

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes-January 2007 Monthly Report
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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed December 2006 Monthly District/EPCAMR/319 Board Report
- Set up the first meeting of the Anthracite Living History Group in Plymouth Township to inform the group of the non-profit status of the organization and to discuss 2007 plans and goals
- Talked with Josh about the possibility of EPCAMR purchasing the Dodge Truck for future cleanups that are anticipated during the Spring and Summer of 2007
- Completed a Quarterly Progress Report (September 1, 2006 through December 31st, 2006) for the District's Environmental Education Grant [*Environmental Education & Technical Assistance to Local Government Officials, Artists, Schools, on Watersheds Impacted by AMD Throughout Luzerne County and its Potential as a Recoverable Resource for Community Projects*] and made a request for Reimbursement of **\$1363.81**
- Completed and submitted a Dick's Sporting Goods Community Grant online to support our Spring and Summer Youth Fishing and AMD Watershed Tour Program supported by the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Ordered fishing poles for the anticipated program through ZEBCO; Opened a PA Invest Interest-bearing Account for the PA F&BC Youth Fishing Grant
- Registered for the 2007 PAEE Conference that will be held in downtown W-B April 13-15th, 2007; LCD AML Program Staff will be leading a field study tour on Friday and the AML Program Manager will be serving as a keynote speaker on Saturday; Requested student volunteer assistance from LCCC and College Misericordia; Dropped off PAEE Conference brochures at the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in W-B
- Provided a letter of support for Angela Bestwick's **\$10,000** Toyota Tapestry Grant Proposal that would allow the Dallas Elementary 5th Grade Students work with LCD Staff to develop a GIS-based plant, trail, tree, and habitat inventory for the District Wetlands located in Hanover Twp., Luzerne County
- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District Board Meeting to discuss the possibility of EPCAMR purchasing the Dodge Truck
- Completed and mailed 5 1099-MISC Income Forms for EPCAMR to the IRS
- Compiled a list of grants that were received by EPCAMR in 2006 for the upcoming filing of the 990 Form for EPCAMR
- Prepared nearly a dozen letters of support for the PA EnviroThon and mailed them to each of the local legislators, Senators, and Congressmen representing Luzerne County

- Field Meeting with Gerald Longenecker-Skelly & Loy and Mike Hewitt to conduct a stream walk and revision to the Scope of Work planned for the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project
- Provided Kate Feissner-EMARR, with a copy of a sample RFP in order for her to use it as a guide in developing an RFP for one of her AMD treatment system construction grants
- Attended and coordinated the first meeting of 2007 for the Anthracite Living History Group at the Plymouth Township Municipal Building to discuss future projects, a video, a memorial to Joe Keating, who passed away last year, and was the founder of the organization, and to learn more about the group's non-profit status; A slide presentation was also made by Professor Bob Wolensky on the **Avondale Mine Disaster: Accident or Arson?**; A book is due out in the Spring 2007 co-authored by Professor Wolensky and Joe Keating
- Attended an initial meeting organized by POWR (PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers), coordinated by the Luzerne Conservation District at the PSU Hazleton Commonwealth Campus to discuss flooding issues, natural stream channel designs, flooding impacts caused by abandoned mine discharges, and community advocacy for municipal leaders to become proactive with flooding and stormwater management issues
- Talked with a Lisa K., a Girl Scouts Leader in the Wyoming Valley who is interested in having her Troop participate in a community cleanup and having EPCAMR conduct an AMD-Tie Dye Workshop for her troop in the Summer 2007; Coordinated with Karen Szwast-Hicks Creek Watershed Association about a potential illegal dump cleanup that could be funded under COALS in our Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project Location
- Notified by Dick's Sporting Goods that they were providing the Conservation District with over **\$6000** worth of discount coupons to give away to children who participate in the Youth Fishing Days and AMD Watershed Field Tours in the upcoming Spring and Summer 2007; A complete package was delivered with all of the coupons inside for distribution later in the Spring and Summer 2007

