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March 2013 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Developed and designed a webpage on the EPCAMR site for the our PA Fish & Boat Commission Tackle Loaner Program; Corresponded with Walt Dietz, PA Fish & Boat Commission Aquatic Resources Program Specialist who will be putting the link on the PA F&BC website; http://epcamr.org/home/current-initiatives/epcamr-fishing-tackle-loaner-program-with-pfbc/

- Reviewed EITC Paperwork provided by Mel Talmadge, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer, who attended a PA DCED Training on EPCAMR's behalf in Pittston, PA at the NEPA Alliance in order for our organization to obtain the necessary information to apply for our renewal as an Educational Improvement Organization in PA to be able to receive Tax Credits from businesses and industry across PA to support our environmental education programs in schools, with colleges and universities, and at nature centers and charter schools in our region

- Brian Oram-BF Environmental offered a free copy of their new booklet on private wells and drinking water quality in PA as an educational guide to EPCAMR; http://www.water-research.net/privatewellownerbooklet.htm

- Made a request to April Rogato, from the Heritage Valley Partners, Inc. if they or the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) have an information partnership agreement that they utilize with other regional NGOs or partners that don't have the ability to provide funds to become a member at the various membership levels, but still wants to become a partner to support the regional efforts

- Talked with Rusty Bennett, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association (MCWA), Wyoming County, who is interested in applying for the EPCAMR/ARIPPA Mini-Grant this Spring; Forwarded him information on the application process; MCWA is looking to continue to lime the watershed at various strategic locations

- Provided comments to Kate Gibbons, PennFuture, on the draft 2014 Work Plan State Lead for Penn-Future, that EPCAMR hopes will prove productive and continue to show our commitment to the Choose Clean Water Coalition partnership that we are actively involved with, although AMD is not one of the major priorities at this time

- Forwarded a contact by Alana Roberts, Community Affairs Specialist, PPL who could help EPCAMR publicize our iron oxide recycling program through t-shirt sales; Followed up with her online to seek her assistance; Summer Rayne was a former intern with the Lackawanna County Conservation District; http://www.summerrayne.net/

- Provided a copy of the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan to Gilbert Wheeler, Ashley PA, who is a member of the Ashley Trout Stocking Association

- Received a SMCRA Resolution from Tim Ference, Chair of the Luzerne Conservation District

- Requested a letter from the Superintendent of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, Dr. Bernie Prevuznak to support EPCAMR's renewal as an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) under the PA DCED Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program; Mel Talmadge, our EPCAMR Volunteer Services Coordinator attended a workshop on EPCAMR's behalf to obtain new updated information on the EITC Program for EPCAMR to apply for our renewal for FY2013-2014

- Signed on to a letter, along with PennFuture, the Responsible Drilling Alliance, Pennsylvania Forest Coalition, Sierra Club, Keystone Trails Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Pennsylvania Audubon, Trout Unlimited, Loyalsock Creek Association and Lycoming Creek Watershed Association to preserve a special part of Penn's Woods from gas development; The tract of the Loyalsock State Forest in Lycoming County includes places of ecological and recreational significance: most of the EV watershed of Rock Run, the 27-mile Old Loggers Path hiking trail, the Devil's Elbow Natural Area, large tracts of interior forests, and a National Audubon Society-designated Important Birding Area; An unusual land deed gives DCNR the ability to control the surface of most of the Clarence Moore property tracts, even though other parties own the mineral estate

Technical Assistance

- Met with Nick Wesley, student at King's College, who has an idea for a floating wetlands treatment technology that he'd like to pilot on an AMD discharge

- Provided additional comments for the draft of the 2014-2015 ***Water Resources Program of the Susquehanna River Basin***; Summarized our cursory comments based our thorough review in support of the Plan and on recently completed collaboration opportunities EPCAMR and the SRBC have had to continue to work together within the Basin, particularly on AMD related issues; The comments served to show the strong support that EPCAMR has for the work of the SRBC in relation to remediating AMD within the Basin

