

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call and posted Mining History Week events.
- EPCAMR staff prepared a \$15K grant application and suggested a section of Solomon Creek be removed from the Impaired Waters List.
- Updated 2 EPCAMR computers to run more efficiently.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 1 treatment system in the Wyoming Valley, 16 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley, and began a 3D Mine Pool Model for the Lackawanna Valley.
- Updated www.huberbreaker.org, www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com . Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

Education and Outreach:

- Participated in an AMR Conference Call in preparation for the 2013 PA AMR Conference which will be hosted by the PA AMR Conference Committee at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College from August 8-10, 2013. Worked on 2013.treatminewater.com to add information to pages based on discussion by the committee.
- Posted Mining Week events to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) website at www.huberbreaker.org and made a few more updates and corrections to pages on the site. HBPS is still seeking a webmaster for the site and found two willing volunteers after a plea on their Facebook page. Will work with these individuals to transfer most of the responsibility over.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. EPCAMR Staff prepared monthly reimbursements to send along as well.
- Coordinated a Datashed.org Training for Eastern Pennsylvania with Stream Restoration Inc. The meeting will be held in mid April at the EPCAMR Office in the Earth Conservancy Conference Room. Worked on publicity and a survey to help build the training into something useful for the attendees [SRI].
- Updated the EPCAMR Membership Renewal Application for 2013 and posted it to www.epcamr.org.
- Drafted an EPCAMR policy on Reporting Illicit Discharges when they are discovered during stream sampling events. The policy was taken from EPA's Clean Water Act website for municipalities. The policy will be reviewed by the EPCAMR board and possibly enacted at the next board meeting.
- Sent a reminder to the EPCAMR board and associate members to RSVP and solicited agenda items for the upcoming board meeting. Reminded the Personnel Committee about discussions that were recommended by the full board at the last board meeting and possible recommendations that should be discussed prior to the meeting.

- EPCAMR staff instructed interns to create and mail out CDs of the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan to public meeting attendees and municipalities within the watershed.
- Added Wyoming Valley watersheds of Mill, Solomon, Warrior, and Nanticoke Creeks to the group of AMD Impacted Watersheds pages on www.epcamr.org. Researched statistics for each to create individual pages and related reference information that was available.
- Edited the current board meetings page on www.epcamr.org to reflect the upcoming 2013 meetings and archived the older information on the past board meetings page.
- Searched for photos and designed 2 headers for the AMR Conference website at www.treatminewater.com. The original intent was to create 2 banners for the AMR Conference Committee to choose from, but they liked both and the website was set to randomly cycle through both of them. EPCAMR staff both edited content pages on the website as per conference committee recommendations.

Technical Assistance:

- Reviewed and edited section 1, 2, 3, and 7 of the Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Action Plan (LLWRAP) for the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA). Edited several maps and tables for the report after ESRI came up with a work around for the errors that were crashing ArcGIS 10.1 Desktop ArcMap. The georeferencing toolbar was the culprit.
- Installed KeePass on EPCAMR Executive Director's computer to help manage passwords.
- Sent chemical and biological stream sampling data for Sugar Notch Run Tributary to Solomon Creek to Donna Carnahan, DEP 319 Program, for possible removal from the Impaired Waters List (formerly the 303(d) list). The headwaters above Main Street in Ashley are of good water quality and were packed with fingerling trout and a healthy diversity of other aquatic species.
- Sampled the Espy Run Treatment System in several locations to determine the effectiveness of the system. Samples were taken in 7 places in, out, and between components to determine a load reduction of Iron and Acidity to Espy Run. Prepared a quarterly invoice of the work and prepared a spreadsheet of the sampling data for Earth Conservancy (EC). Reviewed the data with Mike Dziak and explained some maintenance that was done to keep the system functioning [EC].
- EPCAMR staff prepared a \$15K Grant Application to the Cora Brooks Foundation that would allow our organization to implement and coordinate on the ground trout habitat restoration and stream improvement projects identified within the recently completed Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan.
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to conduct water level monitoring of 15 boreholes related to the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool. Monitored the Jermyn borehole as well which is connected to the Jermyn Mine Pool [LRCA].
- Responded to an e-mail from Wayne Lehman, Schuylkill County Watershed Specialist, after some strange water quality results regarding the Audenreid Treatment System. A clean stream coming off the mountain from McAdoo (Spies Run) was showing a really low pH that was verified with 2 water chemistry units. A split sample was also taken and sent for lab analysis, which showed that the pH was closer to neutral. This goes to show that field samples, even those taken with electronic devices, should be routinely backed up by lab samples as a quality control measure. The SCD also ran a dye test through the system to see if it was possibly leaking after modifications to the intake system. The color was undetectable at the discharge of the treatment system and their conclusion was that they may need to use more dye in another test.
- Answered an e-mail from PA DEP BAMR regarding the South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes and information about the mine pool that feeds it. Since we are only in preliminary study in the Wyoming Valley with the SRBC Anthracite Strategy, there wasn't much conclusive information that I could give at this time that was different from past studies (i.e. Operation Scarlift and Ash Reports).

- EPCAMR staff met with LRCA, and SRBC staff to discuss the strategy moving forward now that the LLWRAP is complete. Next steps would be to continue to compile information regarding the Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) and developing a plan to treat the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach discharges [LRCA].
- Combined Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Report with the Photo Essay for Samantha Kutsell to be added as one PDF document to the Coldwater Heritage Partnership website.
- Created and submitted a reimbursement on EPCAMR Letterhead as directed by SRBC staff. The IT department at SRBC had not prepared a quarterly reimbursement sheet for almost a year and therefore EPCAMR compiled expenses from the 2nd-4th Quarters of 2012 all in one large narrative of work completed/budget expenses document [SRBC].
- Edited the EPCAMR Operating Budget Spreadsheet for 2012-2013 based on amounts of grant money spent on projects and grants that were closed out.
- Updated Dell Precision M6500 Laptops drivers to keep them up-to-date and functioning at optimal capacity. One problem that led to research and updates of the computers was related to the touchpad on the laptops becoming very touchy affecting typing on the keyboard. Another problem dealt with the DVD drive spitting out discs and not writing to discs.
- Prepared for 3D Mine Pool Modeling of the Lackawanna Valley with EPCAMR Intern, Justyna. Adjusted DEMs to the correct projection and formatted datasets to draft a stratigraphic sequence in earthVision [SRBC].

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.