

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes

EPCAMR Executive Director

101 S. Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org

www.epcamr.org

February 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Attended the Ashley Borough Council Meeting on 2-12-2013, where there was an audience of over **50** people reached who were able to learn more about EPCAMR's completion of the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan and the impacts that were found within the Borough; EPCAMR reached out and informed the Borough that we were willing partners to assist them in the future to find and secure implementation grant funds to follow through on some of the recommendations in the Plan that were within their local municipality
- Presented an EPCAMR AMD/AML Program at Wilkes University at the request of Megan Boone-Valkenburg, Community Service Coordinator, to a Business Management Class of students who were seeking opportunities to work with local non-profits for a service learning project
- Meeting with Skip Sensbach, renowned local artist from the Back Mountain, who operates the Art Studio at Misericordia University and purchases our iron oxide to use in his ceramic work; Skip and EPCAMR Executive Director co-authored an article that was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of ***Ceramics Monthly*** and we're awaiting its publication on how we've been able to use iron oxides, manganese oxides, with his regional glazes that are made from local clays and coal ash
- Meeting with Kate Gibbons and Pam Fendrock, PennFuture to visit their new Office in downtown Wilkes-Barre and to provide them with materials and freebies as give-aways for the upcoming "Green Drinks" mixer to be held on 2-27-2013 at Bart n' Urby's in Wilkes-Barre for environmental professionals to begin networking; Attended the mixer and had an opportunity to present on EPCAMR's work in the region after winning a raffle
<http://www.greendrinks.org/PA/Wilkes-Barre>
- Reached out to George Kaufman, Pocono NE RC & DC Executive Director to try and schedule a meeting for the two of us to get together to catch up on projects and find ways to reconnect our organizations like we had in the past

- Provided the most updated PA AML Resolution template to Mike to forward along to our Conservation Districts, watershed groups, and reclamation-related partners in the EPCAMR Region to encourage them to pass one of their own in their own individual organizations; EPCAMR's Intern Sarah-Jane Gerstman compiled all of the County Officials within the EPCAMR Region into a database and a copy was forwarded to each of them

Technical Assistance

- Meeting with Ken Klemow, Professor at Wilkes University to review the new Act 13 Grant Guidelines and **Mine Subsidence Insurance** (MSI) Grant applications to see if there were future opportunities to partner on either grant
- Following are links for possible project funding that can be used for AMD treatment and/or watershed restoration along with some other areas; Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) for abandoned mine drainage, abatement, and treatment and for watershed restoration and protection projects; The Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund applications for consideration at the November 13, 2013 meeting will be accepted through July 31, 2013. Eligible applicants are encouraged to contact Brian Eckert or Matthew Karnell at 717-787-6245 to discuss potential projects before commencing the application process
- <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/commonwealth-financing-authority>
- <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/abandoned-mine-drainage-abatement-and-treatment-program>
- <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/watershed-restoration-and-protection-program>
- Followed up with Nick Wesley and his Northeast Sandbox Initiative which involves some remediation technologies that could apply to mine drainage; Planning on a Spring date to meet with Nick to review his technology and show him some AMD discharges in the area for a potential pilot project
- EPCAMR Executive Director was asked to be an *Environmental Section* Editor by the Anthracite Section-Society for Mining Engineers to assist with the development of the Anthracite Handbook that is being compiled over the next year or so by experts in the field of mining, reclamation, and AMD remediation across the Anthracite Region; John R. Ackerman, P.E., P.G., BCEE, F.NSPE-Consulting Engineer and Geologist is the lead Editor from Twin Oaks Consulting, LLC
- EPCAMR Executive Director worked with former Intern, Kristen Klingamann, who is a teacher at Tamaqua Area HS, who is pursuing her Master's Degree and is working on AMD related projects within the School District; Assisted her with updating and providing links and valuable resources to her website; <https://sites.google.com/site/wetlandbiodiversity/home>

- Finalized EPCAMR's regional ***Datashed Workshop*** in partnership with Stream Restoration Inc for April 12, 2013 at the EPCAMR Office from 10-4;
- Reviewed some videos and information on Taylor Energy Alternatives forwarded to EPCAMR by Peter Haentjeas-EMARR on Jeddo Hydro Engineering related projects and provided comments back to EMARR
- EPCAMR Executive Director located an online tool that would allow watershed groups to find their legislators quickly and to follow bills that they sponsor or co-sponsor and it follows the money and their contributions and who they came from; <http://www.followthemoney.org/index.phtml>
- Suggested that Andy Strassner-Regional Office Manager for the ARM Group, www.armgroup.net, get in touch with Bernie McGurl-Lackawanna River Corridor Association to review and discuss what LRCA and EPCAMR have just completed for the Lower Lackawanna River Watershed-a comprehensive Assessment and Action Plan including mine pool work on the Old Forge Borehole and the Duryea Outfall; We also have a specific set of recommendations in that plan that include alternative energy uses for the mine pool water eventually, once a treatment system can be constructed for the discharge(s); No one has approached us directly as of yet about mine pool geothermal work
- Requested technical assistance from Dan Koury, Pottsville District Mining Office in locating an electronic copy of a Report mentioned by Paul Lohin, EPCAMR Board Member, on the W. Branch of the Schuylkill River that was completed by the US ACE and USGS; It was a Hydrological Model Investigation Report using some type of modeling that Paul believed we might be able to overlap or mash up with our mine pool work in the region