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed a request to the Office of Surface Mining for a drawdown on the Audenreid AMD Treatment System Project, Schuylkill, Columbia, and Luzerne Counties
- Forwarded a copy of the Wiconisco Creek Rivers Conservation Plan to the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited at the request of Bob Pennell, Dauphin County
- Joined the Stroud Water Research Center's Leaf Pack Network that will allow students who gather water quality data from AMD discharges from our region while on educational field trips and watershed tours to submit and view their biological and chemical data that would normally be collected during our Spring, Summer, and Fall scheduled tours
- LCD AML Program Manager was invited by the Scranton-Times to submit a Guest Column article on the benefits of the newly reauthorized AML Bill for Northeastern PA, the regional economy, and the environment; Submitted a 1500 word article that was published in the Sunday Scranton-Times and the Sunday Citizens Voice newspapers that have a combined circulation of nearly 200,000 readers between Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties
- Meeting with John Dawes, Western PA Watershed Protection Program in Harrisburg to take part in a video tribute to the members of the PA AML Outreach Campaign who worked over the last few years to ensure that the AML Reauthorization was passed in a way that was most advantageous to PA and to other historic coal producing states with abandoned mine lands and streams impacted by AMD that were in need of federal dollars

- Conducted a site inspection of the Lykens Water Level Tunnel AMD Treatment System Construction Project in the Bear Creek Watershed, Wiconisco Township, Dauphin County; Worked on a revision budget and Project Narrative for the Bear Creek Project and prepared it for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting; Submitted a Quarterly Progress Report and Narrative Update through December 2006 to Dave Hamilton-OSM
- Laid out an agenda for an upcoming 2007 AMR Conference Planning Committee Agenda and forwarded it along to members of last years' Planning Committee to gauge their interest in participating once again in 2007
- Coordinated a meeting with Dan Koury-PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office Watershed Manager, Chuck Cravotta-USGS, and other partners on an upcoming Mine Pool Study Team Meeting at the Pottsville District Mining Office on February 15th
- AML Program Staff traveled to the Duquesne Club in Downtown, Pittsburgh, PA with members of the PA AML Outreach Campaign to share our collective thoughts and successes on the recent passage of the AML Reauthorization Bill and to begin to discuss future state-wide strategies and public outreach efforts to ensure that the Federal AML funds are efficiently spent on priority projects in PA
- Confirmed that a capacity building training workshop will be conducted on March 22, 2007 at the SCD Ag Center for EPCAMR Board Members able to attend, hosted by the Institute for Conservation Leadership
- Meeting with the Deutsche Institute and several other Lackawanna County non-profits at the Jewish Community Center, Scranton, PA to review a draft GIS Map of the Lackawanna County Parks and Trails that are located on or adjacent to abandoned mine lands for the future development of a brochure by EPCAMR and the LCD
- Trip to John Dawes' home in Huntingdon, PA with dozens of representatives of the PA AML Outreach Campaign to begin strategizing and analyzing the language of the recently passed AML Reauthorization Bill signed by the President on December 9, 2006
- Attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting in Bloomsburg, PA and highlighted work completed over the last quarter of 2006
- Provided some additional resources on water quality and watersheds in Northern Anthracite Appalachia from EPCAMR to an Appalachian Studies Group from North Carolina that is compiling a Educational Resource Directory for Teachers Throughout Appalachia
- Provided former Secretary of PA DEP Dave Hess, an excel sheet that was created by EPCAMR that provides a cost/benefit economic analyses for fisheries designated by the State (CWF, WWF, TSF) that you might bring the streams back to depending upon who would fish there and the type of fish it might support; Estimates are based on the PA Fish & Boat Commission's numbers that were prepared by John Arway back in the late 90's
- Invited by the OSM TIPS (Technical Information Processing System) Program to become a member of the National GeoSpatial Data Standards Task Group and represent PA's environmental interests in assisting with the development and implementation of a uniform National Data Standard and layer for Surface Coal Mining Boundaries, Underground Coal Mining Boundaries, and AML Inventories for the Coal-Producing States; OSM fully funded the round-trip flight, overnight hotel accommodations, and per diem to allow for the LCD AML Program Manager to attend a 2-day meeting in Santa Ana, CA; Showcased the EPCAMR RAMLIS ArcGIS Software Tool for identifying and prioritizing Priority AML Sites in PA