Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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July 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff conducted 2 streamside cleanups, met with a PA Senator and Participated in two AMR Conference Calls
- Prepared support letters for Act 13 proposals in **Schuylkill**, **Northumberland** and **Lackawanna** Counties.   Notification of award for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant @ ~$300K.
- Began purchasing equipment and setting up office in preparation for MSI Grant.
- Downloaded transducer data 2x for the OFB discharge and completed a Lower **Lackawanna** Mine Pool Model.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.treatminewater.com and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Conducted a streamside cleanup of Nockley's Tributary to Solomons Creek with a small group of volunteers. Initially Wilkes University incoming freshmen were to participate as well, but they postponed due to rain. Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Watershed Specialist, representatives from Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited and EPCAMR volunteers participated.
- Followed up with Jill Burrows, Lehigh University Graduate Student, to notify her of the presentation schedule for the AMR Conference and to help her decide which discharges were connected to mines that were fully flooded and ones that were only partially flooded (anoxic vs. oxic environments).
- Met with Megan Volksburg to reschedule the stream cleanup with Wilkes University incoming freshmen.
- Created an invoice for Espy Run Treatment system sampling and submitted it to the Earth Conservancy [EC].
- Notified that EPCAMR was awarded the Mine Mapping Grant from the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Program to the tune of $321,968 for the next 3 years. EPCAMR will purchase equipment and expand staff to complete this work. Began the process of working through the grant amendments and initialization paperwork.
- Downloaded the Old Forge Borehole transducer data and checked the desiccant. Met with Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) Director and EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl, to sign checks and strategize on Lower Lackawanna watershed restoration plans.
- Dropped off maps of the Twin Shaft Disaster to Greater Pittston Historical Society staffer, John Dziak.

- Solicited sales quotes for a large format color scanner for the MSI Grant. Two companies responded with vastly different prices. Worked with each to get an explanation for the difference and ended up going with GEI Wideformat out of Ohio for a Colortrac SmartLF Gx+ T42c scanner. Eventually purchased the scanner from this company as well [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff participated in two AMR Conference calls to hash out logistics and planning efforts for the upcoming conference next month. Caught up on online registrations and watershed hero cards that had filtered through over the past few weeks.
- EPCAMR staff interviewed Paul Dunay, candidate for MSI Mine Map Processing grant work. Paul began training in Georeferencing in preparation for the work [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff conducted another cleanup, this time with approximately 40 Wilkes University Incoming Freshmen, at the Nockley's Tributary to Solomons Creek. LCD Watershed Specialist, Aaron Stredny, ran a chipper that was rented to chip up wood that was blocking the channel and pulled up the hill by volunteers. EPCAMR staff ran chain saws and directed volunteers to trash and stream blockage sites to be cleared.
- With the help of EPCAMR Intern, updated the EPCAMR store at www.epcamr.org/store with items that were lost in the update of the ShopperPress programming. Descriptions were thought out in conjunction with intern, Sarah Jane, to make the items more enticing to purchase and to explain their uniqueness (aside from part of the proceeds becoming a donation).
- EPCAMR, LRCA and Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) staff met with Senator John Yudichak to promote the Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration application to the Act 13 program through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). Afterward, EPCAMR, LRCA and SRBC staff collaborated together to fill out the application online.
- Prepared minutes from the last meeting and sent out an upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting notice using MailChimp to solicit agenda items and get an idea of who was going to be able to attend.
- Continued to process AMR Conference registrations and collaborated with WPCAMR staff to make up a supplies list to compare what we already had and what needed to be purchased.
- Created a support letter for the Brookside / Rausch Creek AMD Separation Proposal to the Act 13 Program and sent it to SRBC staff for inclusion in their application.
- 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 reimbursement paperwork for May and June to send along as well.
- Heard that tires that were collected from the Nockleys Tributary to Solomon Creek were set on fire and the pile burned to the ground. EPCAMR staff went to the cleanup site to assess the damages (which were luckily not much more than scorched ground and trees, no additional fires were started due to the blaze). Cleaned up the scrap metal that was left and took it to Allan Industries for recycling.
- Created a support letter for the Northumberland County Conservation District's Proposal to the Act 13 Program and sent it to NCCD staff for inclusion in their application. The NCCD will be using the ARIPPA Award Money given to the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) as match for their proposal and needed the source and purpose explained in the letter as well.
- Created Watershed Hero Cards for past Mayfly Awardees that had not had cards made for them up to this point.
- EPCAMR, LRCA and SRBC staff collaborated together again to complete the Act 13 Proposal application online and produce hard copies to submit to the CFA.

