

EPCAMR



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December 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Scheduled a meeting with Dr. Brian Whitman, Professor at Wilkes University, who is our new intern's (Sarah-Jane Gerstman) Faculty Advisor in mid-December 2012; Sarah-Jane is working with EPCAMR for academic credit for the Winter 2013 Semester and we're developing a work plan for her to achieve certain goals and objectives prior to completing her internship experience with EPCAMR
- Attended the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited Meeting in Kingston, PA at the VFW 283 to seek a Letter of Support for EPCAMR's **\$10,000** Solomon Creek Conservation Implementation Grant for stream restoration improvement projects; Heide Cebrick, President of the Chapter, and the Board unanimously supported a letter and provided EPCAMR with one to submit with our application the next day; Earth Conservancy, Luzerne Conservation District, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission did as well
- Confirmed a presentation with Nicole Barber, Coordinator, with Leadership Lackawanna at the Scranton's new The Commonwealth Medical College in January with High School Juniors from Lackawanna County on work that EPCAMR is doing in the Lackawanna River Watershed and on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) jobs and careers

Technical Assistance

- Talked with Nick Wesley, a student at King's College about an NEPA Sandbox Initiative (a Collaboration Group of faculty from local Colleges/Universities and entrepreneurship advocates dedicated to encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit amongst youth in the Northeastern Pennsylvania. The focus is to share ideas, resources, and questions with one another. This is a starting point and catalyst for youth interested in entrepreneurship and leadership.)-Aero-Farm Technology that he has developed that could possibly treat AMD using some type of floating mats; Scheduling a meeting with him just after the New Year to give him a tour of some AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley and to talk shop about the technology that he is referring to; EPCAMR has completed literature searches for this type of technology in the past

Technical Assistance (cont'd)

- EPCAMR is working with Aaron Stredny, the Luzerne Conservation District's new Watershed Specialist to assist him with obtaining an AMD Water Quality Monitoring Certification from EPCAMR and showing him around to projects within the County that involve AMD, reclamation, and watershed restoration that EPCAMR is involved with and would like to have the District as a partner on; Discussed future grant opportunities in collaboration with each other
- Provided EPCAMR's Powerpoint and an article on our 3D Mine Pool Modeling in EarthVision work to Robert McFaul, Senior Training and Technical Support Specialist, for DGI, who is considering our work for publication within their company newsletter
- Assisted Mrs. Susan Roth, Hanover Twp., who lives in Liberty Estates with trying to figure out if her property was in the FEMA Floodplain area of the Township along Solomon Creek and referred her to the Luzerne Conservation District to see if she could obtain a copy of the construction plans for the streambank stabilization project that was completed a few years ago that may have survey grade elevations on them for the bank along the stream channel behind her house

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Executive Director received word from Samantha Kutskel, Program Coordinator for the Coldwater Heritage Partnership that our presentation on the ***Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan*** was excellent and was very exhaustive with more than enough detail for the surrounding community municipal leaders and partners to absorb as we all consider future implementation projects for both trout stream restoration and environmental improvement projects throughout the entire watershed; She suggested that we submit for a **\$10,000** Conservation Implementation Grant that was due the following week; EPCAMR took on the challenge of completing the grant within the next week and was able to submit it before the deadline; Communicated with Amy Wolfe-Eastern Abandoned Mine Program Coordinator for Trout Unlimited who was interested in obtaining a copy of our final report to see what our findings were and to see the final results of the electro-shocking survey of the fishery in Solomon Creek conducted by EPCAMR Staff and TU Staff in the early Fall of 2012 prior to completing the Plan at 12 locations within the watershed; Submitted our Financial Documentation on the grant to Samantha for final close-out and it was approved; **\$47,563.29** provided in In-Kind Services for the **\$6,000** grant in EPCAMR's "home watershed"; EPCAMR will be burning CDs and sending them out to municipalities and partners as a resource document
- EPCAMR Executive Director and Staff continued to make edits and write the narrative sections of the ***Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Restoration and Assessment Plan*** (LLRWRAP) in partnership with the LRCA, with technical editorial comments being provided by Tom Clark, SRBC AMD Coordinator; Development of the Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan also continued on the same track as the LLRWRAP, however, it will become a separate document that will be submitted to the PA DEP-BCR; The LLRWRAP will be submitted to the SRBC until LRCA's contractual grant agreement shortly after the New Year 2013; Sent along aerial photos of the newly discovered Marcy Shaft, outside of Duryea, near the

Project Coordination (cont'd)

"Duryea Swamps" to LRCA for further review; Completed the References section for the LLRWRAP

- Received a final PowerPoint presentation from the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA) in Sullivan County from the Sullivan County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, Corey Richmond depicting the placement of the limestone aggregate and limestone sand at several locations within the watershed and on White Ash Land Association property to treat acidic seeps to the Loyalsock Creek; Funding for the limestone was provided by EPCAMR and ARIPPA; Provided Corey with a lead from Sustainable Resources Inc., (<http://www.sustainableresourcesgroup.com/>) who has a lime product that they are looking to provide to AMD treatment systems in the region

Conference Coordination

- Participated in the December **2013 PA AMR Conference** Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming 15th Anniversary State-wide Conference in State College; EPCAMR presented some themes and ideas that tied into our 15 years of commitment to cleaning up AMD in PA; Looking for presentations this year on environmental health and AMD relationships; Discussed preparing a letter of request for funding for **\$5000** from the PA DEP that EPCAMR will prepare and submit; EPCAMR submitted changes to the original contract and sent it back to the Ramada for revisions and is waiting for a newly revised contract for signature and approval
- EPCAMR is assisting PAEE with spreading the word out about their 2013 Annual Conference, "**Peak Performances: Climbing the Summit of Environmental Education**" that will be held on March 15-16 at the Bushkill Inn and Conference Center, Bushkill, PA in the Poconos; EPCAMR is going to be passing the word along to our groups to see if they are interested in attending and exhibiting; (www.paee.net)
- Participated in the **2013 PA Watersheds Conference** conference call coordinated by the Foundation for PA Watersheds

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts
- Completed the November EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- Sent off a Summary document of Act 13 Funding streams and future opportunities to Mike to forward to our EPCAMR constituents and groups in the region; Received a copy from Andrew Heath, Renew Growing Greener Coalition
- Signed up for www.grassroots.org to see if they could provide us with any in-kind assistance for EPCAMR