

EPCAMR



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January 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Katy Cummings, a recent Wisconsin college graduate with B.A.'s in Geology and Biology has been working on habitat restorations during her summers between school, and have five field seasons of experience with The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, and other non-profits; She's interested in going to graduate school to look at the unique problems posed to restoration ecologists by abandoned mine land sites; She ran across my LinkedIn account and was asking for any insight and knowledge on this issue in our field of work; EPCAMR provided her with contacts, organizations, and research professors that have been working on restoration ecology projects on abandoned mine lands to help her narrow down her focus; Put her in touch with Dr. Ken Klemow, Wilkes University because of his expertise in this area and the Council for the Research and Reclamation of Disturbed Lands in PA
- Talked with Alaina M. Asbury-OSM/VISTA Reforestation Project Coordinator about a possible opportunity between March 10-April 19th to utilize NCCC volunteers for cleanups or water quality monitoring projects because they are able to perform direct service; EPCAMR directed her to EC and PEC because we don't have the ability to house the volunteers in the area or funding for cleanups at this time; PEC received funding for AML cleanups and were looking for volunteers and do a lot of cleanups on EC abandoned mine lands
- Provided some contact information to PAEE President-Ruth Roperti on Dr. Ken Klemow, Associate Director, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research of Northeastern Pennsylvania, at Wilkes University, who has an interest in preparing an article for the upcoming PAEE Journal related to Marcellus Shale education issues; He served on the Ecological Society of America's Education Committee and in 2011 helped organize the Ecology & Education Summit held in Washington, D.C.
- Interviewed two seniors from King's College, Dan Gilbert and Zach Yodis, Environmental Science majors, who were interested in interning with EPCAMR for the Winter/Spring 2012 semester; Received Internship Overview Booklet from King's to support the College and their Internship Program as a Sponsor location; Also, another King's student, Ryan Lawrence, an Environmental Science major, will also be volunteering with EPCAMR along with Dan and Zach, however, he'll not be participating as an intern because he has already received his internship credits in a previous semester with Dr. Brian Mangan; (See News link) <http://epcamr.org/home/2012/epcamr-brings-on-board-3-winter-watershed-education-interns-from-kings-college-to-gain-experience-in-the-field-of-abandoned-mine-reclamation/>
- Worked with Professor Brower and Dana Marie Wren, from Marywood University to come up with a new updated label for our iron oxide product line as a senior volunteer community service project in his Graphics Design Department

- Trip to the Capital Building in Harrisburg to meet with Anthracite Region Legislators and Legislative Assistants and make a formal presentation to them, along with Tom Clark and Paul Schwartz, SRBC Executive Director, to update them, inform them, and educate them on EPCAMR and SRBC's Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy and Mine Pool Mapping Initiative
- Provided Nick Egan, a sophomore at Lake Lehman HS, who along with his classmates, Chris Herrick, Alex Hoyt are composing a project for our history class dealing with the revolution, reaction, and reform of strip mining in Northeastern Pennsylvania; After interviewing Congressman Paul Kanjorski, he referred the students to EPCAMR, hoping that we might have some useful knowledge about the reclamation processes that were involved with strip mining; EPCAMR responded with a lengthy e-mail informing the students to follow up when they had time
- Put information on our EPCAMR News Feed about the upcoming 2012 Watershed Congress focusing on the Schuylkill and Delaware River watersheds; (*See News link*)
<http://epcamr.org/home/2012/15-year-watershed-congress-related-to-the-delaware-river-and-its-tributaries-accepting-registrations/>
- Joy Drohan, a science writer working with Dr. Charlie Abdalla at Penn State University to explore water sales in PA for the Marcellus gas industry was interested in any data or anecdotal information EPCAMR had on the use of AMD in the Marcellus industry, or ideas of whom to contact for more info; They will use the info we obtain in a Penn State Extension webinar on March 16, 2012 and possibly for future Extension publications and/or grant proposals; EPCAMR directed her to our most recent work on Mine Pools on our website; (*See Projects link*)
http://www.epcamr.org/storage/projects/MinePoolMapping/Mine_Water_Resources_of_the_Anthracite_Coal_Fields_-_Report.pdf

Technical Assistance

- Forwarded Mike PA DEP BAMR Quarterly Project Status Updates for Reclamation and AMD Remediation Projects State-wide to update our RAMLIS Tool and our website
- Jim Wetzel, Chairman for the Weatherly Borough Planning Commission informed EPCAMR and PA DEP BAMR that the Hazle Creek weirs near Stockton that we installed over a year ago are in need of repairs in the Spring 2012. Most others were in good shape and he was able to get flow measurements. Weir #6 was undercut and he didn't have the tools to repair it. The weir at ST-2 has cut a new channel so it partially bypasses the weir and he didn't haul any tools or sandbags along so he couldn't do much about it on his sampling day; Jim sent off a copy of the weir calculations and flows obtained for Hazle Creek AMD discharges that we've all been monitoring in the hopes of developing a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP)
- Conducted a Conference Call with Sean Kinney, Carbon Resources to discuss a future potential partnership with his company to market and harvest iron oxide in the Anthracite Region; Sent him a non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement related to some of our iron oxide sampling data and will await his response to us potentially fulfilling a **\$1000** iron oxide order (10-15 lbs) for his company

