



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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July 2012 Progress Report

Highlights:

- AMR conference planning, website work and registrations took a majority of staff time even though WPCAMR was the lead organization this year. Participated in 3 AMR Conference Calls and tracked conference registrations as they roll in and planned a tour route for the conference.
- EPCAMR staff presented at a meeting with Northumberland County reps and attended an AMD for Frack Workshop in Ebensburg
- EPCAMR staff prepared 2 grant/work proposals and submitted 1 to ARIPPA
- EPCAMR staff sampled 16 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Measured flow on 4 discharges. Created 1 GIS datasets, processed 4 maps for 3D modeling. Prepared cost estimates for treatment systems in Nanticoke and Hazle Creek Watersheds related to QHUPs.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com, added data to www.cheasapeakecommons.org and updated www.epcamr.org. Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

Education and Outreach:

- Tracking AMR Conference registrations as they began to roll in. Updated an excel sheet to track the incoming online registrations, answered questions and registered several individuals over the phone.
- EPCAMR staff participated in 3 AMR conference calls to sort out details of the upcoming AMR Conference in August. Tour route was planned, bus and lunch was secured and the committee collaborated together to find hard hats for the active mine site visit.
- Received the “Visual Time Tracker” presentation timer for use at the conference. Prepared a “one pager” on its use and some general guidelines for moderators at the conference. Some moderators from the conference committee already committed to not using the device, saying it was “impersonal.” It is merely a stopwatch, but can be set to give visual (and sound) cues as to how much time is left. We saw it used for the first time at the West Branch Symposium.
- 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. Prepared monthly reimbursements and figured out what was going to be charged vs. what was “in-kind” to close out the grant for this fiscal year.
- Started a draft the 2011 Annual Report (a little later than expected this year, due to work load allocations) as a review of the work that EPCAMR has completed and issues surrounding AMD Remediation and AML reclamation. Expected completion of the report will be for the 2012 Annual EPCAMR Board Meeting in August.

- Sent a second mass e-mail AMR Conference Registration invite reminder to over 800 recipients marked “conference” in our Insightly contact database. Attempted to find replacement e-mails for a few that bounced back and resent or deleted these contacts from the database.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to the Northumberland County Conservation District outside of Sunbury, PA for a meeting with the county planning, mapping and conservation district staff. EPCAMR staff presented the RAMLIS GIS Tool and zoomed in to areas of concern that were county owned abandoned mine land sites. The county is currently working on a plan for these sites which incorporates recreation. Identification of hazards and how to make them safe is a priority.
- Attended a AMD for Frack Water meeting in Ebensburg, PA. The meeting was an invite only meeting hosted by WPCAMR and Trout Unlimited to discuss the potential of using AMD for hydraulic fracturing of gas wells. The main issues were transportation and high sulfate levels in the mine drainage. Unfortunately, most of the AMD sources near current and proposed well pads are high in sulfur, but not all. Groups with existing AMD Treatment Systems already have infrastructure treating water and may be in position to trade water for operation and maintenance money. The gas well companies are not in the market to create new AMD treatment systems to get water.
- Met with Pagnotti Enterprises to show them the preliminary results of the Hazleton Basin Mine Pool Mapping Study.

Technical Assistance:

- Continued to tweak and answer questions about the Hazle Creek discharges, AMD Treat cost estimates and proposed placement of treatment systems as staff aided Jim Wetzel, Weatherly Planning Commission, with the development of a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for that area. Calculated the correct AMD impaired stream mileage and re-calculated the estimated benefit of restoration based on PA DEP’s guidelines.
- 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. Monitored flow at the OFBH and Duryea Breach discharges, and downloaded transducer data. [LRCA]
- Uploaded Anthracite Discharge and Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) data to www.ChesapeakeCommons.org as requested by John Dawes. The site hosts, GIS data and provides an Internet Mapping Service (IMS) platform for displaying the data in a map. The original data is downloadable and mashups of different datasets can be added. The site will eventually be turned over into an ESRI ArcGIS online “pay” account with a more robust design and less limitations. This may be the chance to place the RAMLIS GIS Tool Online.
- EPCAMR staff collaborated to submit a Pocono Land and Water Initiative grant proposal to the PA Environmental Council to work on a master plan and greenway from the confluence of the Lackawanna with the Susquehanna River up to Old Forge.
- Submitted a proposal to ARIPPA regarding the digitization of their AML Spoil Pile Cleanup and Pit Filling project data into GIS statewide. Currently they have this data in spreadsheets and can produce industry-wide statistics and member plant specific data, but putting the data into a GIS format would allow them to divide the information up by political boundaries. This transition could also show the areas that they are reclaiming at “no cost to taxpayers” and taking away from the states AMLIS inventory.
- Started working on an EPCAMR Operational Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 . Expected completion will be at least 2 weeks before the EPCAMR Annual Meeting in August for review by the Budget Committee and approval by the Board.
- EPCAMR staff received word that a grant submitted was not funded by the Cora Brooks Foundations, but began massaging that proposal to fit a Walmart Grant that recently opened up.
- Created an Open Mine Entry database for a Western PA Conservancy staff members working on Bat Conservation Counts in Sullivan County. We met the individuals at the PA Game Commission sponsored Wildlife Diversity Forum. Cathy Haffner, former Columbia Conservation

District Watershed Specialist now with the PA Game Commission, was also included in the data transfer to see if it would be useful to any others monitoring bats. The e-mail sparked a series of conversations of Bat Hibernacula in Open Mine Entries in PA and connections all over the United States. Received a publication from Bat Conservation International out of Texas and found out that their executive director used to work for the PA Game Commission. An e-mail list was created so ideas will continue flow and should lead to more bat gates installed.

- Provided some updated Cost/Benefit Analysis numbers to Jackie Dickman of Earth Conservancy (EC) as she works on a QHUP for the Nanticoke Creek. The EC is a few steps ahead since the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducted an in depth study of the Nanticoke Creek a few years back. Also investigated a "dry strip mine" discharge near Clarks Cross Road in Hanover Township. There was a discharge in the Operation Scarlift report, but was dry upon investigation. [EC]
- Started a quarterly report for the Anthracite Strategy to submit to SRBC. [SRBC]
- Worked with Mel Talmadge, EPCAMR volunteer, to record water level data collected in the field into a Northern Borehole spreadsheet. [SRBC]
- Processed Bernice Basin cross sections and base map data with Kelsey Biondo, EPCAMR intern. The data included a cross section along each tunnel (cross basin) and a zigzag longitudinal cross section that had to be adjusted for the curvature of the B vein. The data will be later used in the development of a 3D Mine Pool Model of the Bernice Basin in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed. [FPW]
- Worked with Mel, EPCAMR Volunteer, to create an EPCAMR Volunteer Registration Form to post to the web. The form should be able to gather data on potential volunteers and allow him to put that data in a spreadsheet that will let us know their skills and availability.
- Traveled around the Wyoming Valley to monitor water levels in 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Calculated flow for the Glen Lyon Discharge, Buttonwood Discharge, South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes and pipe full measurements on the Askam Borehole Discharge to calculate the amount of mine water flowing [SRBC].
- EPCAMR staff convened a Technical Review Committee with PA DEP BCR staff to review the ARIPPA AMD/AMR Grant Proposals and decide on award amounts to recommend to the EPCAMR Board for approval at the Annual EPCAMR Board Meeting.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.