

# EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes  
EPCAMR Executive Director  
101 S. Main Street  
Ashley, PA 18706

[rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)  
[www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

January 2011 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Informed that our **\$1500** grant application submitted on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to the Live Well, Luzerne County Healthy Community Connections grant program was awarded to allow for proper signage, historic interpretation, and safe visitor access from the Ashley community and surrounding areas to the Huber abandoned mine site through improved connectivity via the streets and roadways that lead directly to the Huber Breaker and the future Miner's Memorial Park
- Obtained PA Fishing Licenses for EPCAMR Staff and completed online an EPCAMR Scientific Collector's Permits application that will be necessary for us to sample in the streams in 2011 with the students as a requirement of the grant PA Fish & Boat Commission
- ***Animoto for a Cause*** approved EPCAMR's request for free access to upload , design, add music, design backdrops, and create short videos in a Word Press application to be uploaded either to the internet or our website to assist us with our outreach efforts and marketing of our work in the Region
- Forwarded a flyer around to our partners on an upcoming Re-Enactment of the Avondale Mine Disaster being put on by the Eckley Players, at the Irem Temple Country Club, Dallas, PA, sponsored by the Welsh Cultural Endeavor of Northeastern PA on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011; This could be a possible entertainment event at the 2011 PA AMR & Coal Heritage Conference in Hazleton, PA in August
- EPCAMR signed on to a Support Letter for National Service and submitted it to Voices for National Service who will carry it along with other signatures to Washington DC to seek an increase in funding for the National Services Programs
- Allison Cassara, one of the graduate students from Marywood University's Graphics Design Program took it upon herself to come up with a new, fresh rhetorical catch phrase for EPCAMR's next printing of T-shirts that we can use for AMD Tie Dye Workshops; The phrase "Orange YOU Glad We're Cleaning up AMD?" with our EPCAMR logo on the front of the t-shirt design was chosen based on our online request for ideas
- Meghan Calderone, another graduate student from Marywood University's Graphics Design Program completed a Macro Mayhem Bug Identification Chart for EPCAMR to use in our environmental education programs; A 5' X 6' Banner was printed by Coal Creative for our future use

- Prepared a Letter of Support for the OSM/VISTA Teams and submitted it to OSM's Director Joe Pizarchik to ensure that the funding is still supported at the US Department of Interior level in the Federal budget
- Made final edits to Wren's Quarterly OSM/VISTA Narrative Report prior to it being submitted to the ACCWT OSM/VISTA Team
- Worked with PPL and Lorna Wooldridge, a teacher from a Home School Program from Liberty Township, NJ to set up a half-day AMD Tour in the Lackawanna County area on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011; Iron Ore is common in this part of NJ and they are interested in finding out more about iron oxides and AMD in PA
- Completed an updated United Way Volunteer Opportunity Form for EPCAMR projects that volunteers might want to assist us with over time and submitted it to Amy Zawada- Assistant Director of Marketing & Community Impact at the United Way of the Wyoming Valley
- Began assisting and laying out the design on the background work and set design for the ***The AMD Avengers vs. The Pollution Posse*** backdrops with Wren and Mike on the canvas

## Technical Assistance

- Received a news release that Growing Greener grants were recently announced and EPCAMR was written in to Stream Restoration Inc.'s Dashed Water Quality AMD database enhancement, outreach, and technical assistance grant that will soon be awarded
- Completed the final draft of our **\$15,000** EPCAMR Cora Brooks Foundation Proposal and forwarded to Mike for compilation with the rest of the application package for our anticipated Water Quality Monitoring Technical Assistance Program
- Worked with Mike to develop a proposal for services to be provided to ARIPPA and its member plants for future grant opportunities, business ventures, loans, and or partnerships that can reduce their operational costs; Submitted those initial costs and ideas as well as the terms of the services to be provided to Jeff McNelly for him to present to his Board; EPCAMR Staff will then go back to our Board for approval on our end to provide those services for additional income; Created several ARIPPA Alerts search folders for future reference
- Informed Rose-Anna Behr, from the PA DCNR-Bureau of Topographic & Geologic Survey about EPCAMR's work in the Northeast Region and the availability of our Staff to assist with any future potential volunteer opportunities related to GIS or Environmental Education/Outreach efforts that they might need assistance with on projects in our Region; EPCAMR Executive Director is an official PA DCNR Conservation Volunteer
- Conducted a meeting with Vincent Carbone, HDR, Inc. to discuss some ideas about future projects and partnerships related to Renewable Energy on abandoned mine lands; EC sat in on the meeting with EPCAMR at our Office with Vincent to talk about potential projects and funding sources

- An interested volunteer, Pascalle Banaszek, Bear Creek, PA was interviewed and excited about having the opportunity to spend a few weeks of her time with EPCAMR to assist us with drying some of our iron oxide before she heading down to Washington DC to take a full-time job offer; She insisted that she could still do some volunteer work for us online, if needed in the future
- Initiated a meeting between the EPCAMR Staff and Erich Schramm, the Outreach Coordinator for the newly formed Institute of Energy and Environmental Research of Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are located on the campus of Wilkes University located in Wilkes-Barre, PA; The Institute's main areas of focus will be twofold: to conduct a comprehensive survey of surface water conditions in Northeast Pennsylvania, and develop a public information clearinghouse; The Institute will also serve as a clearinghouse of information regarding Marcellus Shale, presented in an unbiased point of view; EPCAMR would like to give Erich a broader perspective on his new position and try and link him up with other partners in the region dealing with this issue since the Institute is relatively new
- Talked with Brenden McLaughlin-Camp Dresser McKee Consulting, out of Pittsburgh, PA who is interested in talking with EPCAMR further about providing services to help them find AMD frack water in Fayette County, PA

