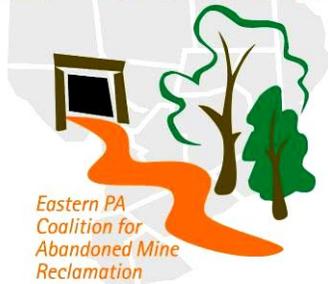


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## December 2011 Progress Report

### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff participated in a Penn Future Meet & Greet, an SRBC Mtg. and a Catawissa Creek Watershed Tour. Submitted 1 grant proposal for up to \$50K and collaborated on an RFP with 3 consultant firms.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley , 24 in the Wyoming Valley and measured flow on 2 discharges. Updated 2 GIS databases and processed flow data EPCAMR partners.
- EPCAMR Staff completed the 3D model for the Jeddo Highland #5 project.
- Began transferring old archived content from Nuke to WordPress format on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

### Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff attended a “Meet and Greet” at the Main Street Gallery in Kingston for Penn Future. At least two local state representatives were in attendance and many local environmental leaders.
- EPCAMR staff collaborated on and submitted a Capacity Building grant proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Successful applicants will be notified in February. Awards and trainings begin in May.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. Aided executive director in preparing the reimbursement and sent to 319 program staff.
- Received a newsletter from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) that explained the OSM/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed merger in 2012. Forwarded this information on to the EPCAMR board.
- Created an EPCAMR Services 2-page document as a sort of marketing tool to explain our services to prospective “clients”. Also formatted an executive summary describing the Mine Pool Mapping Program to look like a 1-page example project success.
- Spoke with Jessica Wolff more about making an AMD Treatment Poster to go along with WPCAMR’s DVD. Created a DVD of both AMD Formation and AMD Treatment videos.
- Updated the EPCAMR Membership Form for 2012 and uploaded it to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) .
- Coordinated with staff from Skelly and Loy, Borton-Lawson and Rettew to aide them in incorporating EPCAMR into their proposals to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR).
- Coordinated with Brad Schultz, Skelly and Loy, to determine our role in the development of the Catawissa Creek Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) [PEC].
- Attended a Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) meeting at the East Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre. Tom Clark spoke on the Anthracite Remediation Strategy and EPCAMR

President, Bernie McGurl, was presented with the Wm. Jeanes Award, but the biggest issues were water withdrawals related to the Marcellus Shale Gas Industry. Protesters were there in abundance, spent hours of public comment time talking about water quality issues caused by the gas industry and disrupted the normal docket approval process. It was a practice in less than respectable civil disobedience. In response, instead of passing all the dockets separately, the commissioners approved the whole slate as recommended by the SRBC staff and quickly adjourned. One of the iPads was taken from the SRBC in the chaos [SRBC].

