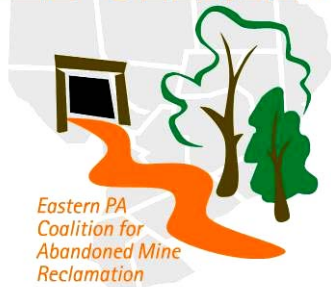


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, *Program Manager*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Fax & Main Line: (570) 371-3522

E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

August 2012 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR and WPCAMR hosted the AMR Conference. Participated in 2 AMR Conference Calls and wrapped up the conference evaluations and expenses. Provided 2 tours of AMD sites.
- Created an EPCAMR Operating Budget for the current FY and Draft Annual Report for 2011 and prepared a grant proposal for \$5K to the FPW.
- Reviewed 2 types of awards to watershed groups and recommended over \$7K in disbursement
- EPCAMR staff sampled 16 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Measured flow on 4 discharges. Completed a fish abundance study for Solomon Creek and Tributaries.
- Updated 1 GIS dataset and prepared 4 maps for a presentation to the public. Processed a 3D mine pool model for the Bernice Basin and more maps/cross sections for 3D models in the Northern Fields.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and updated www.epcamr.org. Administered the EPCAMR and HBPS facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff participated in 2 AMR conference calls: right before the conference to sort out details and a wrap up call a few weeks after the conference. Shut down the online registration and sent the list of attendees to WPCAMR to make nametags.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to State College to coordinate the Pre-conference Tour to an active treatment system, and passive treatment system in Eastern Clearfield County. The tour bus broke down at the lunch / environmental education presentation stop. As the tour attendees awaited a new bus, time passed to stop at the planned active mine site stop. Even after this incident several attendees still enjoyed the tour.
- EPCAMR staff coordinated the Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College for a full day on Friday, August 3rd and a half day Saturday, August 4th. Over 120 conference attendees participated in over 20 presentations.
- Completed a draft the 2011 Annual Report as a review of the work that EPCAMR has completed and issues surrounding AMD Remediation and AML reclamation. Handed off the report to EPCAMR Executive Director for review. Expected completion of the report will be for the 2012 Annual EPCAMR Board Meeting in August.
- Recorded checks and cash received from conference registrations into an excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the revenue side of the 2012 AMR Conference Budget. Sent invoices to those who did not pay, but attended or setup at the conference.
- Compiled the 2012 AMR Conference evaluation forms with the help of EPCAMR intern, Kelsey and sent them to the AMR Conference Committee.

- Updated the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's (HBPS) Facebook site with pictures of the progress of the Miners Memorial Park in front of the Huber Breaker.
- Spent a few hours ranking the issues that came out of the Wildlife Diversity Forum and sent them to Cathy Haffner at the PA Game Commission (PGC). Followed up with contacts from the forum that were discussing Mine Openings possibly used as Bat Hibernacula. Clipped the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) Feature Points Layer to only show Mine Openings and sent this GIS dataset to contacts in the PA Game Commission.
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an Iron Oxide Tie Dye workshop with students at the Carbon County Nature Camp at Hickory Run State Park.
- Created minutes from notes at the last EPCAMR Board Meeting and prepared an agenda for the upcoming meeting. Updated the EPCAMR Board Meeting Page on www.epcamr.org. EPCAMR Staff called for a board meeting quorum (and food counts) and hosted the Annual Board meeting at Genetti's Inn and Conference Center in Hazleton.
- Updated the Donate Time, Talent or Treasures, Volunteer Options and Donation Options Pages on www.epcamr.org. Also, aided EPCAMR Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mel, by updating a Volunteer Registration Form and figuring out how to gather the form information into a spreadsheet. Created a procedural document for the mysteriously difficult task. Posted the form to www.epcamr.org for volunteers to fill out and submit to Mel.
- EPCAMR Staff attended the ARIPPA Awards Luncheon with WPCAMR and ARIPPA staff to announce the 2012 ARIPPA Award Winners. This year's award winners from the Anthracite Region were Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, Babb Creek Watershed Association, Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery, Inc. and Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance.
- Printed business cards for EPCAMR Executive Director.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. EPCAMR Staff prepared monthly reimbursements for the first reimbursement for this fiscal year.
- Updated time sheet and travel reimbursement forms for EPCAMR Staff. Caught up on time sheets for EPCAMR Program Manager and allocated time to grants in the grant time tracker worksheets. Draw down funding in the Budget Sheets to represent time spent on the PA Foundation for PA Watersheds Mine Pool Mapping and AMR Conference Grants.
- Calculated costs for the 2012 AMR Conference Scholarships requested and recommended payment of over \$2,200 in scholarships to 14 individual watershed group representatives.
- Prepared and sent materials and background information requested by the PA Environmental Council (PEC) related to the Environmental Partnership Award.
- EPCAMR Staff and Board Members hosted a tour of the Northern Anthracite Field for PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), State Conservation Commission (SCC) and local conservation district representatives. Downloaded transducer data at the Old Forge Borehole, then hiked back to the Duryea Discharge, sampled the borehole to the #9 Mine, had lunch at Leggio's and then toured the Espy Run Treatment System (lead by Earth Conservancy Staff). EPCAMR Program Manager stayed to sample the treatment system and the tour continued to the South Wilkes-Barre Borehole "AMD Fountains". Lots of media coverage coordinated by EPCAMR and PACD on this tour produced good publicity for the event.
- Attended a NCAC Awards Dinner as EPCAMR was a finalist in the Community Awards. EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Program became runner up to PEC's Illegal Dump Site Cleanup Program.

