



**Wren B Dugan, OSM/VISTA**  
**Watershed Community Development Coordinator.**

101 South Main St.  
Ashley, PA 18706  
Phone/Fax: 570-371-3522

[wdugan@epcamr.org](mailto:wdugan@epcamr.org)  
[www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

## October 2010 Progress Report

### Highlights

- Met with **4** Marywood University Graphic Design Seniors to collaborate with class project to utilize their design skills in creating new ad campaign posters, a t-shirt slogan, and a large macro ID chart for EPCAMR.
- Initiated a new partnership with Wilkes-Barre School District Science Coordinator, Mike Corcoran to develop new environmental education programs to underserved schools.
- Began designs and research for backdrops for the AMD Avengers Vs. Pollution Posse EE Comedy skits.
- Assisted in editing Huber Breaker website, as well as the EPCAMR website.
- Participated in [www.Rivercommon.org](http://www.Rivercommon.org) Chalk Fest 2010 as a main sponsor!
- Interviewed along with Executive Director for 105FM The River's Community Forum show ON EPCAMR's work in the region and our programs.
- Attended ACCWT's fall training conference at Twin Falls Resort State Park, outside Mullens, WV on October 19-21, 2010.
- Began monitoring program on the Askam Borehole, in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed, for Earth Conservancy

### Education and Outreach

- Assisted with tour of Dundee Wetlands treatment facility for **27** Seniors from Dallas High School. The students were lectured on the functions and purpose of the treatment system, the origination of abandoned mine drainage, and the impacts and benefits of treating AMD. They were quizzed on their knowledge at the end of their guided tour.

- Met with Mike Corcoran, the Science Coordinator for Wilkes-Barre Area School District to discuss collaboration to apply for a grant through PPL. The grant is for teachers to improve their environmental education focus on green energy. EPCAMR devised a plan to build a solar kiln for drying collected iron oxide. Students will help to participate in the collection process and implementation of the solar kiln.
- Gave Mr. Corcoran full color copies of the ‘Mine Drainage Menu of Place-based Environmental Education Programs’ brochure. Corcoran has distributed each to the Science Chair of each of the WBSD schools, who will make black and white copies for the **34** Science teachers in the school district.
- Discussed with Mr. Corcoran planning an AMD training workshop for WBSD teachers to educate them on their local watersheds, names of tributaries and methods of Reclamation. Currently EPCAMR is applying for a grant for **\$7500** through PA DEP Environmental Education Grant programs. The training would cover the ‘Nature Interrupted: A Journey of AMD’ material and count as Act 48 credits for the WBSD science teachers.
- Developed plans for the AMD Avengers Vs. the Pollution Posse comedy skits to have portable backdrops that can be set up to aid in the environmental education programs. Materials will be funded by the EE grant through the Fish and Boat Commission. The backdrops will be illustrated with images directly from the AMD Avengers coloring book, painted onto canvas and hung from lightweight, collapsible garment racks. The “pages” of the back drop will be able to be ‘flipped’ by an attendant to change the scene according to the activities of the Avengers and Pollution Posse. This will present another way in which students can be involved in the comedy skit.
- Found grant opportunity through Office Depot for **\$1000** that EPCAMR will apply to the purchase of new print materials designed by the Marywood Graphic Design students. Assisted Executive Director with fulfilling application requirements.

### Professional Development

- Attended ACCWT (now ACCT) Fall Training at Twin Falls Resort State Park near Mullens, WV, October 19-21. Workshops and seminars included:
  - SMCRA and Modern Mining – Dr. Patrick Angel. Detailed the current procedures being used and their effects on the local environment.
  - Event Planning and Organization – Dale Freudenberger and Chris Deemer (VISTA, Eckley Miner’s Village, PA). The seminar covered a great variety of event types, detailing procedural timelines and prioritizing to host fundraisers and community partnership events. An excellent resource of ideas that will help to develop the 2011 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference hosted by EPCAMR.
  - Future Possibilities for VISTAs and Teams – Todd Petty. This informative seminar discussed continuing education in the environmental and cultural policy fields, namely with graduate degrees through West Virginia University’s new programs that partner with ACCT for a year of service that counts as credits towards a Master’s Degree in several majors that would benefit one if choosing to work in the field of mine reclamation, conservationism, cultural policy, and historical preservation.

