

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Conducted an AMD Watershed Outreach Educational Field Tour with the another 6th grade class from Wilkes-Barre Area's Plains-Solomon Elementary throughout the southern portion of the Wyoming Valley
- Presented to the *Masonic Lodge #61 of the Freemasons* at the request of a member on EPCAMR work in the region; The Lodge made a **\$100** donation to EPCAMR
- Attended the *Community Connections PA DCNR Watershed Forum Finale* with PA DCNR and the EPCAMR Staff who were a part of the program all year and provided the high school students with an AMD Tour and a tour to an Art Studio in Dallas, PA, Verve Vertu, that utilized iron oxide pigment from EPCAMR to create hundreds of pieces of artwork by artists with disabilities; Went on a kayak trip with the students and teachers down the Susquehanna River from Falls, PA to the Apple Tree take-out, Harding, PA
- Attended the Greater Nanticoke Area Chorus Concert to support the students who were exhibiting at their *AMD Pottery Art Show* to showcase their pinch pots glazed with iron oxide; Over **365** pots were displayed
- Conducted an AMD Watershed Outreach Educational Program for the Kistler Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre as a part of their annual Earth Day Celebration at Miner Park, S. Wilkes-Barre, PA to over **1000** students;
- Set up a meeting with several STEM Teachers in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District at EL Meyers High School to show them 3D Modeling Work that EPCAMR has done on the Mine Pool Mapping in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valley to see if it is possible to print the models possibly on their 3D Printers; Everyone is unfamiliar with the data types that can be used to make the conversion possible from one software language to another
- Provided *Will Tolliver*, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, newest member of the PA Community of Learners (COL) Leadership Team, an outline of a few options for the PA Consortia and Community of Learners, both older and new members to consider when they want to decide on which types of communication methods that they will use to further develop the Strategic Plan that has been developed; Participated in an EE Capacity Conference Call and forwarded notes to *Ruth Roperti*, COL Leadership Team
- EPCAMR was notified by the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) that we're being considered for a 2015 Community Award in the Environmental Category for our development of the first AMD Solar-Powered Mobile Kiln constructed to process, dry, and recycle oxides from mine water pollution to use as an education learning tool and mobile device with local schools to show the potential of resource recovery of metals totally off-grid; Dinner is on June 11, 2015, at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, Scranton, PA
- Attended an Appreciation Dinner for sponsors of King's College undergraduate interns in Wilkes-Barre, PA at the Shoval Center; Discussed future partnerships with Professor *Matthew Olmstead*, who teaches engineering/physics

- Invited to submit an application to attend a Population Facilitator Training Workshop by *Lindsay Bailey*, a Teacher Training Manager for Population Education; www.populationeducation.org; Passed along the invitation to colleagues the PAEE Board, regional partners, and environmental educators that EPCAMR works with in Northeastern and NorthCentral PA.; EPCAMR Executive Director submitted an application to become a possible facilitator and to possibly host a workshop or training at our office in Northeastern PA; EPCAMR sees correlations to what we are seeing in the Coalfields of Northeastern PA, in terms of population growth, community development, reclamation, job creation, brain drain, underserved populations that we serve, underrepresented communities and schools that don't have the opportunity to learn about this topic, and to continue to build a stronger and more educated facilitator base of environmental educators, both formal and non-formal, in our region
- Assisted with the coordinated release of several hundred native trout fingerlings with several elementary schools from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, including Heights Elementary and Kistler Elementary at Frances Slocum State Park, near the spillway that feeds Abraham's Creek, a coldwater fishery that flows down into the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the entire Greater Nanticoke Area 5th grade class as a part of their 5th Grade Social and Field Day
- Finalized the *MRAB Anthracite Mining Tour* to various AMD Sites (Schuylkill Headwaters Association and Schuylkill Conservation District maintained sites) and an active mining operation (Keystone Anthracite) in the Southern and Western Middle Coalfields for July 8th, 2015
- Conducted an AMD Outreach and Education Program with EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern, *Haley Gianonne*, for the entire 5th grade class at Sullivan County Elementary, Laporte, PA at the request of *Corey Richmond*, EPCAMR Board Member representing the Sullivan County Conservation District
- EPCAMR joined together with the PA Growing Greener Coalition and Chesapeake Bay Foundation to launch the 'Clean Water Counts' campaign across the Commonwealth; The purpose of the campaign is to bring greater awareness and attention to the water quality challenges facing the Commonwealth; EPCAMR has been a partner for the last few years and have encouraged our watershed groups and counties in the EPCAMR region to pass resolutions in support of clean water; <http://cbf.org/about-cbf/offices-operations/harrisburg-pa/clean-water-counts-for-organizations/pledge>

