

EPCAMR



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February 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff attended a two-day intensive Professional Geologist Course Review Seminar conducted by the PA Council of Professional Geologist, held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Geological Society, in order to be able to sit for the Fall 2012 Fundamentals of Geology and the Applied Geology/Professional Practice ASBOG Exam to obtain our PG license; 16 hrs of Professional Development Hours were obtained by each of the Staff
- EPCAMR Staff conducted the last of 3 AMD Teacher Training Workshops/In-Services with 25 Science Teachers from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District at Plains-Solomon Elementary School, Plains; Burned 25 CDs for the teachers with the assistance of the EPCAMR interns; Provided the teachers with two curriculums, including Nature Interrupted, PA Fish & Boat Commission Resource Sheets and reference materials from PLAY Magazine, EPCAMR's Activity Book, a CD-ROM of Environmental Education Resource activities, work plans, lesson plans, outdoor activities, and power point presentations on all things AMD related as a part of our **PA DEP EE Teacher Training Education Program on AMD Grant**
- EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed the draft **PA DEP White Paper on the Utilization of AMD in Well Development** and provided an 10 page written comment document from EPCAMR's perspective to the Department for their eventual review and possible inclusion in the final document proposal
- An LCCC student, Joe Cherinko, has contacted EPCAMR and offered to volunteer in the Spring with any upcoming events that we are hosting; EPCAMR Executive Director will follow up and has asked him to submit his resume; Another student from King's College, Doran Volkel also submitted his interest to work with EPCAMR as an intern in the Spring and Summer 2012 and has submitted his resume for review
- Scheduled an outdoor education experience field trip with W-B Area Science Coordinator-Mike Corcoran, to AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley for the 6th Grade Plains-Solomon Elementary students in April 2012, who will be helping EPCAMR to build 3 solar kilns this Spring, early Summer
- Talked with Tim Clinton, RECOUP (<http://www.recoup.com/>)-an organization that assists non-profits with branding, marketing, and creating the social awareness needed to increase our membership and donations through a co-venture agreement; They will create an online profile for EPCAMR to create a branded image and editorial profile to highlight EPCAMR and our mission; We'll get a unique invitation link, promotional offers, and then our contacts can join RECOUP through our link and will be able to donate portions of any purchases directly to

EPCAMR; RECOUP will track donations and send us a check monthly; EPCAMR Executive Director to review agreement before submitting for inclusion in the program venture

Technical Assistance

- Conducted a field tour with Anna Lenzer, a freelance journalist from *Mother Jones Magazine*, to the Gowen, Derringer, and Jeddo AMD Mine Tunnel discharges in the Hazleton area to provide her with a better understanding of mine drainage impacts in the Greater Hazleton Area
- Responded to a representative from *UES Corporation* (www.utilityeserv.com) who is interested in obtaining land to dispose of biosolids, and informed him of our efforts to support land reclamation projects on abandoned mine sites that utilize biosolids (Class A, B) for mine land reclamation projects. EPCAMR has also performed many research projects over the years on the use of biosolids, chicken manure compost, chitin, eggshells, and manure from agricultural operations (CAFOs) for reclamation projects since, topsoil on mine sites are at a premium; Forwarded him to other landowners, coal operators, ag operators in PA to get the word out on his company and asked him if he'd be inclined to set up an exhibit or something at our annual Conference that will be in State College, PA this August
- EPCAMR will again be awarded a **\$5000** Reclamation Award donation from the ARIPPA trade association to solicit small mini-grant projects related to AMD/AML in the EPCAMR Region in the Summer of 2012; EPCAMR is also working with ARIPPA and WPCAMR on planning a June Fundraiser/Golf Tournament in State College, PA at Toftrees
- Sent Mike a link to the Pennsylvania Topographic and Geographic Survey that just released the Statewide Folds Map – The Pennsylvania Geological Survey has published open file general geology report 11-01.0: *Folds of Pennsylvania-GIS Data and Map*. The fold axial traces and structural fronts included in the data set and on the map were compiled by retired geologist Roger T. Faill over many years. Named folds have additional information associated with them including fold measurements and a list of source maps and reports that show or refer to the folds. This new map is both a valuable tool and an interesting perspective on structural elements of the state as a whole (<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/index.aspx>)
- Reviewed and provided comments to LRCA and Bernie McGurl's initial draft of the Lower Lackawanna River Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP)

Conference Coordination

- Conducted an AMR Conference Call with the Planning Committee to begin working on the agenda for the **2012 AMR Conference** at the Ramada Inn State College, PA August 2-4th, 2012; Followed up with Mario Carello and Mike Smith-Moshannon DMO to see if they could assist with arranging a possible AMD Tour in the Centre/Clinton County area for August related to Marcellus Shale Gas usage/AMD, if possible; Mario suggested that the presentation that Mike Smith is doing at the W. Branch Symposium on Frac Water/AMD Usage might be one that we will want to consider for our Conference as well. Mike is taking the lead on the Frac Water usage for AMD Treatment in Moshannon.