- Civic Engagement, with Wendy Willis. Covering details of empowering your organization with others throughout the community and the region by contacting local legislators and being involved in local government. Making connections with Senators, Congresspersons, City Council, Mayors, even police and Rescue can be instrumental in order to accomplish bigger and more involved projects that affect a greater population. Gave information on starting petitions, lobbying within local, state, and national government, etc. Stressed the importance of partnering with other organizations and the positive effects of making political allies.
  - Grant Writing session with Sonja Carlborg. Full day seminar included finding grants, how to appeal to specific institutions, writing resources, and composing an operations budget. Carlborg provided does and don'ts and other rules of thumb for composing successful grants with a higher likelihood of receiving funding.
  - Community Outreach, with other OSM/VISTAs and their supervisors. A specialized tutorial on empowering community groups and individual volunteers to exact the priorities of the organization as well as the needs of local citizens.
  - Volunteer Management with Jenna Fehr, detailing recruitment, mobilization and engagement of community volunteers in order to accomplish a great variety of important tasks vital to the organization.
  - The Future of ACCWT with T. Allan Comp. This session included the explanation of the change of the official title to Appalachian Coal Country Team in order to better envelop the work being done by VISTAs through ACCT that does not directly involve watershed clean up but focuses on historical preservation, community involvement, trail building, and other important and necessary tasks. ACCT also has a western division known as the Western Hard Rock Team that deal with mine reclamation that has little to do with water issues. Current VISTA initiatives that focus on abandoned mine drainage and the building of treatment systems to clean watersheds throughout the coal region will continue their focus on these projects, but due to the enormous growth of ACCT within the past five years, the title change was necessary to include all VISTA activities and interactions.
- Reviewed EPCAMR Executive Director's letter of response to the EPA draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the draft PA DEP Watershed Implementation Plan.

## Community and Capacity Building

- Partnered with the Wilkes-Barre Rivercommon Organization, via a connection made with Mike Burnside, Executive Director of the Cultural Council of Luzerne County for the first annual Chalk Fest 2010 event. Executive Director and Program Manager handled tie-dyeing, while Watershed Community Development Coordinator manned the chalk-making station. The event was held at the Rivercommon park next to the Market St. Bridge along North River St. Over **1000** children were in attendance at the event, and EPCAMR distributed over **200** pieces of chalk, made over **300** pieces for future distribution. EPCAMR staff had packed **48** white shirts to be dyed at the event, and every one of them sold for **\$2** each. The Chalk Fest was a huge success on a chilly, windy, but very sunny day, and an event that EPCAMR looks forward to future participation.

- Interviewed by Mike Remish, Public Affairs Director for Bold Gold Media Group for the Community Forum program broadcast on Sunday, October 31. Mr. Remish questions WCDC and Executive Director about our efforts to clean AMD polluted waters and environmental education outreach. The total broadcast was 27 minutes in length. Bold Gold has provided EPCAMR with a digital copy of the interview, which will eventually be available to be heard on the EPCAMR website. The value of a half hour of air time on a popular radio station in the Wyoming Valley and throughout the region is estimated at more than **\$2,000**, and has a listenership estimated over **100,000** people and crosses into both New York and New Jersey.
- Assisted the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and the Schuylkill Conservation District in coordinating the Wabash Dash 5K race to raise funds for the Schuylkill Conservation District and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association to continue to support cleanup efforts in the Upper Schuylkill Headwaters impacted by AMD; **50** people in attendance; Grossed **\$2800** and netted **\$1000**; Several Sponsors included: Heisler's, South Tamaqua Coal Pocket, Seasons Change Financial Kuhn's Auto and Tire Company Inc., Flyway Excavating, Weiker's Home Improvement, Jerry Knowles Reading Anthracite, RETTEW, American Premium Coal, Silberline, K&K Coal Co. LLC, Argall, Sherman Coal Freddy's Five Point Pub, Tiki Bar and Lehigh Valley Dairy

### Technical Assistance

- Started water monitoring at the Askam Borehole area in order to provide Earth Conservancy with essential information to determine the costs of an 18 month monitoring program in the area where EC will begin building a treatment system in 2011.
- Updated EPCAMR Board of Directors Excel sheet to be current for 2010. List was required for Office Depot grant application.



**ChalkFest 2010 Iron Oxide Chalk & Molds**