Project Coordination

- Coordinated with the Hicks Creek Watershed Association, Exeter Borough, and all partners involved with the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***; Submitted a reimbursement and Progress Report to the PA DEP Project Officer and the Growing Greener Grants Center with a Salary Line Adjustment from the Construction Category to cover expenses; Worked with Harold Ash, Municipal Engineer for Exeter Borough on determining easement language for the Solicitor to sign off on with the Real Estate Appraiser who will be valuing the land needed for the stream restoration projects within the Borough that they are deciding on whether or not to condemn by eminent domain due to the safety of the public and residents in the Borough due to the future potential of flooding from this area; Reviewed Permit Review Fee Schedule with Skelly & Loy and set up a Pre-Application Meeting with PA DEP BAMR and the PA DEP Chapter 105 Waterways Bureau scheduled for 3-27-2013;
- Met with Brantley Kirkland, new Reforestation Coordinator for the ACCT at the EPCAMR Office and provided him with an updated ***Huber Miners Memorial Park AML Reforestation Waterboxx Research Project*** Report and discussed continuing our involvement for a second year of research with the potential to be chosen for an additional **\$1000** grant to continue the work; Brantley mentioned that EPCAMR had provided some of the most detailed and useful information out of all the recipients of the first year grants and based on our recommendations and input will be changing some of the programmatic ideas for the second year projects to be selected

- Mailed out copies of the **Solomon Creek CHP** to municipalities that were not able to attend the November 2012 Final Meeting for the Coldwater Conservation Plan on Solomon Creek
- Completed a **\$10,000** American Water grant application for the Solomon **Creek Implementation Habitat Improvement Project**
- Reviewed some water quality data from the Lab used by SRBC from the Old Forge and Duryea discharges related to the **SRBC Anthracite Region Mine Pool Mapping Project** and did some trend analyses of the data with Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Coordinator; Provided Shawn Jones, Field Technician with SRBC the directions to the Wyoming Valley/Lackawanna Valley boreholes for sampling for February
- Received all the grant paperwork for the **Lewis Mine Rehabilitation Treatment System SMCRA Project** from the PA DEP Grants Center and began filling out the necessary reports and worksheets to be sent back to them by March 29, 2013; Followed up with Mario Carello, our Project Officer, Eric Rosengrant-Compliance Specialist and Water Quality Monitor, from the Moshannon District Mining Office and Bob Hedin-Hedin Environmental that will be doing the design and construction management for the project

Conference Coordination

- Participated in the February 2013 PA AMR Conference Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming **15th Anniversary State-wide Conference** in State College; Provided a budget estimate to the PA DEP at their request; EPCAMR was approved to receive **\$5000** towards the Conference Planning for 2013 from the PA DEP; Followed up with potential speakers for the Conference via e-mail; Received an anonymous donation of **\$1000** towards the Conference and to assist us bringing more volunteers from the watershed community to the Conference; Solicited presentations on AMD and Environmental Health research from Professors and Doctors involved in the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition and put out a Call for Sponsors in the PA Environmental Digest;
- Secured the Civil Engineering Lodge at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center for our **Pre-Conference Workshop** on 8-8-2013 by signing the Penn State University Release and Indemnification Agreement and forwarding it along to Stone Valley Recreation Area Administrator
- Continued working on the **PA Watershed Conference** Planning with the Foundation for PA Watersheds scheduled for April 5-6th in State College, PA at the Nittany Lion Inn; Put out a call to EPCAMR Media Partners to see if they would be interested in sitting on a panel of presenters who would provide advice and pointers to the watershed community on how to get good stories about their work in the news and in print media outlets; Matt Hughes, Staff Correspondent from the Times-Leader agreed to participate on the panel
- Forwarded information on the upcoming State-wide PA AMR Conference to Bill Hall, Executive Director with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center; Found out that **70** applications were accepted for review, ours being one of them and that we would know more by May 2013

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Provided information to Paul Lohin-Personnel Committee at his request related to Personnel and COLA for 2013 for Staff; COLAs were approved as required under our Policy Manual at 1.7% retroactive to January 1st, 2013
- Prepped for and Presented at the Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting on 2-21-2013
- Provided 1099-MISC Income Reports for Tax Purposes to Justyna S. and Kelsey B., EPCAMR Interns
- Completed the January EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- Corresponded with Roxanne Wilson, Coordinator for the Transitional Work Solutions, LLC who places LOWE's employees on an injury leave in light duty to assist them with their recovery; EPCAMR didn't have any needs to be filled at the time since we have our interns and Volunteer Services Coordinator Mel Talmadge volunteering with us; Informed her that Summer and Spring might be more appropriate times to contact us if employees are available at that time
www.twsworks.com
- EPCAMR was informed that we were awarded a **Growing Greener US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant** for FY13-14 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) in the amount of **\$125,000** to coordinate AMD efforts across the EPCAMR Region and throughout PA
- EPCAMR was informed that we were awarded a Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act Grant in the amount of **\$96,914** for the Rehabilitation of the Lewis Mine Drainage Treatment System in Cherry Township, Sullivan County that should be starting in (April 2013 through June 30, 2015)
- Sought a quote and advice from our CPA, Kovalchik and Kollar, LLC, to see if they could provide EPCAMR with a quote for completing a BCO-10 (if it is required of us); EPCAMR was not sure of the stipulations or criteria that we must meet to have that filed or not depending on the type of activities that we are doing; It turns out that we do not need to file the BCO-10 after further talking with Basil Lynch, our CPA; EPCAMR was also looking for a quote on an Accountant Review Report in addition to the completion of our 990s for the next fiscal year (2012) that we have to file for; The EPCAMR Board wanted to know if it is warranted or if we have been falling in line every year with our QB bookkeeping by providing the CPA with our Accountant's Copy of QB
- Forwarded off a Notice of Pending Changes to EPCAMR Staff to EPCAMR's Health Care Coverage related to Wellness Programs and other recent developments concerning the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that have impacted EPCAMR's company's health plan that may be implemented down the road