- EPCAMR has also made an initial contact with a staff person, MCOR Extension Associate, Dave Yoxtheimer, Hydrogeologist, from the small Marcellus Shale Center on campus.; They only have a few small offices, nothing worth touring, however, he did say they just released a report on the Economics of Using AMD in Frac Water and submitted it as comments to the PA DEP, funded by RAND Corporation to add to the recent White Paper that was looking for additional comments on AMD Usage for Frac Water in the Gas industry (<http://marcellus.psu.edu/about/directors.php>)
- Worked on putting together Marketing Ideas and Comments for the Environmental Education Certification Work Group that EPCAMR sits on for the PAEE and submitted them to the full committee for review and comment; An entire synopsis will be provided at the **2012 Annual PAEE Conference** at Raystown Lake, Huntingdon on March 16th and 17th

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff and interns conducted a stream walk visual habitat assessment, water quality monitoring, and biological monitoring in the Spring Run tributary sub watershed of Solomon Creek in Laurel Run, Wilkes-Barre Township, and the City of Wilkes-Barre for the **Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan**; Updated Shawn Rummel, Ph. D.-PA Trout Unlimited Field and Research Coordinator, Eastern Abandoned Mine Program, that once EPCAMR Staff have had the opportunity in the early Spring to finish up a few more tributary assessments, we will be providing him with a watershed map of anticipated trout survey electro shocking sampling locations that he'll be conducting through the PA TU TAG program; Followed up with Mike Porta-PA Fish & Boat Commission NE Office about our work in the Solomon Creek watershed and corresponded with him to set up another meeting to discuss our Spring electro shocking survey for trout and fish populations and to discuss the check dam removal project that wasn't funded by the PA DEP in the last round of Growing Greener
- Invoiced the W-B Area School District for **\$1000** for the EPCAMR Staff time on the PPL Grant that allowed for us to take out the entire 5th grade class in several W-B Area Elementary Schools for several AMD & Watershed Outreach Stream Tours in the Fall of 2011
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a field visit with SRBC Hydrogeologists George Lizarchick, Tom Clarke, and Wade Cope, E.I.T., at the **Old Forge AMD Borehole** to discuss some alternatives to accessing the borehole and obtaining accurate flow measurements on the discharge with LRCA's Executive Director-Bernie McGurl; Travelled over to the **Duryea AMD Outfall** to obtain flow measurements of the discharge using both SRBC's flow meter and EPCAMR's new Swoffer flow meter
- Corresponded with Kent Fuller, Pagnotti Enterprises, to see if he could help us set up a meeting with James Pagnotti to review the work, numerical values, and 3D Models and layers to date that EPCAMR has completed on the **Jeddo Highlands #5 Hydrogeological Investigation** of the Tunnel D Basin
- Was informed by Janice Leiby, Horticulture Teacher, W-B Area Career & Technical Center, that our partnership with them, through their FFA Team, EPCAMR, Huber Breaker Preservation Society was again awarded a **\$4500** grant to assist with the **Miner's Memorial Park** this Spring; Informed the Huber Breaker Preservation Society that their domain was transferred properly over to the EPCAMR domain server through GoDaddy and HostGator

- Heard from Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Borough Planning Commission that the PA Trout Unlimited Fisheries bio-Survey will be completed by the end of March 2012 for our review of the **Hazle Creek** watershed that we can then incorporate into the QHUP for the watershed on the Upper Lehigh River
- EPCAMR Staff informed the SRBC and LRCA that we are focusing in on the Upper and Lower Lackawanna Valley first, before coming down into the Wyoming Valley related to the **Mine Pool Mapping Project for the Anthracite Region**, since the focus is on the Jermyn, Old Forge, and Duryea outfalls right now; With the addition of the cross sections and the newly found faults and anticlines, EPCAMR will definitely get a better hydrogeological understanding and representation of the mines pools up there; EPCAMR has a higher confidence in the model in EarthVision if we have the additional cross sections, this way we wouldn't have to assume that the other side of the valley sort of mirrors the "bowl" on the northeastern side of the Lackawanna Valley;

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reviewed and submitted our January 2012 PA DEP 319 Progress Report along with a reimbursement request form
- EPCAMR Staff worked on preparations for the 1st Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting on February 23rd including grant reimbursements, reconciliation of EPCAMR Accounts, preparation and submission of invoices, Agenda Items, a Hot Button Issues Summary, and updates to the EPCAMR Operating Budget
- EPCAMR Executive Director ordered additional EPCAMR Orange Safety T-Shirts for the interns for when they are borehole sampling in the streets of the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valley for safety precautions
- Informed Stephen Goodale-Pocono NE RC& DC Executive Director, that EPCAMR is interested in partnering with them on their C-SAW Technical Assistance Grant, if they are amenable to us providing technical assistance on abandoned mining related issues throughout the Region if they felt there was a need to have us provide certain technical services to groups in our region that focused on AMD projects, AMD remediation, water quality monitoring, or land reclamation projects; If there is a way for EPCAMR to alleviate some of the pressure off the Council to do some of this work, EPCAMR would be more than willing to develop a cooperative agreement to provide professional services to the Pocono NE RC & DC in the future.
- Completed two mid-term assessments for our King's College interns, Zach Yodis and Dan Gilbert and forwarded the evaluations back to Korie Dudrich, Internship Advising Coordinator-King's College