- EPCAMR offered to help set up the pressure transducers on ***Hazle Creek AMD Monitoring Project*** with Jim Wetzel, from Weatherly Borough in the Spring 2013; Jim is waiting on approvals to make purchases of the equipment after he sends down his paperwork to the PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Center; Requested a copy of our Watershed Restoration Assessment Plan that we recently completed on the Lackawanna River with LRCA to assist him with further developing the QHUP for the Hazle Creek

- Provided John Dziak-local amateur historian with some links to graphics/videos on the affect of the Alleghenian or other orogeny on the formation of Anthracite coal in Northeastern PA; *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeNlAIndO7s*

- Posted the ARIPPA AML Awards Call for Applications on our EPCAMR Current Initiatives; Only **$2500** is available this year due to budgetary considerations by the trade association

- Kim Clarke-RPT New York LLC, out of Collegeville, PA currently does work for the PA DEP and Aqua PA Water and have been a contractor there for 7 years; They specialize in tank exterior and exterior linings, secondary containment, pipe wraps and linings, concrete repair; Suggested that they come and exhibit at our State-wide PA AMR Conference in August

- Brian Taylor-Taylor Energy Alternatives, from SE PA is interested in mine drainage and its uses/treatment; Taylor Energy Alternatives had an idea for some time in developing these sites for power generation and then the treatment (usually through the use of a limestone lined sluice); This could not only help treat the effected flow but give its cleanup a profit margin. The equipment I am using is experimental but its' extremely low cost to manufacture could bring small hydropower projects into a more feasible source of local power

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff prepared and submitted a ***PA Mine Subsidence Insurance Program Mine Map Grant*** in the amount of **$342,143** over a **3 year** period to scan, digitize, geo-reference, and geo-process several thousand mine maps for the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Pottsville District Mining Office, Deep Mine Safety, and the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program

- EPCAMR Staff prepared and submitted a **$10,000** ***PA American Water Company Grant*** to implement several stream restoration and trout habitat improvement projects in the Solomon Creek Watershed that is within their service area

- Coordinated with the Hicks Creek Watershed Association, Exeter Borough, and all partners involved with the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project***; Communicated back and forth with the Exeter Borough Engineer, PA DEP BAMR, Growing Greener Grants Center, and other partners on the issue around a temporary easement or permanent easement along the Capitano property that needs further review by the Exeter Borough solicitor; Reviewed Permit Review Fee Schedule with Skelly & Loy and attended a Pre-Application Meeting with PA DEP BAMR and the PA DEP Chapter 105 Waterways Bureau scheduled to seek direction on the next steps to take in the project

- Received a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement with Sean Kinney, CEO, dba R & S Carbon Resources, who is interested in working with EPCAMR on a iron oxide recovery processing project in the near future

- Requested various pieces of information from ***Lewis Mine Rehabilitation Treatment System SMCRA Project*** partners, Hedin Environmental and the Moshannon District Mining Office to assist with filling out the necessary grant paperwork from the PA DEP Grants Center; Filled out all of the grant paperwork and submitted them to the PA DEP Grants Center and the PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office Project Advisor Mario Carello; Added water quality/flow data from Eric Rosengrant-PA DEP Moshannon DMO to the "Receiving Stream Benefits" Worksheet

- EPCAMR is working with PA DOT and the HBPS to obtain right-of-way approvals for placement of two directional signs that will lead to the reclaimed ***Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park*** in Ashley, PA; 25' from the centerline of the State Roads is where the signs will need to be placed and if that location is not in the PA DOT right-of-way, the HBPS will have to obtain permission from the private landowners or Ashley Borough to have the signs installed

- Reviewed the 2013 Bond Rate Guidelines for the Active Mining Industry that was received from the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board

- EPCAMR submitted our ***Year 2 Waterboxx Research Application*** to Brantley Kirkland-Reforestation Coordinator-Appalachian Coal Country Team for **$1000** to continue monitoring the seedlings planted at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park and to plant additional seedlings in the coming year ahead in 2013; EPCAMR believes that our abandoned mine land site is unique and the detailed monitoring that we are continuing to conduct in addition to the information that ACCT is collecting will prove useful to Groassis down the road