Technical Assistance

- Requested an electronic version of the ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation Application for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society; Assisted the HBPS in preparing a **\$6500** grant to construct a replica Powder House on the site of the Miners Memorial Park, Ashley, PA that was submitted
- Submitted a **\$20,000** grant to the *LOWE's Charitable Foundation* with the support of one of our local LOWE's stores in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA with the full support of the local community outreach coordinator Ryan Fitzsimmons to purchase supplies and materials necessary to conduct **10** illegal dumpsite, community, or streamside cleanups throughout the year in the Coal Region and to involve any local stores where the cleanups will be held
- Followed up with *Emily Krafjack*, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association to see if she was able to get a copy of a well map within the watershed that she'd like scanned for use by the watershed association
- Suggested a grant title for the NFWF Grant to Gabby and Liz, entitled "Susquehanna River Tributary Assessment and Implementation of Small Scale Best Management Practices in the Mifflinville, Nescopeck, and Berwick Area"
- Attended the first *Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting* in Harrisburg, PA since having been appointed by the State Conservation Commission; Nominated *Mike Hewitt* as my alternate to the Aggregate Advisory Board

- The Trust for Public Land produced a *PA Act 13 Conservation and Recreation Funding Guidebook* summary of funds available to support conservation, parks and recreation under Act 13 and was printed with the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; It can serve as a useful tool to help local governments and non-profits better understand conservation funds available under Act 13; Forwarded a copy of it to each of the EPCAMR Staff to review when considering projects and program development for EPCAMR
- Provided some technical grant writing assistance to *Elizabeth Hughes*, Communications Director for the Earth Conservancy (EC) who was preparing an ARIPPA EPCAMR Mini-Grant application to provide some educational signage and stations for elementary students at the Askam AMD Treatment System and working on another larger Bliss Bank Reclamation Project and wanted some assistance with the budget development; Provided EC with a letter of support for their Growing Greener Grant application to reclaim the Bliss Bank
- Conducted a field investigation with EPCAMR Staff at the Askam AMD Treatment System, Hanover Township, PA for the Earth Conservancy to determine the locations of the holes in the baffle curtains within the system and how many holes there were that are allowing AMD to flow through them at specific intervals throughout the system; Disconnected rhodamine tracer probe and transferred it to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for data download and analysis
- Some of the EPCAMR Staff conducted a field investigation in the Southern Coalfields with a private landowner, *Bill Yourey*, in Donaldson, PA who recently purchased some mine lands in the Northern Swatara Creek watershed and wasn't sure of the chemistry of the water and streams that flowed through his property or had any maps or knowledge of what might be located on his property that was previously abandoned; EPCAMR will come back to his property in late June or early July to monitor the other stream crossings to determine if they are AMD impacted or not and make a recommendation to him as to what possible solutions could be available to him, should he partner with EPCAMR on a grant; EPCAMR Staff has done some research on the area with our RAMLIS GIS and communicated with Tom Clark, SRBC about partnering on the project, should it become feasible
- Began developing the draft PA DCED Grant Proposal for the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation Project with *Ray Clarke*, Chairman and Treasurer of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Ashley, PA
- Prepared a Letter of Support to *Peter Williamson*, Vice President of Conservation Services for the The Natural Lands Trust PA DCED Grant Application to acquire the Butler Enterprises Forest Tract and nearly 3050 acres of land and mine lands including several AMD discharges in the Catawissa Creek watershed
- Blue Marble Graphics provided EPCAMR with a free license of GlobalMapper v16.2; <http://www.bluemarblegeo.com/products/global-mapper.php>

