

EPCAMR



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January 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Executive Director presented to **34 Leadership Lackawanna** High School Juniors from Lackawanna County at the Scranton's new The Commonwealth Medical on work that EPCAMR is doing in the Lackawanna River Watershed to remediate AMD and on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) jobs and careers; Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop with the students as a part of the program
- EPCAMR Executive Director reached out to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders to become a part of their "*Community Organization of the Night*" publicity and outreach and awareness event for regional non-profits at the PNC Field in Moosic on April 5th, 2013, during the second baseball game of opening week; EPCAMR will be featured that evening and will be able to set up a table with brochures and be featured throughout the game on the JumboTron, radio, and an on-air interview on Fox Sports Radio and The Game to talk about what we do in the Region to improve our water quality; EPCAMR was the 2nd non-profit to be selected for this event;
http://www.milb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20130116&content_id=40982342&fext=.jsp&vkey=news_t531&sid=t531
http://www.milb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20130125&content_id=41215746&fext=.jsp&vkey=news_t531&sid=t531
- EPCAMR Executive Director submitted a *Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence* nomination for our **Mobile AMD Solar Kiln Construction & Education Project completed** in partnership with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and PPL
- Received word from Skip Sensbach, a local artist and friend of EPCAMR has informed us that he is getting really good glaze results with EPCAMR's iron oxide in a glaze called Richard's Nutmeg; The larger iron particles give him really nice spots in the glaze; He's completed a draft article that he'd like to submit to **Ceramic Monthly**; EPCAMR Executive Director read it over and informed him of its accuracy and provided him with a photo of an AMD impacted stream; It's a good subject to talk about with other Ceramic artists and we hope **Ceramic Monthly** thinks so too

- Former EPCAMR Summer Watershed Intern, Kristen Klingaman, who is currently a Science Teacher at Tamaqua Areas High School is pursuing a Master's Program with the University of Maryland and is gearing it towards the Mary D AMD project in her hometown and within her school district; EPCAMR Executive Director put her in touch with Christine Haldeman, EPCAMR Board Member and RETTEW, who is actively working on that AMD Treatment System for more information and resources and made some suggestions on content and direction for her website that she created for the project; <https://sites.google.com/site/wetlandbiodiversity/home>
- Provided some pictures of suspected sewer leaks and or AMD seepage into the Solomon Creek Watershed for a Times-Leader article on our work in the watershed and due to a recent blowout of one of the terra-cotta tile pipes that EPCAMR informed both the local Township and the Wyoming Valley Sanitary about prior to the larger leak occurring
- Nominated Alana Malar Roberts for a PAEE Business Partner Award; She is the Community Affairs Specialist for PPL; She has been very instrumental over the years in partnering with environmental education professionals, schools, regional non-profit groups like ourselves, and other businesses through their **Empowering Educators Grant Program**; Alana was formerly a staff person of the Luzerne Conservation District years ago, early in her career and has now become a wonderful, leading lady in Lackawanna County and throughout Northeastern PA for her listening ear, great smile, hands-on approach to environmental education, and ability to connect up partners to maximize the benefits to our youth, particularly in our underserved communities that PPL serves
- EPCAMR worked with PA EnviroThon Program Coordinator Lorelle Steach to write an article on our participation in this year's PA EnviroThon Event at Juniata College on May 21st and May 22, 2013; <http://www.envirothonpa.org/documents/2013WinterUPDATES.pdf>
- Requested a copy of the FREE **PA Field Guide to Invasive Aquatics Species** from Sara Grise, Coastal Outreach Specialist for the PA Sea Grant, in Erie, PA
- EPCAMR Executive Director was requested to present at the Anthracite Heritage Conference on May 25, 2013 at the Anthracite Heritage Museum, McDade Park, Scranton, PA on our Anthracite Region 3D Mine Pool Modeling work; Richard Healey from England will likely be the featured speaker; Robert Wolensky and Bill Hasite will speak on our their recently published book, **Anthracite Labor Wars**, and Charlie Petrillo and Phil Mosley will speak on Anthracite films; EPCAMR Executive Director accepted the speaking engagement

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff conducted the monthly water and flow sampling on the **Earth Conservancy (EC) Espy Run AMD Treatment System** and performed AMD Maintenance to the system by cleaning out the pipe that allows the AMD to overflow into Ponds A & B; Created an Invoice for the Project and submitted to EC