- Informed the Stanley Cooper Chapter of the Trout Unlimited that EPCAMR was not awarded the $10,000 Implementation Grant this Spring 2013 round for the ***Solomon Creek Stream & Trout Habitat Restoration Projects*** that we had proposed; However, EPCAMR informed them that our partner that we did resubmit the application at the request of the Foundation for PA Watersheds to them for consideration this Spring and we also submitted another few grants to build on this proposal in the Solomon Creek Watershed

- R. John Dawes, Executive Director-Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds sent EPCAMR a message stating that the materials he received in the mail on the completion of the ***Lower Lackawanna River Watershed Assessment Plan*** were "*stellar and if all of our partners submitted such quality reports, our lives would be greatly enhanced*"; He went on to state, "*Keep up the good work and let us know how we can help. It is really top quality and many thanks to you for sending it.";* EPCAMR's own President and LRCA Executive Director had great things to say about our collective work on the Plan as well*…"My personal thanks to You and Michael for your collaboration on the Lower Lackawanna. LRCA could not have done this by itself. If I still had Art Popp on staff then it would have been Art and myself out in all kinds of weather at the Borehole and Duryea breach. Having You and Michael on Board for all of the Field Work was the foundation of this project, that and your collective GIS expertise on the Barrier Pillar system and subterranean topography. The work contributed by EPCAMR was critical to the success of this project. I especially appreciate Mike' work to assemble and design and layout the report and his important analysis of the flow patterns and barrier pillar situations. The support from Tom and SRBC staff was a huge benefit as well especially in helping with the approach to Old Forge flow measurements and Tom's work editing the report doc."*

- Worked with Daniel Quiroga, a wet processing consultant for a large named Southern California Clothing Company to provide him with 3 pounds of iron oxide and manganese oxide pigment for him to test it on a clothing line product that the Clothing Company is considering for the Fall 2014; EPCAMR is working closely with him to secure funding for a position, equipment, and supplies to improve our Iron Oxide Processing Station

Conference Coordination

- Attended the ***PAEE Conference*** on March 15-16th, 2013 at the Bushkill Inn, Bushkill, PA and served as a moderator for several sessions and attended the EE Non-Formal Certification Advisory Board Meeting to receive an update on the process as an appointed member of the PAEE Advisory Board; A draft EE Certification brochure and Work Plan was passed around for review and to provide some additional comments on the Appendices; The Advisory Board looked over the brochure and made some comments and discussed how to get a few more good members representing the appropriate areas that we needed on the Advisory Board; Reported back to Ruth Roperti-PAEE President who was ill and could not attend on the happenings that were going on over the two days of the Conference; Provided Ruth with PowerPoint Presentations from various sessions attended and moderated into PDF documents that PAEE might want to add to their website

- Participated in the March 2013 PA AMR Conference Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming ***15th Anniversary State-wide Conference*** in State College; Soft deadline for Abstract Submissions was on Good Friday and many continued to be submitted; Received word from the PA DEP that our funding request for **$5000** was in the pipeline for approval; Asked Brent Means-OSM, to see if he could make a presentation on peroxide treatment for AMD; Tom Clark-SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator was added to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; Pushing the Watershed Hero Trading Cards out to our reclamation and watershed audience through e-mail to get them to nominate their volunteers within their respective groups; Sought abstracts from Wilkes University through Dr. Brian Whitman, who has had students working on borehole monitoring of water quality contained within the abandoned mines around the Wyoming Valley; Talked with Robert Maiden-Executive Director, PACD about making a presentation at the Conference on the Technical Assistance that PACD can provide on AMD projects and remediation efforts and becoming a sponsor; Reached out to past MayFly Award Winners to obtain information from them for the Watershed Hero Trading Cards that we're making for them in advance of the Conference

