



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

101 South Main St.

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone/Fax: 570-371-3522

wdugan@epcamr.org

www.epcamr.org

September 2010 Progress Report

Highlights

- Submitted PriceChopper/Pepsi Refresh Grant proposal for The Huber Breaker Preservation Society. Researched grant eligibility through five foundations for future applications.
- Received introduction to watershed monitoring at three local sites in Wilkes-Barre area.
- Began training with EPA's Watershed Academy online and attended Watershed Academy webinar on building network capacity.
- Composed new brochure to promote EPCAMR's environmental education programs.
- Attended Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's monthly board meeting with two other area OSM/VISTAs and Dale Freudenberger.
- Attended seminar and video on the Knox Mine Disaster presented by John Dziak, in conjunction with the Huber Breaker Tour by NAAMLPL.
- Met Mike Burnside with Luzerne County Cultural Council and initiated collaborating with Chalk Fest 2010.
- Initiated dialogue with Laurie Popeck of Stream Restoration Inc. about collaborating sales of iron oxide products through Clean Creek Products.
- Measured water depths in 15 boreholes around the Lackawanna Valley, guided by Bernie McGurl.
- Attended Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour at McDade Park, first direct experience with a coal mine.
- Initiated contact with Professor John Lysak to experiment with iron oxide as a print making medium and a potential market for AMD sales.

Education and Outreach

- Designed a new brochure presenting all educational programs currently being offered for schools, clubs, civic groups, etc. Previously the information was available only on the EPCAMR website and had not been updated for some time to include new programs developed in recent months. The brochure also states that each program has a price to be assessed per number of participants and miles traveled to the program site. EPCAMR hopes to use programs previously presented for free as a means to generate income to fund future projects and at a minimum to

cover the overhead costs of materials, gas, and the time of the Executive Director, Program Manager, and OSM/VISTA member.

Professional Development

- Trained on methods and procedures of water quality monitoring at AMD sites at the Plainsville Borehole, Honey Pot at Newport Creek, and Grand Tunnel sites, including Measuring pH levels, iron concentration and calculating flow using a yard stick and measuring tape. Watershed Community Development Coordinator earned Abandoned Mine Reclamation Mine Drainage Field Monitoring and Stream Assessment Training Certificate.
- Began working through the EPA's Watershed Academy Online training. A total of 15 self-paced learning modules must be completed and tested in order to receive certification. The information includes Principles of Watershed Management; Sustaining Aquatic Ecosystems; Ecosystem Services: Benefits to Human Societies; Biotic Invasions; Nutrient Pollution; Wetlands Functions; Stream Corridor Structure; Invasive Non-native Species, and many more. With 56 training modules available, the EPA website offers a comprehensive curriculum for learning watershed ecology and principles of sustainability and management.
- Attended EPA Watershed Academy's webcast training, "A Watershed Dialogue: How Can We Build the Capacity and Effectiveness of Watershed Groups." The two hour seminar was hosted by Don Waye, Capacity Building Team Lead, EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds; Wendy Wilson, National Director of Organizational Development, River Network; Hye Yeong Kwon, Executive Director, Center for Watershed Protection; Christine Olsenius, Executive Director, Southeast Watershed Forum; Glynnis Collins, Executive Director, Prairie Rivers Network. Topics focused on finding resources appropriate for your organizations' purposes and how to approach other committees, boards and organizations in order to collaborate together on larger projects. Each speaker presented for 15 minutes and posed questions to the web audience to build dialogue about effective solutions. Emphasis was placed on the need for communities to have safe river access in order to establish cultural connections to water and gain the respect (and hopefully preservation efforts) of individuals living within the watershed area. The speakers also recognized the need for ground help to navigate the "myriad" of regulations surrounding watersheds on a local, state and federal basis, and offered web tools and personal emails to help with direct questions.
- During the NAAMLPP conference's visitation to the Huber Breaker Property, John Dziak of the Greater Pittston Historical Society presented the video they created to educate about the cause and history of the Knox Mine Disaster. EPCAMR assisted in the set up and technical aspects of the presentation, hosted in the conference room of the Earth Conservancy office.
- Program Manager and Board President Bernie McGurl escorted WCDC to 17 borehole locations throughout the Scranton area within the Old Forge Borehole watershed area for depth monitoring on Monday, September 25, 2010. WCDC was trained on measurements and recording statistics in order to collect data related to building a treatment system in the future for the Old Forge site.

Technical Assistance

- The PriceChopper/Pepsi Refresh Grant proposal written on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society was submitted September 1, 2010. The submission deadline was September 28, 2010, and approvals will be announced October 26, 2010. The grant for \$2,000 would secure the purchase and installation of the Miner's Memorial Monument and provide the cornerstone for the Huber Breaker Community Park.
- Watershed Community Development Coordinator was able to use the Northeastern PA Nonprofit and Community Assistance Center's list of foundations to identify five possible grant opportunities for which EPCAMR would qualify. The grants available range in value from a few hundred dollars up to a quarter of a million. WCDC will work with Executive Director and Program Manager to focus efforts on finding more grant opportunities and in developing proposals in the coming months.

Community and Capacity Building

- Introduced to Mike Burnside, Executive Director of the Cultural Council of Luzerne County at the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor board meeting. Upon his announcement of the CCLC sponsored Chalk Fest 2010, WCDC proposed a collaboration to utilize EPCAMR's iron oxide chalk for the event. EPCAMR will be sponsoring the event and will provide AMD iron oxide chalk making and tie-dying at the event. T-shirts will be for sale, but the chalk making will be free to the public. The event will be held at the River Common in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday October 16, 2010, with a rain date of October 23.
- WCDC contacted former professor and printmaking artist John Lysak, at alma mater Edinboro University about the possibility of using AMD iron oxide as a printmaking ink medium. John teaches and produces a variety of printmaking processes, and has purchased two ounces (at the price of \$5 an ounce) with which to experiment creating lithographs. If the product works for him, he will refer us to several different printmaking email listservs on which EPCAMR can advertise the high purity of the reclaimed AMD, and he will also connect us to Eastern Pennsylvania printmaking programs at Harrisburg Area Community College and Lafayette College in Easton, PA.
- Contacted Laurie Popeck, Program Manager of Stream Restoration Inc. and the organizer of their Clean Creek Products division, which sells pottery and glass art gifts that utilize iron oxide provided by SRI in their production. Laurie and WCDC discussed approaching artists and studios who would be potential buyers for the iron oxide powder, and the possibility of having EPCAMR products sold through the Clean Creek website. WCDC will continue to research potential buyers and craftspeople to create a line of products with the iron oxide that can be sold online and/or at events in order to generate additional revenue for the organization.