Technical Assistance:

- Calculated a 3D mine pool model of the Bernice Mine Basin in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed after combining several Digital Elevation Model (DEM) files and clipping to the study area[FPW].

- Completed an EPCAMR Operational Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 two weeks before the EPCAMR Annual Meeting in August for review by the Budget Committee and approval by the Board.
- Prepared a \$5K grant proposal to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to make an online version of the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory (RAMLIS) Tool.
- Troubleshooted the wireless internet connection in the EPCAMR Office. The issue was the placement of the router, which had been crammed behind the printer due to heavy use of both the Brother and Gestetner network printers as copiers and scanners. Mounted the router on the wall to give it a more permanent place and better reception for the wireless computers in the office.
- Worked with EPCAMR Intern, Justyna, to run earthVision scripts on Ashburner's Second Geologic Survey coal vein maps and cross sections for the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys. Also worked on relating common coal veins to one another since different mining companies had different names for the same coal veins [LCRA].
- Updated and printed a poster sized map of the Lackawanna Valley Mine Pools for a presentation to the Pittston Historical Society.
- Created and submitted a 1st Quarter Reimbursement for the Anthracite Strategy Initiative [SRBC].
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to conduct water level monitoring of 15 boreholes related to the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool. Monitored the Jermyn borehole as well which is connected to the Jermyn Mine Pool. Monitored flow at the OFBH and Duryea Breach discharges, and downloaded transducer data. [LRCA]
- Created maps and statistics for a PowerPoint Presentation related to the Lackawanna River Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) meeting. Maps contained mine pools, barrier pillars, mine water flow direction and discharges for mines under the Upper Lackawanna, Lower Lackawanna and the Greater Pittston Area. Used Stephen Ash's Bureau of Mines (BOM) reports to evaluate barrier pillar effectiveness in the Greater Pittston Area. [LRCA]
- Worked on updating an excel spreadsheet containing northern borehole data with EPCAMR Intern, Kelsey. Updated charts embedded in the spreadsheet that show the change in water levels over time [SRBC].
- EPCAMR staff met with SRBC staff and PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration (BCR) staff to discuss mine pool water for low flow augmentation and specific sites that would be better than others. Sent Pierre, SRBC Hydrologist, the 3D model data for the Brookside and Markson Collieries. Sent I-529 Map to Shawn, SRBC Intern, to help locate a "drill hole" on the map that could also be another borehole to monitor. [SRBC]
- EPCAMR Staff attended and presented with LRCA and SRBC staff at the Lower Lackawanna QHUP Public Meeting at the Duryea Borough Building. [SRBC]
- With the help of Earth Conservancy Staff, scanned a map related to the Wyoming and Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool elevations in 1968. [SRBC]
- EPCAMR Staff spent 2 days electro-shocking several survey sites in the Solomon Creek Watershed with Trout Unlimited Staff to determine fish presence and abundance. Several segments within the watershed are currently shown in the state's Impaired Waters List produced an abundance of fish, even trout fingerlings. Data from these areas will be submitted to the PA DEP BCR. [PA TU]
- Traveled around the Wyoming Valley to monitor water levels in 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Calculated flow for the Glen Lyon Discharge, Buttonwood Discharge, South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes and pipe full measurements on the Askam Borehole Discharge to calculate the amount of mine water flowing [SRBC].

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.