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November 2010 Progress Report

Highlights

- Continued monitoring depths of boreholes at 14 locations in the Lackawanna River Watershed.
- Compiled contact information list of Luzerne Intermediate Unit Science Coordinators.
- Presented EPCAMR display at Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Pottsville, PA.
- Sampled AMD at the Espy Run Treatment System and upstream and downstream areas.
- Provided information on AMD chalk making to OSM/VISTA Sarah Drakulich.
- Organized tour of Huber Breaker grounds for regional OSM/VISTAs within the AHA.
- Trained in biological organism (macro-invertebrate) stream monitoring at Espy Run by EPCAMR Staff.+
- Participated in and organized a roadside AML cleanup on Dundee Rd. with 4 Wilkes University students.
- Updated Huber Breaker website to include order form for bricks, new photos, and new t-shirt design available for purchase.
- Attended webinar “Head, Heart, & Guts: 3 Things You Need to Be a Great Fundraiser”+
- Attended EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting for the first time.+
- Began working on new outreach brochure for Huber Breaker Preservation Society.
- Applied to Cincopa, a multimedia web platform for free a professional account to host information and pictures for both the EPCAMR and Huber Breaker websites.+

Education and Outreach

- Obtained contact information for the Science Coordinators for every school district within the Luzerne Intermediate Unit. Compiled email and mailing list to send them the EPCAMR Mine Drainage Menu of Place-Based Environmental Education Programs brochure. Watershed Community Development Coordinator hopes to generate programs for as many schools as possible in the Luzerne County area.
- Met again with Mike Corcoran, Science Coordinator for Wilkes-Barre Area School District to finalize plans for programming and submit PP&L education grants. EPCAMR submitted two applications for the PP&L education grants, to fund the Tree Trout program and the newly devised Solar Kiln building and workshop activity. A grant was awarded **\$5,000** by PP&L for the Tree Trout program for Kistler Elementary, EPCAMR continues to look for funding for the Solar Kiln activity, intended for Heights Elementary.

- Exhibited at the Schuylkill Headwater Association's 1st Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Pottsville, PA. EPCAMR presented their informational tri-fold and geological display of rocks along with several other organizations at the Film Fest. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is a nationally touring environmental film festival that visited **115 cities** in 2010. Films featured included "**The Fun Project**" about how making a everyday activity fun by installing piano key stairs in a subway encouraged a large percentage of people to use the stairs rather than the elevator; "**Watershed Revolution**" about citizens working to protect the Ventura River Watershed, Ventura California; "**Big River**," about corn and the ecological consequences of industrial agriculture; "**Split Estate**" about the politics of owning the land on the surface but not the mineral rights below; "**Fridays at the Farm**" about an organic community supported farm project in Philadelphia; "**Glynwood**" about supporting farmland in New York State and throughout the Northeast; and "**Tapped**" about the negative effects of the bottled water industry on the water table, pollution from plastic bottles, and the lack of regulation of the quality of bottled water itself. EPCAMR was able to talk to festival attendees and communicate the activities of the organization and distribute our brochures on both AMD Reclamation and the Educational Programs. Approximately **12** brochures were handed out.
- WCDC organized a tour of the Huber Breaker grounds and facility for OSM/VISTAs in the Anthracite Heritage Alliance region on November 10, 2010. The tour was guided by the Organization's President, Bill Best. The tour went over three hours as OSM/VISTAs were lead up the conveyor belt shaft and into the very top of the breaker itself. Mr. Best conveyed his expert historical knowledge of the functions of the Huber, and indicated areas for excellent photo opportunities. In attendance were Megan Blackmon of Schuylkill County Conservation District, Christopher Deemer from Eckley Miner's Village, Michael Bloom from Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor, Sarah Koontz with Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. EPCAMR Executive Director and Program also attended, as well as Christopher Blackmon, Megan's husband.

Professional Development

- Attended a webinar on applying oneself with tools for fundraising, titled "Head, Heart and Guts: 3 Things You Need to Be a Great Fundraiser." The webinar focused on generating in-kind donations, marketing the needs of your organization to a greater audience, and the importance of perseverance in the grant seeking world. **Head.** Great fundraisers believe in their organization, know their program and research/prepare/understand their donors; **Heart.** Development is not sales— you have to connect with your organization's mission and serve as a thoughtful spokesperson; **Guts.** Good fundraising is about bravery— not just asking for money, but giving donors the opportunity to participate in something meaningful. The webinar gave many suggestions for being proactive about the financial needs of the organization and WCDC requested the accompanying PowerPoint to be emailed to EPCAMR for future reference.
- Experienced hands-on the techniques for sampling macro-invertebrates at the Espy Run treatment system. WCDC was given instruction on the detailed process of locating aquatic insects and arthropods within the leaf and hummus collected from the streams. Also given information on how to identify life forms that came directly from the water, and those which had "jumped in" to the water samples after harvesting. Previous macro-sampling training was observational only.