- Meeting with SRBC's AMD Basin Coordinator, Tom Clark, on the ***Susquehanna River Basin Mine Pool Mapping Project for the Anthracite Region***; Prioritized the next 5 months of work to complete the mapping and modeling of several mine pools within the Basin, particularly the Lackawanna, Wyoming Valley, and Hecshersville Valley, in that order of completion; Submitted our most recent Mine Pool Mapping Progress Report and Reimbursement to SRBC for **\$26,838.43** for the last 3 quarters due to an internal SRBC Invoicing procedural issue that took some time to complete
- Meeting with Ray Clarke, Chairman of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to assist him with inputting donations for the ***Huber Miners Memorial Park Paver Project*** in Ashley, PA on the former abandoned mine lands of the Huber Breaker Colliery being driven by the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS); Measured the square footage of the AML site to get an estimate on the number of pavers that will be needed prior to ordering from RI Lampus and Olde Mill Impressions; Updated new brochure for HBPS to their website hosted by EPCAMR at www.huberbreaker.org
- Meeting with Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist to review the ***PACD Mini-Grant Application*** for a possible submission in April 2013 to target one of the tributaries in the Solomon Creek Watershed (Nockley's Trib) for a small stream habitat improvement project and educational and outreach program involving the Wilkes-Barre Area School District
- EPCAMR Staff dried some Old Forge Borehole AMD to convert to iron oxide for LRCA
- Meeting with John Ackerman, Twin Oaks Consulting, LLC, who is also a member of the PA Anthracite Section SME, as is EPCAMR, about an ***Anthracite Handbook Project*** that he would like the EPCAMR Executive Director to be involved with as an Environmental Editor and Contributing Author; EPCAMR Executive Director will be soliciting other regional Anthracite Experts to become Contributing Authors; It will be published for world-wide distribution by SME
- Informed Rusty Bennett, Watershed Volunteer for the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association that they should consider putting in a mini-grant later in the year when EPCAMR announces the ARIPPA/EPCAMR grant application period; Suggested he talk with members of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association to find out how to submit a very successful and complete grant application

Project Coordination

- Continued to work on the final edits and development of the ***Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Action Plan*** narrative with LRCA; Discussed the next steps for the development and completion of the ***Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan Development for the Lower Lackawanna Watershed*** that will eventually be submitted to the PA DEP and others as we continue to pursue funding to eventually treat the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach AMD discharges

- Coordinated with the Hicks Creek Watershed Association, Exeter Borough, and all partners involved with the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***; Tried to contact Mr. Capitano through several means of communication without any success; Mr. Capitano is a key landowner within the project area that hasn't been cooperative with the Borough for the last several years and can't be reached personally; EPCAMR has to revise the Design & Construction Plans to remove his portion of the property from the project due to litigation issues that he has with Exeter Borough and our inability to actually reach him; No phone number, no address, communication only through legal services that we don't have available to us; The length of the stream channel segment to be restored will be half of what was originally proposed as a result of Mr. Capitano's exclusion from the project
- Provided an updated ***Huber Miners Memorial Park AML Reforestation Waterboxx Research Project Report*** to Brantley Kirkland, new Reforestation Coordinator for the ACCT; Updated photos on ACCT Flickr Account of growth of trees over the last quarter of the year
- Completed a **\$15,000** Cora Brooks Foundation grant application for the Solomon ***Creek Implementation Habitat Improvement Project*** and drove the final application down to Bethlehem, PA due to the deadline for submission; Provided additional follow-up information on the project locations to Laura Herzog, Associate Director for the Foundation; Submitted a very similar grant application for **\$10,000** to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to provide match and compliment the other submission
- Burned an additional **12** CDs of the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan and mailed them along with a letter to the remaining partner municipalities and local citizens who requested a copy of the Plan and Final Report; Provided the complete Photo-Essay online to Samantha Kutskel, Program Coordinator for the Coldwater Heritage Partnership for her to post it on their website at coldwaterheritage.org/coldwater-conservation-plans;
[http://www.coldwaterheritage.org/docs/2011-grants/solomoncreekwatershedchp\(print\)11292012mah.pdf?sfvrsn=0](http://www.coldwaterheritage.org/docs/2011-grants/solomoncreekwatershedchp(print)11292012mah.pdf?sfvrsn=0)
<http://www.coldwaterheritage.org/docs/2011-grants/solomon-creek-photo-essay9FCA275CC02B.pdf?sfvrsn=2>
- EPCAMR Executive Director completed a **\$25,000** ***Shale Gas Innovation Contest*** Proposal and submitted it for consideration that if funded, would allow EPCAMR to continue to work on our 3D Underground Mine Pool Mapping Initiative throughout Northeastern PA and have the potential to expand our work into the rest of PA's mining impacted areas;
<http://www.sgicc.org/75000-shale-gas-innovation-contest.html>