Technical Assistance:
- With the help of EPCAMR intern, added sampling data from the Espy Run Treatment System to the EPCAMR water sampling database [EC].

- Merged OSM Mine Map Folio and Ashburner cross sections to combine the scattered data from different sources. Some duplicate data was deleted to favor the more detailed mine map folios for later 3D mine pool models [SRBC].
- Troubleshot a connection problem to EarthVision software with the Office of Surface Mining Technical Innovation and Professional Services (OSM TIPS) servers. There was a problem with the IP address of the computer being rejected by the server, thus not allowing a software license to be obtained.
- Created a map for Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), showing land parcels along the river with an aerial photo in the background related to the work on the Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Assessment Plan (LLWRAP).
- Defined two vertical faults for the Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool Model: Moffat and Archbald. Re ran the model in the earthVision Workflow Manager. The definition of these faults graphically gives the model better accuracy and cleaves the veins at certain intervals to mimic the actual geologic structure and function of the mine pool [SRBC].
- Adjusted the Bottom Red Ash to Clark Top veins in the 6S cross section to better fit surrounding cross sections in the model. Initially these veins matched up better to other veins, but the assumption is that 6S was from a different colliery that was not naming their veins the same as the neighboring collieries. Also added missing veins based off calculation of the thickness and distance from veins above and below [SRBC].
- Contacted Mike Dunn, OSM, to resolve questions related to the earthVision WorkFlow Manager. The first issue dealt with 2d grids that were created from faults (and surface) data are not being accepted while the second issue deals with a data format issue that exists when editing the data in a spreadsheet program such as OpenOffice Calc. OpenOffice Calc will actually mess up the header in such a way that earthVision no longer can read it. Both issues are native to earthVision and only can be worked around. Added this information to "Skips Scripts and Other TIPS.doc" document to record the issues for future reference [SRBC].
- With the help of EPCAMR Intern, digitizing of the Lower Lackawanna cross section data was completed and all raw data could be incorporated into the mine pool model [SRBC].
- Aided LRCA Director in finding several surface, borehole and mine pool elevations related to the finding a suitable location for a treatment system for the Old Forge Borehole Discharge. Since the idea is to have the water gravity drain to the treatment site, the location would have to be down gradient, but pressure within the mine pool could translate into additional head pressure that would allow higher elevation locations to be considered as well.
- Adjusted cross section data from 10WW to 6F and the Ashburner cross sections E, G and H to better fit the surrounding data in regards to the Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool Model. Used volume calculator to make an initial estimate of 128 Billion gallons of mine water existing in the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool that drains to the Old Forge Borehole [SRBC].
- Ordered 2 Dell Precision M6700 Mobile Workstations for the MSI Mine Map Processing grant. These computers will run Windows 7 and contain state-of-the-art solid state drives which in conjunction will make them process data much faster than conventional hard drives. Also Radeon graphics cards were included to be sure that "heads-up" digitizing of cross sections in earthVision will not be a problem [MSI].
- Setup the Colortrac SmartLF Gx+ T42c map scanner in the 3rd room in the EPCAMR office, which required cleaning out of materials that were stored. Materials were moved to the storage area and the room was setup to utilize the space best for map scanning. The stand to the scanner seemed to be a very weak and followed up with GEI to see if we could get a replacement [MSI].
- Adjusted outlet weirs on the Espy Run Treatment System down about 3" with Earth Conservancy staff in preparation for some work that will be done to increase residency time and enhance the flow of water throughout the system. This was done to lower the amount of water in the old ponds to promote the growth of wetland plants now that there are settling ponds that

were placed before the wetland to trap iron oxide sediment. The old section of the treatment system can now be used as "polishing wetland" [EC].

- Test run of the Map Scanner, showed that there was some sort of problem with the network connection, but the USB connection performed fine. Also setup of the paper catch basket. Found that the EPCAMR computer network would have to be upgraded to a gigabit network. This meant replacing the 10/100MB router and switch. Scanned some Mine Maps from the Wyoming Valley to begin to figure out how the scanner worked. Replaced the crossbar, sent by GEI, on the scanner stand to make it more sturdy [MSI].
- Began updating budget items in the Grant Tracker Excel Spreadsheet in preparation for the EPCAMR Annual Budget.
- Setup the 2 laptops that were ordered for the MSI Mine Map Processing grant. Called one FeRock and the other MangRock in honor of the Pollution Posse cartoon characters in the EPCAMR Activity Book.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.