

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2011 Progress Report

Highlights

- Provided continuing information to graduate student researching the Anthracite Coal Region and the Huber Breaker Park Project for master's thesis.
- Continued monitoring depths of boreholes in the Lackawanna River Watershed. Unable to monitor 3 out of 14 due to excessive snow and ice.
- Currently working on re-writing of grant for the Solar Kiln EE program to apply for a Captain Planet Foundation grant. Will review and submit before deadline on March 31, 2011.
- Attended presentation of "The Inquest," a theatrical performance regarding the Avondale Mine Disaster to consider for possible Conference entertainment.
- Attended DCNR C2P2 training seminar with Ray Clarke at LCCC on February 3.
- Made appointment for March 2 to meet with DCNR Regional Advisor Lorne Possinger to get more information on applying for C2P2 grant on behalf of HBPS.
- Attended two conference calls with the planning committee members for the AMR Conference.
- Attended Fundraising Dinner committee meeting, and Quarterly Board Meeting, February 18.
- Made a profile for new government volunteer initiative website, YouthGo.gov, also known as Youth in the Great Outdoors. <http://youthgo.gov/youth-profile/wren-dugan>
- Created formal invitation for 15th Anniversary Dinner in both a 4-surface card form with interior and exterior, and single page online web flier PDF.

Education and Outreach

- WCDC made progress on backdrops for the AMD Avengers Vs. Pollution Posse environmental education comedy skits. The backdrops will be an on-going project throughout the spring, and they will illustrate geological time periods and the layering processes that created coal. Canvas has been cut to size to hang on the portable garment racks that will be used to erect the backdrops in schools and other presentations. Half-round trim has been fastened to the bottom of the canvas to create a flat drape and provide structure around while to roll the backdrops for

transport. One backdrop that will feature 4 panels has been hung on the portable rack, and the second will be in place by the end of March.

- Created an invitation for the 15th Anniversary and Inaugural Fundraising Dinner for EPCAMR to be held August 4, 2011. Invitation can be used to present to potential sponsors, or as a general invite to individuals. Began creating a brochure that would give more information on ticket prices, sponsorship levels, Master of Ceremonies, and directions to the venue for interested parties. From the card, WCDC created a one-page web flier to be posted to the EPCAMR website and also emailed as an attachment in PDF form.
- Contacted new OSM/VISTAs to the AHA region, Jacklin Steege at Eckley Miner's Village, and Erin Pierce at Susquehanna Greenway Partnerships. Current VISTAs Mike Bloom, Mike Stanton, Wren Dugan, former VISTA Megan Blackmon and new VISTAs are planning a meet and greet pot luck get-together for Friday, March 18 to welcome the new VISTAs and establish networking relationships.

Professional Development

- WCDC reviewed the Hatch Act as per request of ACCT regarding the current political climate surrounding the federal budget. As an AmeriCorps VISTA, WCDC cannot advocate AmeriCorps, the VISTA program, or the Center for National and Community Service while on duty or while representing oneself as a VISTA team member. VISTAs can write letters to Senators and Congresspersons while off duty on personal time, and provided they do not identify themselves as being directly affiliated with CNCS. Site supervisors are allowed to write letters at their leisure, but also may not identify themselves as a supervisor for the VISTA or AmeriCorps programs.
- WCDC attended DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant training seminar in conjunction with Ray Clarke for HBPS. After gathering information and emailing the Regional Advisor, Lorne Possinger, WCDC will help to develop a grant proposal for 2012 submission. The existing plans for the Memorial Park constitute a Master Site Plan, and the next step is to secure matches for the grant, and possibly approach the municipality of Ashley on partnering to back the project.

Technical Assistance

- Continued to assist Harvard Graduate School of Design student Jessica Wolff in researching and developing her master's thesis project. Ms. Wolff is working on designing an industrial tour of locations of importance throughout the Wyoming Valley, including the Huber Breaker, the Dorrance Colliery, the Fit-Rite (Empire) Silk Mill, the Murray Complex, the Avondale Mine Disaster Memorial Park, the Old Forge Borehole and more. The thesis will also incorporate developing renewable energy resources on AML and industrial sites. WCDC also took pictures while borehole monitoring and provided them to Ms. Wolff to be used in the multiple presentations required for her thesis.
- WCDC continued editing and re-writing of the Solar Kiln project (originally submitted for a PP&L grant; not awarded) to fit parameters of a grant for up to \$5,000 from the Captain Planet Foundation. Grant applications are due March 31, 2011. Executive Director has an engineering student from Wilkes University working on a solar kiln design. WCDC is currently waiting on further information of what supplies and building materials will be necessary in order to include

them in the grant. If no further supply list is provided by the engineering student in a timely fashion, WCDC and Executive Director will move forward with grant submission with the existing information.

- Provided information and advice on legal aspects and procedures for holding raffles over an extended period of time to the ACCT listserv and Vista Leader Scott Fanello.
- Provided list of reliable environmental education products to be used in the field with children for water and macro sampling. Katherine Oberthaler, OSM/VISTA for Evergreen Conservancy and Crooked Creek Watershed requested a list of good quality and easy to use equipment for children's environmental education, including macroscopes, D-nets, sampling kits, etc. WCDC referred Ms. Oberthaler to Acorn Naturalists as per Executive Director and Program Manager. WCDC located links for products known to work well for EPCAMR, as well as information on Clean Creek Pottery.

Coordination and Development

- On Saturday, February 19, WCDC and Program Manager attended presentation by the Eckley Village Players of the legal and journalistic research that occurred after the Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869. Approached the group about performing "The Inquest" for entertainment during the Friday Night dinner during AMR conference in August. EVP requests only compensation for travel to the performance site, and that a donation be made to Eckley Miner's Village. The entire performance was under 30 minutes in length, and was performed in a ball room amongst dining tables. With coal mining related content and historical costumes, it would be an ideal addition the 13th Annual AMR Conference Friday night awards dinner hosted by Dave Hess.
- WCDC compiled personal notes with those of Program Manager from the AMR Conference Call to produce minutes for following planning committee meetings.
- Contacted Kathleen Godwin to put out a call for artists to create works for a silent auction to be held as a fundraiser during the 15th Anniversary dinner. Provided information to Kathleen about the parameters of the art auction. Will provide a document to Arts YOUiverse to be emailed and posted in the building to potential AMD artists.
- Visited Best Western Genetti Inn & Suites in Hazleton with Executive Director and Program Manager to meet with even planner/owner, Patrick Genetti. Time lines for opening and wrap-ups for each day were established, as well as menus for meals and breaks. The building layout was examined in order to determine display areas and dining areas and seminar rooms. Menu and general outline for the order of events for both Thursday night and Friday night's dinners were charted out, as well as general costs. The Event Coordinator will create a detailed price list and deliver to EPCAMR by mid-March.