## Project Coordination

- Received photos of the 4" bore that was drilled by LRCA and PA Tectonics at the Old Forge Borehole to provide us finally with access to the inner 48" AMD borehole so that we can begin to rig our monitoring equipment to monitor several parameters, including flow out of the discharge to the Lackawanna River
- Corresponding with Megan Gershey, a student at Wilkes University who is still willing to assist EPCAMR will coming up with design plans to build our Solar AMD Drying Kiln; Requested to set up a meeting with her advisor and colleague of EPCAMR's, Dr. Marlene Troy, sometime in early February 2011
- Corresponding with former EPCAMR Intern, Shawn Jones, and still active volunteer about working with him on his Senior Capstone Community Service Project at Keystone College that would allow him to assist EPCAMR with mapping some of the Mine Pool Mapping work that we would like to have completed for the Wyoming Valley
- Drafted, outlined, and prepared our tentative Solomon's Creek AMD Tour and Macro ID Tour for Kistler Elementary's 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Spring 2011 within the Greater Wyoming Valley; Conducted a check presentation, photo opportunity, and coordinating meeting with PPL, W-B Area Science Coordinator Mike Corcoran, several Kistler Elementary teachers, and the Elementary Principal
- Informed by Janice Leiby, FFA Advisor for the Wilkes-Barre Career & Technology Center that our joint grant application that was submitted last year for **\$4000** was awarded to be used to help with landscaping and creating the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Project, Ashley, PA in partnership with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society; EPCAMR will need to sit down with Janice to review the budget details and submit a revised budget for the materials and supplies that will be used; The Horticulture Class will be assisting us again this year with the project; A similar successful effort was conducted last year at the Avondale AML Community Garden Project

- Interviewed by Jessica Wolfe-Harvard Graduate student who is interested in partnering with EPCAMR and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to put together an Industrial Heritage Tourism promotion package and Renewable Energy focus around the Huber site, our abandoned mine land reclamation efforts, and our local historical preservation education programs within the community as a part of her Master's Thesis "Extractive/Energetic"
- Began putting together 7 3-ring binders for the PA Fish & Boat Commission Aquatic Resources Education Grant; 20 will be needed; Wren will assist with putting together the additional binders or a future volunteer or intern in the coming months ahead

## Conference Coordination

- Working with Laurie Popeck, Clean Creek Products to try and see if they can come up with a magnet made out of recycled iron or manganese oxide for our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser/Dinner; Our logo was too difficult and detailed, however, something simple like a fish cutout/mold would work
- EPCAMR Staff developed an agenda for a Conference Call to begin planning for the 2011 13<sup>th</sup> Annual PA Conference on AMR & Coal Heritage; Convened the Conference Call and began to set actions in motion to begin the active planning stages of the Conference; The theme for 2011 is "***Working Together: Innovative Success in AMD Remediation***"

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and Progress Report for December 2010; Reviewed Mike and Wren's monthly Board Reports
- Working to establish a PayPal Business Merchant Account for EPCAMR to be able to accept payments online for future Conference registrations, and other payments to workshops, conferences, programs, membership, and or donations
- Finished and submitted our Quarterly Services Survey to the US Census Bureau
- Forwarded a copy of the SpinWeb newsletter from December 2010 on 50 Ways to Make Better Use of Your Organization's Website to Mike
- Reconciled EPCAMR Checking and Grant Accounts in QuickBooks
- Received a **\$10,000** Anonymous Gift donation from Bank of America after submitting a pre-qualification application to receive funds as a non-profit within the service area of Bank of America
- Requested the 2011 ERM Foundation grant proposal from the Corporate Office in Exton, PA
- Forwarded Wren the link to the Captain Planet Foundation website to allow her to prepare a draft grant application for **\$2500** that is due in March 2011;  
**<http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/default.aspx?pid=16>**

- Completed the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) application through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development to become an approved Educational Improvement Organization with PA that could allow us to receive funding to support our environmental education programs throughout the schools that we serve in NE & NorthCentral PA; The initial application will involve working with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Requested a Letter of Support and Involvement from the Superintendent of the W-B Area School District, Dr. Jeff Namey to complete the application to be submitted in early February
- EPCAMR Executive Director was informed that OSM had failed to reimburse EPCAMR for the successful completion of a 12 week internship in 2007 through the Summer Watershed Program and had deleted our financial information and contact information that would have allowed us to electronically file and transfer the funding to our bank account; The funds are due to EPCAMR and since there was such a long period of inactivity on the account, EPCAMR has had to update our account information in the Federal ASAP Vendor System in order to receive the **\$2500**; EPCAMR Executive Director began processing the online updates and paperwork to reestablish our account information
- EPCAMR Executive Director has developed a partnership with Sandra Curry-Job Developer/ Paid Work Experience Coordinator, Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI) to establish a 3-6 month paid work experience program where we will be able to receive a part-time position entirely funded by EDSI that is clerical and administrative in nature at no cost to EPCAMR; Provided Sandra with a draft job description of the position and what it would generally entail; EDSI works with area non-profit organizations to help them while helping single mothers get back into the workforce part-time
- EPCAMR Executive Director completed filling out the 1099-MISC Forms and provided them to our Zagrapan to file with the IRS; Distributed our 2010 Tax documents to EPCAMR Staff



**Middle of photo is the area where the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial will be constructed following reclamation of the AML Site along S. Main Street, Ashley, PA; Huber Breaker Conveyor Belt in the foreground**