in a similar fashion that EPCAMR had to report to the PA F & BC since their **\$5000** was used as matching funds towards our Education Program
- Informed Dan Koury-PA DEP Project Officer for our ***Eastern PA Mine Pool Mapping Project of the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Fields*** that all of the reports, appendices, photos, graphs, and image files will be burned onto a DVD and submitted with our Final Narrative Report by the end of the month; Many files had to be compressed due to the very large file size and very little of the information could have been electronically submitted to the PA DEP via e-mail due to size restrictions on incoming attachments to the State e-mail system
- Continued our **SRBC Wyoming Valley Borehole Mine Pool Monitoring** of 20/23 locations that were accessible on 9-8-2011; It just so happened that this month's monitoring event will coincide with a record river gauge of over 43.6' on the Susquehanna that caused some severe flooding throughout the Susquehanna River Basin; It was vital that EPCAMR go out and capture the high water levels in the mines where the fluctuations in some boreholes were as high as 30', while others were flooded to surface entirely
- Continued our **SRBC/LRCA Lackawanna Valley Borehole Mine Pool Monitoring** of 13/14 locations on 9-12-2011; EPCAMR Staff obtained surface elevations of the top of the water in the mines throughout the Lackawanna Valley, but couldn't access Duryea which was under water
- Informed by PEC NE Office that EPCAMR was awarded a \$3000 mini-grant to assist the CCRA with developing the Catawissa Creek Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP); Some paperwork and revisions need to be made to the budget since CCRA qualified for AMD Technical Assistance through Trout Unlimited after being put in contact with them by EPCAMR; Skelly & Loy is likely to be putting together the majority of the QHUP and EPCAMR will work on the AMD Treat analyses for AMD Treatment Option scenarios; Waiting on a budget revision from Ed Wytovich before submitting the paperwork to PEC

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the August 2011 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement & Progress Report; Reviewed Mike's, Wren's, Justyna's, and John's monthly Board Report prior to sending to the PA DEP
- Continue to fill Iron Oxide Pigment Orders, several from West Virginia, including the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and other items listed on our EPCAMR Online Store

- Transferred with Mike, the domain registration name of www.epcamr.org over to the Domain Registry of America
- Interviewed Kevin Jacobs for a Community Service volunteer internship with EPCAMR over the Fall 2011; Kevin recently graduated in May 2011 from Wilkes University with a Engineering in Training degree and will be working with EPCAMR Staff on the AMD Teacher Training Workshop, Borehole Monitoring, Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Partnership Conservation Plan, and Iron Oxide Processing; Kevin began his first week by putting together 15 Teacher Training Workshop binders
- Provided John Karpian, our EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer with a copy of our updated Volunteer Activity Description (VAD) for future reference
- Sent an appeal to John Maday, Membership Director with the W-B Chamber of Commerce to see if he can assist EPCAMR with reaching out to the business and corporations in the Wyoming Valley or Greater W-B Area to see if they would be interested in contributing to EPCAMR through our EITC Tax Credit Program
- Provided Kurt Bauman-NEPA Alliance with a copy of EPCAMR's Employee Policy Manual to assist them with developing one for themselves and the NCAC



Robert sampling the upper headwaters of Solomon Creek for the Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan; Solomon Creek is an AMD impacted watershed in the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, PA