- Met with SRBC and Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) staff to discuss flow monitoring on the Lackawanna River and its related AMD Discharges [LRCA].
- Posted an article to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) related to 2012 Funding from the OSM. PA will see approximately \$67 Million (13% of the \$485 Million appropriated nation-wide to cleanup AML).
- Updated Oneida #3 treatment system information on [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org) [SRI].
- Created a news archive on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) from the 306 old news articles posted using the CPG Nuke format. Also continued to transfer approximately 80 content pages from CPG Nuke to the new WordPress format after Host Gator restricted access to the old EPCAMR website due to slow load times. Updated Staff Bio pages with new resumes and updated profile information. Fixed a formatting problem related to dark font on page titles. Continued to update and upgrade programming for the site. Found a way to fix an ongoing problem with the WordPress site dealing with a dark font that was being displayed on content pages to a lighter more visible font.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Updated Northern Anthracite Field Borehole Access table and sent to Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) and Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) staff [LRCA & SRBC].
- Received word that a Gestetner copier at the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in Wilkes-Barre was now not being given to another agency at the Steigmeir Building, but was available for surplus to EPCAMR. Quickly made arrangements to pick it up that afternoon.
- Setup the Gestetner copier on the network as an additional network printer and attempted to figure out the document scanning and storage features.
- Combined Jeddo and Eckley scattered data from all veins and began 3D modeling of the mine pool. Downloaded the Weatherly and Hazleton digital elevation models (DEM) as a surface to the model, but they were only available in different datum (ie. NAD83 and NAD27). Both ArcGIS and earthVision cannot perform this conversion. After hours of research, finally downloaded Corpsicon, developed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to convert from one datum to the other so both would match. Calculated volumes of coal and water in underground mines [Jeddo].
- Worked with EPCAMR Intern to georeference surface maps related to the mine map cross sections in the Lackawanna Valley. A basemap will be created to line up the cross sections in earthVision [LRCA].
- Received Old Forge Borehole transducer data from LRCA who received it from InSitu repair shop. Graphed the data to show the fluctuations in water depth and pressure up until the point when they failed. Luckily the data coincided with field flow data collected just before Halloween and formulas may be able to be calibrated to back calculate flow. Consulted with LRCA Executive Director and SRBC staff as to what to do with the damaged transducers. One transducer was damaged beyond repair and the other worked fine once the cable was dried. The lacerated cable could be salvaged into two smaller lengths. SRBC staff have an idea on how to monitor the flow using one transducer in the culvert as opposed to the borehole [LRCA].
- Revised EPCAMR 2012 Billable Rates for grants and other contract work based on merit raises.
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to conduct water level monitoring of 14 boreholes. Met with LRCA Executive Director to discuss which boreholes should be

“daylighted” to gain data in gap areas. Bernie agreed that the Jermyn Borehole should be opened as well as others near Scranton and Dickson City [LRCA].

- Began searching for a better flow meter for sampling AMD discharges, specifically the Duryea Outfall. Searched several catalogs in-house to find the Swoffer 3000 flow probe. This instrument included in-stream flow calculation with a data logger and seemed to be within an acceptable price range. Searched for its use in PA and found that Hedin Environmental used one to gather flow and upon they said served them well. Ordered the meter immediately from Ben Meadows and found that they had a 20% discount program for non-profits.
- Received a hard copy of the Hydrology of Pleistocene Sediments in the Wyoming Valley... report by J. R. Hollowell from 1971. Updated the Knox Mine Disaster GIS layer metadata. This layer was always a bit mysterious as to its origin and what it represents. After comparison to the Hollowell's maps, it seems that the outline is related to the “buried valley.” These glacial sediments coupled with amount of underground mining definitely had a role in the stability of the ground beneath the river.
- Calculated time spent on various grants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2011 in preparation for invoicing the sources for reimbursement [SRBC, LRCA, EC, Jeddo].
- Prepared copies of water sampling records taken for the Askam Borehole project and forwarded them to Earth Conservancy staff [EC].
- Worked with EPCAMR intern to create Barrier Pillars and Mine Water Flow Lines in the Lackawanna Basin of the Northern Anthracite Field [SRBC, LRCA].
- Created a Solomon Creek Headwaters Map for student volunteer Ricky Ruggerio. Ricky will be volunteering approximately 30 hours for EPCAMR in relation to his Senior Project. The time will be spent photo documenting the Solomon Creek Watershed.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a tour and monitoring of the Catawissa Creek Watershed. Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA), lead the tour to familiarize Skelly and Loy staff with the watershed and grab water quality samples. Skelly and Loy will be the lead contractor putting together a feasibility study for a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Catawissa Creek [PEC].
- Received the Swoffer Flow Probe in the mail, spent some time reading the instructions and familiarizing myself with the different pieces and workings of the probe [SRBC].
- EPCAMR Staff traveled around the Wyoming Valley to monitor water levels in 24 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Tested out the Swoffer Flow Probe on the Glen Lyon Discharge and took pipe full measurements on the Askam Borehole Discharges to calculate the amount of mine water flowing from the discharges [SRBC].

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.