

# EPCAMR



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July 2012 Progress Report

## Education & Outreach

- Orientation provided to Kelsey Biondo, EPCAMR Education and Outreach Volunteer by EPCAMR Staff; Kelsey will be working on the Loyalsock Creek's Bernice Mine Pool Mapping Project initially
- Interviewed Sarah Tabaka, Lee Park, PA to become a potential later Summer/early Fall volunteer, before she heads to PSU Main Campus; She is just looking for some volunteer opportunities to work in the environmental field before she goes down to University Park to major in Environmental Resource Management, the same major the EPCAMR Executive Director completed while at PSU
- Attended the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference Meeting in Scranton, PA to provide a regional presentation on EPCAMR Projects and Updates throughout the Northeast Region of PA
- Interviewed Melvin Talmadge, a retired 20 year veteran of the military, who is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR to serve as our Community Services Volunteer Coordinator; Orientation for Mel and a walk through of the [www.volunteermatch.com](http://www.volunteermatch.com) EPCAMR Profile that assists us with obtaining community volunteers for various projects, programs, and tasks identified by the EPCAMR Staff; Worked with Mel to update all job descriptions of volunteer positions that we created on the site that would be inviting and interesting to volunteers; Asked Mel to download the Toolkit for Working with Rural Volunteers; [www.RuralVolunteer.org](http://www.RuralVolunteer.org); Volunteers are necessary to the survival of EPCAMR as we strive to improve our coalfield communities and environment; Mel is working on creating an online Volunteer Registration Form for people to fill out
- EPCAMR Executive Director was an invited speaker for the Northeast Genealogical Research Society in Peckville to talk about our work in the Anthracite Region
- Attended the Stakeholders Meeting at the Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg, PA, along with WPCAMR, TU, and others to have a full day discussion on activities surrounding the Marcellus Shale Coalition, potential use for AMD in the industry, and opening doors to building stronger relationships with the industry that has a misconception about our organizations in the AMD field
- Conducted an AMD Tour with **12** national graduate students from Penn-State Harrisburg around the southern Wyoming Valley

- Completed and prepared a **\$5000** Chesapeake Bay Trust Environmental Education grant for submission to provide teachers and community leaders with fact sheets and maps on the underground mine pools and their connections to AMD discharges that are ultimately affecting the Chesapeake Bay
- Talked with Rebecca Weinberg, a community service volunteer with a background in strategic planning and marketing who also would like to help us move forward in any way that she can virtually, since she lives in the Titusville area of Western PA; Sent her along some materials and informed her that EPCAMR would follow up with her following our State-wide PA AMR Conference in late August
- Interviewed Decklan Cerza, a Dallas High School student volunteer, who has an interest in nature photography, and would like to volunteer with EPCAMR to take photos while we give tours or are conducting education programs
- Coordinating an AMD Tour of Luzerne/Lower Lackawanna Counties for PACD/SCC, Luzerne and Lackawanna County Conservation Districts on August 27, from 9-3pm to update them on EPCAMR's regional activities and progress with our partners in the area
- Trying to coordinate a date with Wilkes University's Community Outreach Coordinator, Megan Boone Valkenburg, to discuss future student volunteer opportunities on projects
- The Wilkes-Barre RiverFront Parks Committee Coordinator-Jill Price, is planning ChalkFest 2012 for the Fall and asked EPCAMR to create our iron oxide chalk, set up our Solar AMD Kiln, and to become a sponsor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the event; HYDROMANIA will also be a part of this year's event with a lot of hands on water quality activities for the children and families
- EPCAMR became a member of the Teaming With Wildlife organization to implement conservation practices and actions in support of PA's wildlife and their habitats after talking with the PA Game Commission and their request for support from EPCAMR;  
<http://www.teaming.com/>

## Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff attended a meeting at the Northumberland County Conservation District to meet with Pat Mack-Northumberland County GIS, Dave Crowl-Assistant Director for the NCCD, Judy Becker-NCCD District Manager, and several other parties about our GIS Work, Mine Pool Mapping and Monitoring, as well as our Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) Community Tool
- Provided a cursory review of Fiscal Code Amendment Act for ARIPPA; It has more to do with nutrient credit trading related to reducing the total maximum daily loads and wasteload allocations by the private sector, agriculture, wastewater operators, sewage treatment plants, and permittee holders of NPDES discharge permits that are sending nutrient loadings of nitrogen into our major watersheds and then on down to the Chesapeake Bay; It is targeted due to the supposed "hammer" coming down by the US EPA in Region 3 and possibly other Regions within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to reduce the overall nitrogen loading to the streams within the watershed; It has to do with Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPS) for the Chesapeake Bay; EPCAMR believes that it is still hard to convince the PA DEP to allow

trading to occur in watersheds with pollution impacts without a stringent review and regulatory process because of the locations in the watersheds where this trading of the pollution loads occur; They want to put this Funding Program in PennVest, because of the sewer and water infrastructure funding programs that they already have in place; EPCAMR has commented to the EPA and the PA DEP about this very same issue and they are missing the boat and not accounting for all the load reductions that are possible and tangible from other sources, parties, watershed groups, groups like ours, etc.; The bill is a funding mechanism that obviously seems to redirect funds away from grant funding to put it into a pool of funds to be used by the permittees that are putting the money into the transfer funds, is the way that we see it.