Project Coordination

- Received an estimate for the E30 & E40 EcoRaster pallet of grids from Greenway Pavements, for the trail development at the **Huber Miners Memorial Park Reclamation Project**, Ashley, PA; Coordinated the delivery and pickup of the grids by the Huber Breaker Preservation Society; www.greenwaypavements.com; **\$2379.76** was donated by Greenway Pavements in pavers towards the project; Followed up with *Joe Stefaniak* and *Chris Beeman*, GiveGab, on progress that's been made on developing several applications for funding to support the Park projects and provided them with a timeline of events for the remainder of the year;
- Followed up with *Matthew Newton*, to see if the **"Looking at Appalachia Project"** is interested in sending the Field Note book up to EPCAMR to include some N. Appalachia projects, people, and work
- Coordinated the **Centralia Cleanup II** in Centralia, PA with our partners and **40** volunteers; **89** tires were picked up and **5** Tons of trash were removed in **2** 30 cubic yard dumpsters that were donated by Mostik Brothers, Mt. Carmel, PA; **\$500** to pay for the removal of the dumpsters and to provide refreshments was donated by Blaschak Coal Company; Followed up with *Suzy Morales*, Lakin Tire, a sub-contractor for Firestone that hauled away the pulled tires for free as a partner in the project through Bridgestone to set up a date to pick up tires Coordinated the pickup

of the tires; Tried to reach the News Item in Shamokin to see if they wanted to do a follow up story on our second cleanup effort with no response from the reporter; Attached is an album from the Cleanup on May 16th, 2015; <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153416031444095.1073741895.95647429094&type=1>; Volunteer time for the day valued at nearly **\$7000**

- Coordinated the **Honey Pot Community Cleanup** in Nanticoke, PA with our partners and **14** the Nanticoke Conservation Club, Nanticoke Area Community Garden group, the City of Nanticoke, and Luzerne County Community College; **89** tires removed and nearly **3** Tons of trash was picked up by PA DOT; Volunteer time for day valued at around **\$1600**
- Reviewed the sampling locations provided by the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists, Gabby and Liz, for the **Laurel Run Tributary Coldwater Conservation Plan**; Provided them with a copy of the EPCAMR Water Quality/Flow, Habitat Assessment, and Macro-Invertebrate Sampling Data Form for usage in the field; LRCA is loaning EPCAMR a few hand-held GPS units to obtain latitude and longitude points in the field for each of the locations sampled and any priority areas identified
- Reviewed tentative agenda for a conference call to led by *Kristie Fach*, Wildlands Conservancy on the preparation of a Growing Greener Grant for the **Hazle Creek/Black Creek Watershed** in partnership with the Weatherly Borough Planning Commission, Weatherly Borough, and Cabot Corporation; Provided comments and additions to the agenda based on the need of mine pool mapping of those basins in southern Luzerne County that flow to the Upper Lehigh
- Requested by *Owen Worozbyt*, Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority to see if EPCAMR can produce and provide several pounds of Anthracite Red Iron Oxide pigment for a 7' wooden fish structural art project along the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Trail as a part of a children's play area; EPCAMR was more than happy to accommodate the request and the LVHA placed an order
- Requested shipment of our **50** Waterboxxes and supplies from *ISI*; Once the shipment was received, we were short some supplies and had to have them shipped overseas from Holland, where the Waterboxxes are manufactured; Pickup of the Waterboxxes by grantees was delayed due to the delay in shipment of the supplies
- Worked with Gabby to submit a **Keep PA Beautiful 25in25 Grant Application** for **\$1000** for a future Fall 2015 cleanup of the abandoned mine lands around Centralia, PA
- Provided Liz with Executive Director's in-kind matching time and a description of activities for submission with the final report for the **PA DEP Environmental Education AMD & Pottery Education Grant**
- Coordinated a volunteer cleanup with *Danica Demesa*, Volunteer Coordinator-Wilkes University, at the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park with Wilkes University **15** students on June 29th, 2015 from 9:30-11:30am as a part of the Summer Orientation Community Service Projects, in partnership with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the 17th Annual PA AMR Conference with the Planning Committee; Provided Anne with exhibitors as they register online; Worked with *Arielle Avishai*, OSM to pay for the transportation invoice for the Sustainability Tour; Looked into discounts on printing canvas prints as an alternative silent auction item; <http://touch.groupon.com/deals/my-pix2-canvas-allentown-reading>; Received confirmation from *Andrew Heath*, Growing Greener Coalition that he will donate **120** Funding Guidebooks to the Conference which gains the organization a Bronze Sponsorship level for the contribution; Received a high resolution logo from OSMRE and provided it to Mike to post on the website www.treatminewater.com and the Conference Program; Sent Mike the Growing Greener Coalition logo and the "Finding the Green Logo"; Provided the tentative scholarship list to the Committee for approval and all were approved; Edited the Conference Program provided to EPCAMR by Anne

