

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
EPCAMR Executive Director
101 S. Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

rhughes@epcamr.org
www.epcamr.org

June 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Conducted another demonstration of the AMD Solar Kiln with **150 more 6th grade** students at the Plains-Solomon Elementary School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District over the course of two days on how to dry iron oxide and to operate the kiln; Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop along with the demonstration for the student's 6th grade field trip to Washington DC where they will be wearing their T-shirts stained with iron oxide; Ann Devine-PA DEP and her two interns made the trip from Harrisburg, PA to help build solar race cars for the day with the students; Worked with a virtual volunteer from New Jersey, Tania A. that has experience in graphic design who is helping us to create a tri-fold educational brochure for the Solar Kiln
- EPCAMR will be sitting down with Megan-Boone Valkenburg, VISTA Community Service Coordinator for Wilkes University in mid-July to talk about future volunteer projects that students can participate in with EPCAMR, and including possible part-time non-paid internships
- EPCAMR is working on putting an AMD Tour together for Robert Maiden-PACD Executive Director for areas impacted in the Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties for August 27th, and another tour in September for Sullivan County, in partnership with the Conservation Districts from those respective counties and their Watershed Specialists and District Managers

Technical Assistance

- Submitted a request to the EPA Region III to join the listserv that deals with the Assessments Database for the Section 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters and was approved
- Provided some grant writing assistance to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society for a **\$2500** FFA Living2Serve grant from the USDA that we've partnered with the W-B Career & Technology Center on for the Huber Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley on the 3 acre AML Site; Submitted the budget numbers to Janice Leiby, Horticulture Teacher, who is submitting the application on behalf of the HBPS and EPCAMR
- At the request of Brian Oram, P.G., provided an estimate of time necessary for EPCAMR Staff to complete a cursory review of the mine pools, maps, layers, and other hydrogeologic information around the Good Spring Area in the Southern Anthracite Region for BF Environmental; The estimate was accepted; EPCAMR Staff to begin working on the information that Brian would like to have us collect and map for this area for his client

- EPCAMR continues to provide technical assistance to Jim Wetzel-from Weatherly Borough Planning Commission who is taking the lead on developing a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Hazle Creek Restoration Plan and areas of the Upper Lehigh River Watershed impacted by AMD; EPCAMR is working up the AMDTreat Active/Passive Treatment Costs based on our collective monitoring and flow data in the watershed over the last few years and working with Jim to come up with the Cost/Benefit Analyses necessary to submit the Plan to the PA DEP BAMR for consideration and approval

Conference Coordination

- Assisted with the Coordination of an EPCAMR/WPCAMR/ARIPPA Technical Meeting at Toftrees, State College, PA to serve as a small fundraiser for administrative funds for the Coalitions and to hear grant awardees talk about their projects that were funded over the last two years; Presentations included the topic of the beneficial use of fly-ash from CFB plants to reclaim abandoned mine lands, AMD Treatment System Innovative Designs and Construction, and Mine Pool Mapping Technology (www.arippa.org)
- Conducted a Pre-Tour with the Moshannon District Mining Office to the sites in Eastern Clearfield County that we will be visiting on August 2, 2012; Prepared a report to give to the full Committee later in the week; Site descriptions are <http://2012.treatminewater.com/tour/>
- Conducted an AMR Conference Call on June 15, 2012 with the Planning Committee to begin working on the agenda for the **2012 AMR Conference** at the Ramada Inn State College, PA August 2-4th, 2012; EPCAMR will be handling the registrations due to our website already being set up to accept online donations, payment of invoices, conference registrations, workshops, etc.; A new Mayfly Award sculpture will be unveiled at this year's Conference with a new artist
- EPCAMR Staff received a scholarship to attend the 2 day PA Game Commission's Wildlife Action Plan Forum at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA to provide input into the plan related to abandoned mine lands, reforestation efforts, reclamation efforts, wildlife habitat improvements on abandoned mine lands, bat cave location analysis to abandoned mine lands, and water quality improvements in streams impacted by AMD

Project Coordination

- Constructed the 2nd of 3 **Solar AMD Kilns** for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and delivered it to Plains-Solomon Elementary during the Demonstration Event and AMD Tie-Dye Program on June 6th
- Put in an order request to PA Tectonics to have Dean see about having 2 2" borehole collars welded for us that will allow us to improve the openings of two boreholes in the Wyoming Valley to assist with our **Anthracite Region Borehole Monitoring** for the SRBC; EPCAMR Staff discovered the Avondale #35 borehole in the middle of State Route 11 in Plymouth Township and tried to coordinate the daylighting of it with PA DOT who was milling the road, however, they couldn't work around an existing contract already in place, but they did mark the location, in case we decide to open it at a later time if the two other shallow, deep wells along Flat Road are determined to not be connected to the same mine pool

- EPCAMR Staff worked on providing Dave Hamilton-OSM, at his request, with Final Narrative Progress Reports that were misplaced for the Bear Creek AMD Treatment System Construction and the Audenried AMD Treatment System Construction a few years ago; Somehow, a Final Closeout Letter by the OSM was not reported in the files and OSM needed to close out the grant officially in their financial management system
- Was informed that EPCAMR was selected to receive a small **\$400** grant to purchase seedlings and trees for the ***Huber Miner's Memorial Park Project*** from the Appalachian Coal Country Team under a reforestation initiative grant program; It is a part of a research project to utilize a Groasis Waterboxxes on abandoned mine lands to monitor growth utilizing this technology; <http://epcamr.org/home/news/>

Community Cleanups

- EPCAMR coordinated a stream-side cleanup at the HoneyPot Susquehanna #7 AMD discharge in Nanticoke with **14** Wilkes University Incoming First Year Students; **30** bags (~600 pounds) of trash, mostly bottles, flood debris, and household wastes were removed from the slackwater canal section of the North Branch Canal that worked it's way up to the Susquehanna #7 Coal Breaker historically to be loaded up with coal; EPCAMR often takes students and teachers on tours to this location and felt that the amount of debris and trash, particularly the glass was a hazard

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Performed reconciliations on our EPCAMR Accounts
- Interviewed Eric Moore, a student from Hartwick College, and resident of the Back Mountain, who was interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service volunteer over the Summer and possibly coming back in the Fall or next Summer as an Intern supported by his College; Eric will be processing our iron oxide in the meantime we will be helping him to update his resume
- Talked with Rebecca Weinberger-a volunteer with a background in Marketing that is willing to assist EPCAMR with implementing our Marketing Plan; She is from Western PA, near Oil City, and would be willing to work virtually through the internet and e-mail; Forwarded her a copy of our updated Strategic Plan & Marketing Plan for review and will be following up with her in July
- Completed a BoardSource Governance Index Survey for Executive Directors and submitted to BoardSource and received a FREE report on Fundraising Ideas for Non-Profits
- Submitted EPCAMR's work on the Mine Pool Mapping in the Southern and Western Middle Fields for an Environmental Recognition Award through the NCAC Community Awards Program at the NEPA Alliance
- Interviewed Kelsey Biondo, Lakewood, PA for a Summer Community Service Volunteer Internship position with EPCAMR; Kelsey has a background from PSU, with a BS in Earth Sciences, Geography Minor, and extensive knowledge of ArcGIS 10