- Continued to work with Jim Wetzel-Weatherly Borough Planning Commission to further develop and review the draft Qualified Hydrological Unit Plan that is being developed for the Upper Lehigh River areas surrounding Hazle Creek and Wetzel Creek in the Eastern Middle Anthracite Coalfields; Working on obtaining an extended access agreement from Cabot Corporation to continue monitoring AMD discharges and to utilize portions of the property for possible future AMD Treatment Pilot Construction
- Filled a Iron Oxide order for PA American Water Company, who is having an educational event at Hillside Farms, in Huntsville, PA, where they would like to conduct an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop
- Charles Hopta, Jr., Engineer,- Northumberland County Engineer's Office has 18 cross sections of the Scott Colliery that he will allow EPCAMR to scan and digitize for future Mine Pool Mapping work in the Shamokin Creek Watershed
- Meeting with Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District's new Watershed Specialist to introduce him to watershed related issues in the County that he might want to consider being involved in with his new job responsibilities; EPCAMR offered to provide him with an AMD Water Quality Monitoring Certification; Informed him of our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PA AMR Conference in August that he's very interested in attending; Provided him with some reading materials to get him caught up on some watershed related issues state-wide and in Luzerne County
- Downloaded the ShaleNetwork GIS HydroDeskTop open source database monitoring tool to review it; EPCAMR signed up for an account with the ShaleNetwork;  
<http://www.shalenetwork.org/content/home>
- Provided PA DEP's Mike Hill with some mine pool data to provide to PPL related to our Geobasins dataset as they begin to inquire about the potential re-use of mine pool water for mitigation and or consumptive use

## Project Coordination

- Field Meeting and Waterboxx Training with Alaina Asbury, Reforestation Coordinator and Clary Estes, outdoors photographer, for the Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT); EPCAMR will be working with volunteers from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) to plant trees on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project location in Ashley, PA in early September 2012; EPCAMR was awarded a **\$400** grant to purchase trees and saplings for the planting and **20** donated Waterboxxes; [www.groassis.com](http://www.groassis.com)

- Hosted **8** Wilkes University first year student volunteers at the EPCAMR Office for **2** hours who needed some community service hours as a part of their orientation to work with EPCAMR on drying and processing our iron oxide; Coordinated another **20** Wilkes University first year students who helped to paint the fence at the Huber AML Park and dig holes for our trees and shrubs for the Waterboxxes that will be installed in early September
- Coordinated efforts with WPCAMR to conduct the 2012 administrative reviews of the ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-grants that were submitted for this year's round of **\$5000**/region; Meeting with Technical Review Committee to review the grant proposals submitted; **4** projects were selected for recommendation for funding to the full EPCAMR Board on August 16, 2012
- Meeting with James Pagnotti, Pagnotti Enterprises with EPCAMR Staff to review with him the work to date on the Jeddo Highlands #5 Mine Pool Hydrogeological Investigation Report, the model, and the mapping
- Coordinated having the Wyoming Valley Borehole monthly monitoring for July 2012 with EPCAMR Staff and Kate Gibbons-PennFuture, NEPA Outreach Coordinator, who wanted to tag along for the sampling events with the Staff to get a better understanding of the locations of the boreholes and their relevance to the underground mine water pool complexes in the Wyoming Valley
- Closed out the PA DEP AMD Environmental Education and Teacher Training Grant
- Worked on and completed a **\$10,000** grant application to the PEC Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscape Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) for the development of the Greenway Redevelopment Potential of AMD at the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Outfall; Received numerous letters of support from partners in the region

## Conference Coordination

- Conducted 3 PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Calls to move the agenda along and get everyone up to speed on the Conference; Provided registration numbers, details on the Pre-Conference Tour; Finalized the Transportation Contract with Fullington Tours; Contacted Jeff Hahn-Ebensburg Power, about borrowing hard hats for the Pre-Conference Tour to the active Bungi bituminous mine site; Updated the website with the most current information on the activities surrounding the Conference; [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com)
- EPCAMR Staff handling the daily registrations coming in online through our PayPal account
- The entire PA AMR Conference Committee selected the 2012 Mayfly Awards Winners to be presented at the Conference; Bernie McGurl-LRCA Executive Director, EPCAMR President, and Bob Eppley-Black Lick Creek Watershed Association, WPCAMR President

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Completed the May and June 2012 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursements & Progress Reports; Reviewed Mike's monthly Board Reports
- Worked with Mike to develop our 2012-2013 Annual Operating Budget for the upcoming Annual Board Meeting; Worked on getting a venue contract in place for the Genetti's Hotel in Hazleton for our upcoming Annual Board Meeting in August
- Continue to fill Iron Oxide Pigment Orders and other items listed on our EPCAMR Online Store
- Completed the US Department of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Commerce Quarterly Services Survey online
- Reviewed and filed Worker's Compensation & Employers Liability Insurance
- EPCAMR Deposits and Reconciliations of Accounts and provided Basil Lynch-CPA for EPCAMR with our Accountant's copy of our 2011 Register Report for him to complete the 2011 990s
- EPCAMR was invited to Macy's for their annual "Shop for A Cause" to assist with generating additional unrestricted income as a part of their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Campaign to help local non-profits out within their service area; EPCAMR was invited back to participate again this year
- Listened in on a webinar for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) on RiverTowns Funding
- Meeting with ADP Payroll Services who wanted to have an opportunity to provide EPCAMR with a quote for payroll services to see if it was competitive with RJ Zagrapan, who we currently use
- Leigh Ann Kemmerer, former EPCAMR Intern, submitted her application to EPCAMR to serve as a volunteer to any of our Committees



**Forming up the sides of the footer for the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial on top of the former abandoned Engine House Foundation in Ashley**