- Several of the EPCAMR Staff were awarded scholarships from the *Choose Clean Water Coalition*, due to our partnership and involvement regionally on sub-committees and our long-term membership with the Coalition to attend the 6th Annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference in Harrisburg, PA; Met with several potential funders of future projects that were discussed related to EPCAMR's AMD work in the headwater tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay
- Offered EPCAMR's technical assistance to *Charles Charlesworth*, who is assisting with the coordination of the Fall 2015 National Trout Unlimited Conference that will be held in Scranton, PA; EPCAMR was suggested by the Foundation for PA Watersheds to National Trout Unlimited to be a part of the Old Forge AMD Tour that is being planned since we're an integral partner in the project with the LRCA and Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Followed up with *Mr. Geishwhite* and the Guidance Counselor at N. Schuylkill High School to see if the students that were researching the mine fire temperatures in Centralia would be interested in both partnering with EPCAMR on a project to potentially map the fire zone currently and to assist us with our upcoming May 16th Cleanup in Centralia; EPCAMR was informed by the Guidance Counselor that many students are in need of community service hours and that participation in the cleanup would help to fulfill some of those hours; EPCAMR is considering submitting a future grant proposal to map the mine fire based on those historic readings and any new readings that can be obtained around Centralia and putting it into our 3D Software called EarthVision that can allow us to use the borehole logs and temperatures to create an underground look at where the temperatures are hot and where they are cold. We have the underground mine maps for the entire Centralia Basin
- Followed up with *Rich Simon*, teacher and advisor at Coughlin High School within the Wilkes-Barre Area School District that has students who are interested in helping EPCAMR out on future cleanups on abandoned mine lands and along stream corridors that we will be planning events on later in the Summer, particularly the Spring Run Watershed in the Wilkes-Barre area and Centralia, PA

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Conducted our monthly EPCAMR Staff Meeting to get caught up on everyone's projects and proposed grants
- Communicated with *Haley Gionnone*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern, from Bloomsburg University about making a request to her advisor to allow her to attend the PA AMR Conference on June 25th & 26th, 2015
- Provided corrections to the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting of the MRAB to *Daniel Snowden*, PA DEP Bureau of Mineral Resources as they related to the other partners that are leading the AMD Watershed Tour in July and about the upcoming PA AMR Conference in State College, PA
- Cancelled the Internet line with Verizon Wireless and migrated to PTD Prolog for better service; Continued to deal with the need to have credits applied to our account
- Provided several Staff members with questionnaires that had been filled out and submitted to the State Workers Insurance Fund
- Completed the Final Internship Evaluation Assessments for *Jessica Johnson* and *Amanda Hamstra* from King's and submitted them to their Internship Advisor, *Kelly Lettieri*
- Began compiling the necessary administrative reports and progress reports for the first quarter of 2015 to submit for reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program; Forwarded Mike January, February, and March 2015 monthly Progress Reports for submission

- Conducted a phone interview with *Yue Li*, Researcher for Cornell University to follow up on EPCAMR's participation in the creation of the Urban Environmental Education e-book, in which EPCAMR was featured in one of the chapters as a case study for teaching outdoor environmental learning experiences to urban youth in the coalfields; The post interview will help Cornell understand how networking within EECapacity fostered innovations in environmental education practice
- Discussed with Mike on looking ahead as to the storage capacity needs that EPCAMR is going to have to build as a part of the MSI Mine Mapping Project due to the nature of the extremely large size of the map scans; Looking into double digit Terrabyte RAID Arrays storage
- *Dominic DeGraba*, Dallas, PA had been interested in a Summer Internship with EPCAMR, however, we already have our slots filled and the Office Space is limited at this time to take on additional interns; Interviewed Dominic and suggested that he sign up through GiveGab with EPCAMR and keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities



Gwen Harleemann, Art Director and Robert standing by one of dozens of paintings and other forms of art created with EPCAMR's iron oxide made by local artists with disabilities and artistic abilities from Verve Vertu (<https://www.facebook.com/VerveVertu>), Dallas, PA at an Art Show recently conducted in partnership with EPCAMR.