Conference Coordination

- Participated in the January 2013 PA AMR Conference Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming ***15th Anniversary State-wide Conference*** in State College; Prepared a letter of request for funding for **\$5000** from the PA DEP; Asked WPCAMR for a copy of last year's budget to make revisions for 2013; EPCAMR reviewed the final contract and sent it back to the Ramada with signatures; Followed up with potential speakers for the Conference via e-mail; E-mailed Dave Hess for possible donation towards the Conference and to assist us with PR and Outreach in the PA Environment Digest; Put out an article for a Call for

Abstracts for the Conference and sent it to the PA Environmental Digest and the entire Committee for distribution; Work on Trading Card application for Watershed Heros, as a demo for the Committee to review and see what they will look like on the site; Solicited presentations on AMD and Environmental Health research from Professors and Doctors involved in the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition; Worked on securing the Civil Engineering Lodge at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center for our **Pre-Conference Workshop** on 8-8-2013

- EPCAMR Executive Director worked on developing, editing, and creating several of the pages for the www.treatminewater.com website to update it for the upcoming **15th Anniversary State-wide Conference** in State College
- EPCAMR Staff worked with our intern Sarah-Jane Gerstman to put together a request to all previous MayFly Award Winners for information to create a unique set of Trading Cards for each of them to be unveiled at the **15th Anniversary State-wide Conference**
- Participated in the **2013 PA Watersheds Conference** conference call coordinated by the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Provided a bunch media contacts to the Committee and followed up with several of our regional contacts to see if they were interested in being a part of a Media Panel; Came up with a teaser introduction for the Media Panel and for the Save the Date Card created by Gwen Johnson, from the PA Foundation for Watersheds; The event will be on April 5&6th, 2013 in State College, at the Nittany Lion Inn

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts; Adjusted Payroll with Merit Raise Increases with our Payroll Account, RJ Zagrapan; Adjusted EPCAMR IRA Contributions and will be submitting quarterly payments to CB & T; Trip to meet with Cheryl Brobst, EPCAMR Treasurer to sign checks
- Communicated with Joyce Conrad, *PA Federal Surplus Property Program* to see if there is a list of Surplus Property that we might be able to obtain or a website that we can go to directly to review any supplies to assist us in making our work more efficient; She provided us with the appropriate link to review what is available under the Federal Surplus; WWW.DGS.STATE.PA.US
- Contacted the Executive Director at the Luzerne County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to see if EPCAMR can become an official sponsor site for the Senior Aide Coordination Program in Luzerne County
- Trip to Office Max to pick up EPCAMR Office Supplies; Sarah-Jane Gerstman, EPCAMR Intern inventoried our AMD Hach Kits for refill reagents that needed to be ordered
- Completed the December EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP
- Completed the 1099-MISC Income paperwork for our EPCAMR Interns and mailed them to RJ Zagrapan and our Interns

- Meeting with Bernie McGurl-EPCAMR President on Personnel Meeting Discussion Agenda Items for the upcoming Board Meeting
- Communicated with Kevin McFadden, a potential EPCAMR Volunteer from Kingston, PA who would like to work with EPCAMR in the Spring/Summer to take photos when we are in the field; Requested that he submit a Volunteer Service Form and that we would get back to him in the Spring/Summer; Communicated with Ashley Heddings, a potential EPCAMR Volunteer from Central PA, who also would like to work with EPCAMR in the Spring/Summer to take photos or work on graphics design projects that we might have in mind; Requested that she submit a Volunteer Service Form and that we would get back to her in the Spring/Summer; Jason Peters, a high school student from Nanticoke, PA is looking to volunteer with EPCAMR in the Spring/Summer to continue to paint the fence at the Huber Miners Memorial AML Park site in Ashley, PA; Requested that he submit a Volunteer Service Form and that we would get back to him in the Spring/Summer
- Forwarded Mike a copy of the Gas Mileage Increase from the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) used by the Commonwealth of PA and EPCAMR for travel reimbursements under our current Policy Manual; Reimbursement rate for Mileage went from .555 to .565 for 2013
- Received a resume from Sherry Long, a freelance reporter who asked for us to keep her information on file with EPCAMR



Lewis Mine Discharge, Sullivan County, drains to the Birch Creek tributary, then to the Loyalsock Creek; EPCAMR will be rehabilitating and expanding an existing AMD Treatment System at this location in 2013