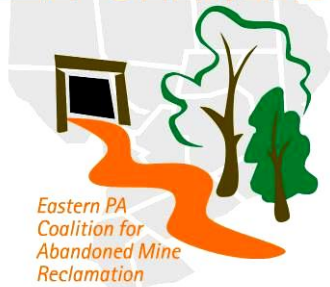


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Attended a meeting with Bernie McGurl-LRCA and EPCAMR President, Dan Cardell, and other Wilkes University Professors, Rodney Ridley, Robert Taylor, and Ken Klemow, at the new Cohen Science Building in Wilkes-Barre, PA on campus to discuss future ways in which Wilkes University can get involved with EPCAMR's AMD work throughout the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, both from a hands-on student learning perspective, research, grant partnerships, and internships
- Meeting with *Tania Markowich*, EPCAMR Graphics Design/Marketing Intern from Camden, NJ, who will be working through Camden County Community College (CCCC), Camden, NJ under EPCAMR's sponsorship as a virtual distance learner intern that will be completing work products, brochures, and posters for EPCAMR as a part of her community service internship requirements; Worked with Tania to complete her objectives, goals, and paperwork needed by the CCCC for her to begin work in the Spring semester at the end of January 2014
- Meeting with Frank Knorek to work on finalizing the PA DEP EE **\$3000** grant budget for ***EPCAMR's AMD Outdoor Education & Pottery Art Classroom Program*** in partnership with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, Wilkes U., Misericordia U., and the Earth Conservancy; Submitted EPCAMR's one page summary proposal for approval and comments on 12-4-13 to the PA DEP EE Grants Program and received a positive response back the very next day; Obtained Letters of Commitment from Wilkes U. and Misericordia University to submit along with the application
- Meeting with *Gabby Zawacki*, Spring 2014 EPCAMR Communications Outreach Specialist Intern who dropped off paperwork from Wilkes U. that needed to be signed prior to her starting on January 13th, 2014
- Meeting with *Holly Halecki*, Spring 2014 EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern who will be starting her internship also on January 13th, 2014
- Provided some information to Joe Gourniak, Area Sales Manager for Synagro Technologies (www.synagro.com), out of Philadelphia, who is looking for markets for his granulite product;
- Forwarded a copy of the EPA Environmental Education Grants Program application package to *Frank Knorek*-EPCAMR Volunteer Community Development Coordinator to review for a potential future proposal submission; <http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

- Informed Jeff Koch, a STEM Biology Teacher at the Hazleton Academy of Sciences, Drums, PA about how a former student of his *Dana Sword*, could look into an internship with EPCAMR while she is a freshman at Bloomsburg University

Technical Assistance

- Meeting with Roxanne Li, and King Frimpong, Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) to assist them with developing a PA DEP Environmental Education proposal that would educate and engage low-income students from the Kids Café (an after-school program) in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre, located at my hometown alma mater elementary school (Heights Elementary) on the natural habitats and water resources of the Wyoming Valley through field tours and curriculum development; EPCAMR offered to provide them with a Partner Form and would provide some AMD Field Tours throughout the Wyoming Valley as one of their guest environmental leaders of the Wyoming Valley; Suggested that they follow up with The Lands at Hillside Farms, Luzerne Conservation District, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, North Branch Land Trust, Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Committee, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, and the Earth Conservancy
- Assisted Leigh Ann Kemmerer, Environmental Scientist with Borton-Lawson find out some information on iron ore mining in the Danville Area by putting her in touch with our good friend Van Wagner, from the Danville Area and local historian

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Executive Director and Watershed Outreach Intern, David Svab, picked up and planted **8** native tree seedlings (Eastern White Pine and Black Gum) from Midway Gardens for the December planting at the Espy Run AMD Treatment Site in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA on 12-3-13 and 12-4-13 as a part of the **ACCT Phase II Waterboxx Restoration and Research Project**; Due to weather conditions and rain, the remaining 12 will have to be planted at another time; EPCAMR had been waiting on the delivery of the trees from the nursery for nearly a month
- Attended an informational meeting with Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC and State legislators in Duryea Borough on 12-5-13 on the recent announcement of a \$1 Million Act 13 proposal to look at treating a portion of the Old Forge AMD Borehole to develop a treatment technology that could remove iron oxide to a particular particle size distribution developed under a patented technology by Mr. Chris Gillis, formerly with Solution Mining Inc., Dallas, PA; Attended a public announcement field press event by SMS, LLC on the Popple Property, in Duryea, PA, just below the Old Forge AMD Borehole on 12-12-13 to hear the plans for the project discussed in further detail by Charles Medico and Tom Reilly, Reilly Engineering; <http://m.citizensvoice.com/news/plans-unveiled-to-treat-old-forge-borehole-drainage-1.1601029>; Convened a meeting at the EPCAMR Office on 12-18-13 with Charles Medico and Tom Reilly to show them some of our current work on the development of the underground mine pool complexes for the Lackawanna Valley and our borehole monitoring work within the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool complex of the Lackawanna Valley as it relates to their future project; Created some talking points and questions for SMS, LLC as they move forward based on our attendance at their informational meeting and press event; EPCAMR believes that we will become an integral partner in their project moving forward; Provided a copy of the link to LRCA and EPCAMR Staff on how the PA DCED decides on how projects are funded; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/small-agency-has-big-say-in-revenue-1.1593629>