- Watershed Community Development Coordinator attended her first EPCAMR board meeting on November 18, 2010. This experience increased WCDC's understanding of the functional structure of the organization, and the priorities of watershed groups within the EPCAMR constituency. WCDC also had the opportunity to introduce herself to many of the board members and watershed representatives she had previously not met.
- The tour of the Huber Breaker facility gave WCDC extensive insight into the coal industry and a better understanding of the important role of the Huber and other breakers to both the local community and the advancement of the industrial revolution. WCDC gained knowledge that will aid future website developments, organizational and community outreach efforts.

Technical Assistance

- Continued borehole monitoring in the Lackawanna Valley Old Forge borehole watershed at 14 sites. EPCAMR is monitoring in conjunction with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association in order to collect data to design a treatment system for the Old Forge discharge.
- Attended teleconference with WPCAMR to discuss possible ways to post the AMD: An Epic Tale video. During the call, numbers for the quantity of DVDs to be printed were determined, as well as the format of the cover and the accompanying educational insert on the originations of AMD.
- Watershed Community Development Coordinator was contacted by Sarah Drakulich of the UTRR Tazewell Project in North Tazewell, VA for information on AMD chalk making. WCDC provided Sarah with detailed instructions on our method of iron oxide collection and processing, and the "recipe" we follow to create the chalk. Also gave her resources on where to get iron oxide tested for purity, and where to find the types of preferred molds for chalk. The UTRR plans to do AMD Chalk making with kids in their community as part of their environmental education outreach in the winter and spring of 2011
- Made many updates to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's website, including adding an order form for people to purchase engraved bricks, as well as the new shirts with a design by Bernie Gavlick, original designer of the Miner's Memorial. Previously there was a "flier" on the website showing the paving bricks, but no information on who to contact or how to order. WCDC developed a printable order sheet that can be mailed in with payment.
- Updated postings to the HBPS facebook page and solicited new members to "like" the page. This kind of traffic will help to widen the audience exposed to new information about the Huber and their preservation efforts.
- Began working on a new brochure, updated from the previous one published in 2000. The new brochure will include an order form that will allow people to join the HBPS for a \$10 membership fee, order t-shirts and sweatshirts with the Miner's Memorial logo, or to order brick pavers and specify their engraved inscriptions. Brochure will be ready for distribution in early December, 2010.

Organizational Capacity Building

- Applied for free “professional account” grant offer from Cincopa, and online file storage and sharing capacity website that has both free and “professional” accounts, at the cost of \$79.95 annually. EPCAMR was declined on the basis that Cincopa traditionally grants to organizations that work for Children and Health issues – unfortunately this was not indicated in the initial information. Watershed Community Development Coordinator appealed the grant, elaborating on our activities and the extensive work EPCAMR does with children’s programming and to improve the health of the citizens affected by our watersheds. Cincopa again declined as EPCAMR’s focus lies outside their specifications, but they did however offer a discounted rate of **\$59.95** annually for the professional account, a **25%** savings over the usual fee. EPCAMR has signed up for the basic free account and can upgrade to the professional account at the discounted rate at a later time if our needs indicate that it would be useful.
- WCDC and Program Manager created a small “greeting” area at the entrance of the office featuring brochures, informational posters, and geologic rock types with labels. Included is a small fountain to improve the work environment with humidification and to create positive “feng shui.” The water in the fountain is dyed orange to represent the Orange Water Network.

Community Cleanup Coordination

- WCDC worked along with Executive Director and Program Manager on a cleanup with 4 Wilkes University students along Dundee Rd. The area is part of the Dundee Wetlands Treatment System and because of it is not a populated area with houses, is prone to excessive dumping and litter. Together, the 7 people involved in the cleanup removed 12 tires, 22 bags of trash (estimated at 880 lbs.) 1 carpet, 2 couches, 1 infant chair, 3 five-gallon buckets of unknown and potentially hazardous liquids, and 2 televisions from a half mile of the road. White trash bags (and gloves) were provided by PennDOT, who also picked up the bags and items at the roadside for free.