- Continued working on the ***PA Watershed Conference*** Planning with the Foundation for PA Watersheds scheduled for April 5-6th in State College, PA at the Nittany Lion Inn; EPCAMR will be bringing along our projector and laptops to loan to the Committee to keep the costs of the Conference down; EPCAMR promoted the Conference to our Eastern PA partners; Forwarded information on the Conference to the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB)

- Attended the PA EnviroThon Board Meeting at Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA as a guest to discuss EPCAMR's plans to tie-dye t-shirts with AMD at this year's annual event on May 21st, 2013; Toured the campus with Board Members and scoped out the greenspace areas that will be utilized for the event where an estimated **365** students will be producing t-shirts with EPCAMR's recovered iron oxide from AMD impacted streams; http://epcamr.org/home/2013/epcamr-to-present-at-2013-pa-envirothon-at-juniata-college-and-conduct-amd-tie-dye-workshop-for-students/ and http://www.envirothonpa.org/documents/2013WinterUPDATES.pdf

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the February EPCAMR 319 Board Report & Reimbursement; Submitted to PA DEP

- Met with a potential volunteer, Ms. Patricia Ruddy, who was interested in possibly donating a few hours of clerical assistance to EPCAMR, however, after seeking other opportunities in the area she decided to volunteer her time with another organization; EPCAMR followed up and thanked her for offering her time and consideration; Coordinated with other potential EPCAMR Volunteers and Mel Talmadge, our Volunteer Services Coordinator about informing potential volunteers of future events by having them check our Google Calendar based on their availability, skills, and volunteer opportunities that they signed up for on wwwVolunteerMatch.org with EPCAMR; Created an EPCAMR Volunteer Box, complete with Volunteer Request Forms (VRFs) and resumes of all interested EPCAMR Volunteers

- EPCAMR Staff met with Cheryl Brobst, EPCAMR Treasurer to review financial information, budgets, EPCAMR's grant tracking Excel Worksheets, and QuickBooks Upgrade 2013, which Staff is teaching itself at the moment; Discussed ways to produce different financial reports for the Board that will be recommended at a future board meeting date

- Received a resume from Paul Dunay, Tunkhannock, PA who has a great deal of experience with GIS and is getting ready to graduate in May 2013 with a BS in Environmental Biology with focus on GIS applications from Keystone College; Had a previous internship with the Susquehanna County Conservation District, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and at Keystone College and may potentially be a candidate for our Mine Mapping Grant internship/part time job, if awarded by the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program, later this Summer

- EPCAMR applied to Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to participate in the Community Service program; Effective with the 2012-13 academic year, PHEAA no longer approves students nor employers for participation in the ***Federal Work-Study (FWS) Community Service Program*** (as outlined on www.pheaa.org); PHEAA does still provide matching funds to Pennsylvania schools to assist them in meeting their FWS Community Service federal requirement, EPCAMR will contact local schools in our area to see what they will require of us to participate in this program; Per federal guidelines schools are required to approve employers for FWS Community Service participation and to sign any required agreement with the employing organization; Currently the only work-study program that PHEAA approves students and employers for is the ***Pennsylvania State Work-Study Program*** (SWSP), a self-help program in which students who are approved to participate in SWSP are paid 100% of their earnings up-front by the SWSP employer who then submits time sheets to PHEAA for reimbursement. In order to participate in this program, you must complete a Work-Study Employer Application for SWSP (Section II of the Work-Study Employer Application) and be able to pay your student workers 100% of their wages up front. If you are unable to meet this requirement then you cannot participate in SWSP
- GuideStar Exchange is revising their program to help EPCAMR share the right information with donors and allow us to access more program benefits; The new program is set to go into effect in the next two months; One of the biggest changes that will occur is the replacement of the GuideStar Exchange Seal with bronze, silver, and gold logos that indicate the level of a nonprofit's participation in the GuideStar Exchange; EPCAMR is already a gold logo for our commitment to transparency; http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/23-2859500/eastern-pennsylvania-coalition-abandoned-mine-reclamation.aspx