- The MSI Program asked EPCAMR Staff if we would like to co-present at the 2014 PA GIS Conference on May 6-7, 2014 PA at the Penn-Stater Conference Center and Hotel, State College, PA; They are interested in having us relay our experiences with our **Mine Mapping Grant** Program thus far to talk about our work from multiple points of view; EPCAMR brought it to the MSI Program's attention that we suspected that we may have a mold presence issue on some of the mine maps, so we took it upon ourselves to buy two mold test kits and test our rooms for absence or presence of any kind of mold or mildew; Tests came back negative, however, we informed the MSI Program because the Staff had an initial concern and we wanted to address it properly and be sure that it hadn't already become an issue with other sites; It was more than likely coal dust or coal silt fines on some of the mine maps; Talked to Zach Bell about organizing the scans and georeferenced images on the hard drive that EPCAMR submits to them monthly for review and conversion to the Mr. SID file formats before being returned to EPCAMR for geo-referencing and digitization
- Informed Olde Mill Impressions that the HBPS has submitted the invoice to the Luzerne Foundation for payment of the iron oxide pavers from RI Lampus and requested an update on the engraved pavers that they were working on for the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park**; Reviewed and edited a script from Alana Mauger for the Huber Breaker KickStarter Fundraiser video; Provided information to the Newport Township Community Organization for their newsletter on a Program being sponsored by the Huber Breaker Preservation Society and others called **Anthracite Folklore**, presented by The Patchtown Players of Eckley that will feature vignettes told in prose and rhyme explaining the effects of mining and the daily hardships of miners and their families; The cost for students to attend is \$5 and \$7 for adults, to be held at the EPCAMR/EC Conference Room

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Convened a PA AMR Conference Call to continue developing the topics, agenda, speakers, pre-conference workshop tours/golf outing for the 16th Annual Conference in conjunction with ARIPPA, who will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary in June 2014; SRBC will be maintaining their support of the Conference as a sponsor, providing publicity, and seeking abstracts; Provided the Committee with the price estimate for a pre-conference trip to Penn's Cave and booked the pre-conference tour on June 26th, 2014 with Penn's Cave (www.pennscave.com); Reached out to John Augustine, <http://marcelluscoalition.org/2012/04/marcellus-shale-coalition-adds-experienced-nepa-community-outreach-manager/>, the NEPA Community Outreach Manager for the Marcellus Shale Coalition to see if he'd be interested in presenting at the Conference and sitting down with EPCAMR to get caught up on environmental issues related to Marcellus and AMD; Supplied a link to the Committee on the definitions of a Small Games of Chance as it relates to our idea of having a Silent Auction; http://www.revenue.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/small_games_of_chance/14500 ; Provided the Committee with a link to LPS Conveyance, a company that is interested in presenting at the Conference that has applications for the Co-Gen industry, reclamation, or coal industry; <http://lpsconveyance.wordpress.com/>
- Partnered with the Schuylkill RiverKeeper to promote the Schuylkill Watershed Congress 2014; EPCAMR is an annual partner in the event held at Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown, PA ; <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?Id=63>
- Participated in a conference call with PAEE and NAAEE partners who are assisting with coordinating the *PAEE EECapacity Community Leaders Workshop* in the Spring 2014 at the Annual PAEE Conference in March 2014 at Antioch Village, PA

Community Volunteer Coordination

- EPCAMR submitted our renewal membership to the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC), Pittston, PA
- Suggested that *Suzy Wickham* fill out EPCAMR's Community Volunteer Service Form; Suzy is from the Danville Area and is interested in becoming certified in Water Quality Monitoring in the late Spring 2014 with EPCAMR as a volunteer
- *Deanna Lesh*, sought information from EPCAMR on what age children could be involved in the AMD Tie Dye Volunteer efforts at community events with EPCAMR; EPCAMR responded that 14 is usually the age that we look for and that under that age, they must be accompanied by an adult or guardian; Sent her our Community Service Volunteer form for interested volunteers; http://epcamr.org/storage/projects/EPCAMR_Volunteer_Registration_Form.pdf

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts
- Reviewed the Alliance for Non-Profit Insurance organization's brochure and requested a quote for 2014
- Completed and submitted the November 2013 PA DEP 319 Progress and monthly EPCAMR Board Report and October and November Reimbursements
- Mike forwarded EPCAMR Executive Director a link to some free tools that EPCAMR might benefit from and will be researching into the potential for an easy migration from HostGator to BlueHost in the future; All of these benefits come to EPCAMR for being a Silver Member of GuideStar <http://www.grassroots.org/free-website-tools-bluehost-web-hosting>
- Dymo stamps through Endicia will be increasing first class stamps on January 26th, 2014 from \$.46 to \$.48, the additional ounce rate will increase by a penny to \$.21, and postcard prices will be increasing a penny from \$.33 to \$.34; EPCAMR had to update the software to support the new rates



Robert Hughes-EPCAMR and Ray Clarke-Huber Breaker Preservation Society in front of the Huber Breaker Anthracite Coal Region Miners Memorial, Ashley, PA with the Huber Retail Pocket in the background