

**EPCAMR Board Cooperating Organization Reports for the  
EPCAMR 2007 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting**

January 25, 2007

**Presidents Report**

Ed Wytovich, President

Tom Davidock, Natural Resource Specialist

- Provided a summary of comments about the SMCRA Reauthorization to the AML Trust Fund Campaign

Catawissa Creek Restoration Association

- Interesting study is going on in Catawissa Creek having to do with nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorous) transport and which was presented at a national conference. The site has been contrasted to the Tioga River. It was also presented at the

*Oneida #1 Treatment System:*

- Oneida #1 repair project was just completed last week and the system is now back online. Water flow is very good through the system which tells us that we were able to remove the blockage problem by replacing the non-calcareous stone. The dam has been repaired, intake system rebuilt, sediment pond was cleaned out, and the additional valves were installed. The pH of the water exiting the system is 7.5 (back to normal). I would like to thank everyone for helping to get this system back online after the damage from Hurricane Ivan.

*Audenried Treatment System:*

- Technical Steering Committee will meet soon. FEMA Money was awarded to repair the system after the flood and Rettew has been contracted to design the repairs. The bank will be graded back above the tunnel and the intake structure will be replaced.
- Land may be switching hands soon and a cargo airport is coming in. This makes things a little precarious with our agreement to maintain the system.

*Oneida #3 Treatment System:*

- Grant was awarded to the Schuylkill Conservation District to the tune of \$956K for design and construction of a treatment system.

**Northumberland County Conservation District**

Carey Entz, Watershed Specialist

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance

*Site 15 (Corbin Mine Drift) AMD Treatment Project*

- Construction was completed in September! We have had many complaints with the smell of both the Hydrogen Sulfide and Mushroom Compost. In the colder weather the smell seems to be dying down now. Every two weeks we increase the flow to the system. The waters pH is going from a 4.6 to a 7.8!

*Site 23 (Big Mountain) Hydrology Study*

- Miser and Earle, Inc. just completed there hydrology study. They concluded the spike in pH and increased flow comes from a fracture in the barrier pillar that separates the Sterling minepool from the Big Mountain.

*Site 42 (Carbon Run) AMD Treatment: Mushroom Compost Addition*

- We drained and added 1.5 of new mushroom compost to the 1st and 2nd ponds. It seems to have done the trick. The amount of Dissolved oxygen in water has significantly decreased.

*Sites 12,19,20,21,23,36,49 and Gauging Station Flow Project*

- All weirs and pressure transducers have been installed. Continual flow data is collected every 6 weeks and can be found @ [www.Shamokincreek.org](http://www.Shamokincreek.org)

*Site 21 Study*

- Dr. Kirby and his students are working on the characterization and design for Site 21 AMD Discharge in Ranshaw.

*COALS*

- Still cleaning up Big Mountain and Bear Valley Ave., Shamokin

*Jon Dietz Pilot Project*

- The Innovative Ex-Situ Activated Iron Solids Treatment and enhancement iron oxide recovery is coming to Site 19 (Scott Ridge Tunnel) in early spring.

*Coal Twp. Industrial Park Site 19 and 20 Feasibility Study*

- Site 19 (Scott Ridge) and Site 20 (Colbert Mine Breach) are high priority AMD Discharges that flow into Quaker Run. Site 19 is larges and most metal producing discharge in the Shamokin Watershed. Both discharges come into the new industrial park. We are hoping to have a feasibility study done to see what type of treatment is possible.

**Schuylkill Headwaters Association**

Bill Reichert, President

Paul Lohin, Board Member

*Reevesdale #2 AMD Treatment*

- Completed in April 2006, the system is an oxic limestone drain that empties into wetland settling basins. Informational signage is installed

*Belle Colliery AMD Treatment*

- Phase 2 completed

*Mary D AMD Treatment and Recreation Complex*

- Ball field under construction

*Mackeysburg*

- HOP acquired -- design complete -- scheduled for construction summer 2007

*COALS*

- Project scheduled for spring 2007

*Growing Greener Grant*

- Neumeister project -- in design phase

**Luzerne County**

Josh Longmore, District Manager

- Signed the grant contract for the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Project with a major goal to catch sediment and slow sediment erosion with FGM Structures. A secondary goal will be to restore flow to the creek (if there is enough money to reach that far with the loss of \$100 K).

## **Friends of the NESCOPECK**

Tim Ference, Board Member

- Friends of the NESCOPECK, in conjunction with NESCOPECK State Park, will sponsor two showings of Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" on February 14 and again on February 25 at the park. Showings will run from 6:00 to 7:30 each night and will be free. Reservations and directions available by calling park office at 570-403-2006.
- Friends of the NESCOPECK is developing a second website which can be accessed at <http://thefon.wordpress.com>
- Paragon Adventure Park's lease on its 4200 acre all-terrain vehicle park outside of Hazleton is the subject of litigation in Luzerne County Court. According to press reports, Butler Enterprises, which owns the land, wants to sell it to a third party.
- EPA is conducting a hearing on January 25 at Penn State Hazleton to discuss the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) relative to the Valmont TCE Superfund Site located in West Hazleton. Copy of outline is available online at [www.epa.gov/arweb](http://www.epa.gov/arweb). Name is "Valmont TCE", AR Type is "Removal", and May 2006 is date of EE/CA.
- Activity at the Hazleton River Dredge Project has increased, including the following:
  - Dredge materials are now being placed on the site.
  - Material is being hauled from Fort Mifflin by truck instead of by rail as originally proposed. Reason given is that shipment by truck will be cheaper than by rail
  - Trucking company moving materials has \$ 21 million Army contract to perform work. Also has same mailing address as developer.
  - Materials currently being delivered by way of secondary road off Route 924.
  - Neighbors have complained about dust, traffic, and mud. Work being done on primary truck access off Route 309.
  - One batch of dredge material has been rejected due to high levels of boron.
  - Subdivision approval for some of lands to be used for reclamation project has been challenged in court resulting in remand to Hazleton Planning Commission.

## **Lackawanna County**

Alana Roberts, Watershed Specialist

- Welcomed Alana as the new Watershed Specialist for Lackawanna County.
- Already started 2 COALS Cleanups with 40 Ton of trash and 2 Ton of tires. 7 sites in the spring.
- Awarded a Watershed Implementation Plan with Growing Greener for Wilson Creek which has a few AMD discharges.

## **Pocono NE RC&D**

Ryan Koch, NRCS Pocono Northeast Regional Coordinator

- Revamp of the Orchard Limestone Drain on Rauch Creek, a Tributary to Swatara Creek through an Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative grant through the Office of Surface Mining. The project went out to be in September and prices came back too

high. Scaled down the treatment to something less elaborate and the bid will go back out to be selected by 3/15.

- Native grassland establishment project with Blaschak Coal Company in Centralia on an active mine site reclamation project. A goal of the project is to have warm season grass as a larger component of the mix, which grow better on poor soil. Seeding a total of 60 acres before summer.
- NRCS is going through a Rapid Watershed Assessments for PA produced by NRCS Staff. They hope to be done within 3 years. These are similar to the Watershed Restoration Action Strategy, but a little more detailed. Let Ryan know if you want to have your watershed moved up on the list because you are applying for a grant or something. It will help establish monitoring sites in areas that are not established.