- Attended the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) Meeting in Harrisburg and was nominated to become the Chair of the Reclamation Committee due to Dave Strong's departure and vacancy from heading that Committee and EPCAMR's knowledge and years of leadership on the MRAB in the field of Reclamation
- Worked with EPCAMR Staff to put together a completed **\$15,000** application for the **Cora Brooks Foundation** to continue our Mine Pool Mapping and Monitoring Initiative in the Susquehanna and Delaware River drainages
- Provided a letter of support and commitment to the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) EPA Urban Waters Grant to continue to work on the Old Forge/Duryea AMD Remediation Projects and the development of the Lower Lackawanna QHUP
- EPCAMR Staff provided information to the PA DEP 319 Program to include in its annual report to the US EPA Region III on goals and accomplishments related to AMD and water quality improvements throughout the region

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

Project Coordination

- Had e-mail communications with Dr. Ken Klemow to follow up on his comments and questions about EPCAMR's partnership with the SRBC to develop **the Anthracite Region AMD Remediation Strategy**
- Revised the PEC RCP Mini-Grant application for the **Catawissa Creek QHUP Development Technical Assistance** that EPCAMR will be providing to the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA); EPCAMR Staff provided additional background information, photos, and maps to Skelly & Loy, Inc. who are also assisting with developing the QHUP
- Informed by Janice Leiby-Wilkes-Barre Career & Technical Center that another USDA Live 2 Learn grant was awarded for the **Huber Breaker Preservation Society AML Anthracite Region's Miner's Memorial Park Development** for supplies, materials, stone, gravel, landscaping materials, trees, and shrubs; HBPS and EPCAMR will meet with her Horticulture Class and FFA students over the Winter 2012 to update them on the project; Assisted Ray Clarke-HPBS Chairman with preparing a letter for Mike Dziak-Earth Conservancy to update him on progress and a project status update on all activities on the 3 acre parcel adjacent to EC property in Ashley in the hopes of getting an extension on the lease to continue reclamation work for the Miner's Memorial Park
- Reviewed the **Jeddo Highland #5 Mine Pool Mapping** work completed by the EPCAMR Staff and discussed following up with James Pagnotti to get a meeting together to show him the nuances of EarthVision and to explain how we've come up with the water volumes and coal volume estimates for the project area his operation is going to be focusing on in the near future

- EPCAMR Staff conducted quarterly water quality monitoring sampling on Espy Run for EC to assist with background and post-construction monitoring of the new ***Espy Run AMD Remediation*** Treatment System recently constructed
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a stream walk visual habitat assessment, water quality monitoring, and biological monitoring on the Spring Run tributary, Ashley Borough, along Liberty St. north to Blackman St., Wilkes-Barre; From Blackman St. to E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre Township, still along Spring Run; From Wilkes-Barre Twp. to the Hampton Inn, near I-81; Finally, from S. Main St. in Wilkes-Barre to Division St. in Wilkes-Barre for the ***Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan***
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a Conference Call with Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Remediation Program Coordinator to discuss project status updates, workload completion, and targeted areas to focus on for the ***Anthracite Region Mine Pool Mapping Project***
- EPCAMR Staff completed an LRCA Invoice for the ***Old Forge Borehole AMD Monitoring and Mine Pool Mapping Project*** and submitted it to Bernie for reimbursement
- Attended a photo opportunity with Alana Roberts-PPL and Mike Corcoran-Wilkes-Barre Area School District Science Coordinator at the Plains-Solomon Elementary Center to receive a check for **\$2000** to assist EPCAMR with building two to three mobile solar kilns to dry iron oxide and to conduct an AMD Watershed Tour with the 6th grade class; EPCAMR assisted in preparing the Empower Teachers grant proposal that was 1 of 30 funded and ranked 1st by all 6 judges

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Coordinated with Maria Shmakov, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer about her ability to schedule time off from her work to assist EPCAMR with some administrative filing and receipt scanning of previous year's work at the Office
- Meeting with John Morgan, RJ Zagrapan Associates to go over his new payroll system and reporting that he will be sending to EPCAMR
- Reviewed and submitted our December 2011 PA DEP 319 Progress Report along with a reimbursement request form
- Completed tax paperwork for CENTAX for EPCAMR Staff related to our work location and home location taxing authorities and percentages for 2012
- Installed after purchasing, Dragon Naturally Speaking v11.0 to assist with narrations for projects and minutes from EPCAMR Board Meetings
- Provided an internship orientation for Dan Gilbert, Zach Yodis, and Ryan Lawrence from King's College, who started working with EPCAMR on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- Kevin Jacobs, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer organized and updated all of EPCAMR's Shelves and Book Cases that contain our clearinghouse of information on any and all things reclamation and AMD remediation related; Mike to post on the EPCAMR Website as soon as it is finished
- Conducted a Conference Call and e-mail communications with Doug Goodlander, the new Chief for the PA DEP NPS Program, which include Section 319, Clean Water Act funds about our future grant agreements for EPCAMR's base funding; EPCAMR will be receiving another **\$125,000** for FY 2012-FY2013, starting July 2012; PA DEP is hoping to do a contract amendment to our existing 3 year agreement
- Assisted Mike with transferring the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's domain over to our Host Gator server; www.huberbreaker.org
- Provided 1099-MISC forms for our intern Justyna Sacharzewska to John Morgan, RJ Zagrapan Associates for tax purposes
- Completed the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS4) for the US Census Bureau on EPCAMR's Business Profile for 2011



Alana Roberts-PPL (left), Solomon-Plains Elementary 6th grade Class students, two teachers (3rd & 4th one in from the left), Mike Corcoran, and Robert Hughes-EPCAMR (right) presented with the \$2000 check