

# EPCAMR



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## November 2011 Progress Report

### Education & Outreach

- Meeting with Kate Gibbons, PennFuture Northeastern PA Outreach Coordinator to discuss regional efforts, future partnerships, and to give her a heads up on EPCAMR activities in the Region as well as to hear about PennFuture endeavors; Provided her with information on the TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay and the Watershed Implementation Plan Phase I & II
- Prepared and submitted a letter of concern to Senator Pat Toomey sharing EPCAMR's concerns about the federal merger of the OSM and Bureau of Land Management and its impacts on abandoned mine reclamation projects in PA
- A representative named Freya contacted EPCAMR from the Dalian JinBosheng Chemical Co. , Ltd. in China about our work with iron oxide and EPCAMR followed up with her to get a better understanding of what they were looking for since her message was very cryptic and not in a traditional American dialect ( <http://www.jbschem.com/> ) and another representative Vicky Wang, from Leveling Iron Oxide Pigments Co.,Ltd, Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province, China was also interested in working with EPCAMR ( <http://www.levelpigment.com/> )
- Provided a letter of support for the HB 1813 to the PA Anthracite Council on the future of bonding assistance legislation in PA

### Technical Assistance

- Mailed out the EMARR and SHA grant checks for the Audenreid AMD Treatment System and Wagner Run Stream Restoration Projects funded under the EPCAMR/ARIPPA Mini-Grant Program; EPCAMR was informed that we'd be receiving another **\$5,000** in funding from ARIPPA to distribute to watershed groups in the region for AMD/AML projects
- Meeting with Ray Clarke-Huber Breaker Preservation Society to update the financial database of pavers and donations for the Miners' Memorial Project at the Huber Breaker grounds; Meeting with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board to update them on projects, fundraising efforts, and issues with the land
- EPCAMR Staff completed a quarterly round of water quality sampling on the Nanticoke Creek for the Askam AMD Borehole impact for EC

- Meeting with Mike Corcoran to develop and finalize the PPL Solar Kiln AMD Grant for **\$2000** that will allow 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to assist EPCAMR in designing and constructing 3 kilns, two for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and one for EPCAMR, all of which will be portable
- Prepared a letter of support for the Earth Conservancy Bliss Banks EPA Brownfields Grant
- Map labeling EPCAMR Mine Maps and historic project maps with Kevin Jacobs and labeling photos from EPCAMR Field Staff excursion of ***Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Partnership***
- Holly Frederick, Ph. D., P.E., and a visiting Assistant Professor from Wilkes University has a student interested in comparing characteristics of different reclaimed mine soils in our region; EPCAMR provided her with a list of reclaimed mine areas and an approximate date of reclamation based on our knowledge and directed her to the Earth Conservancy and the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation for more information
- Cindy Rogers, of Evergreen Conservancy is having a unique problem; They acquire a site several years back with a discharge that is abandoned, and recently the DEP postulated that one mine pool collapsed into another one; This has caused an increase in flow resulting in DO issues; They believe they can access the original mine maps; DEP is trying to work with them; EPCAMR asked for any information that they had for us to do a cursory review of the mine pool in question and then we would look to the Foundation for PA Watersheds for a convening grant to assist them in anyway possible, if it can't be resolved by the PA DEP; It may potentially involve an active mining permit, so EPCAMR is just standing aside for now
- Began developing deeper relationships with several consultant partners of ours in the region to offer up our services to their companies as a sub-contractor role in a recently sought after RFP from the PA DEP BAMR for technical assistance
- Developed a new partnership with Blue Wing Environmental Solution and Technology Inc.'s- Ted Gattino-Managing Partner, that has a concept for treating AMD that involves floating wetlands; Provided him with information on the Newport Lake of AMD in Newport Township, Luzerne County, since it is an isolated water-filled stripping pit loaded with iron oxide; Ted will be coming up in the Spring 2012 for a tour of the region

## **Conference Coordination**

- EPCAMR Staff participated in our first Conference Call for the planning of the 2012 PA AMR Conference that will be held at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA from August 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Jessica Wolf's Thesis "Energetic/Extractive" was published in the Harvard Graduate School Department's annual publication of selected student projects; <http://issuu.com/actar/docs/gsdplatform4> (page 80)

## Project Coordination

- Meeting with Mike Corcoran, Wilkes-Barre Area Science Coordinator to receive the evaluations of EPCAMR's first in-stream AMD watershed field experience in the Wyoming Valley under the **PA DEP EE TT Grant**; Second field experience with the teachers to a half-dozen AMD sites in the Southern part of the Wyoming Valley; Provided Mike with the Tour Itinerary for the teachers
- Provided PA DEP EPCAMR Banking and Routing Information for them to send our Final Reimbursement for the **Mine Pool Mapping Project** via ACH to our account
- Completed the first **PA DEP EE TT** Reimbursement and Progress Report for submission
- Meeting with Tom Clark-SRBC to head up to the Old Forge Borehole and the Duryea Outfall to try various flow method measurements on each of the discharges under the **LRCA Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool Project**; Reviewed and researched various flow meters for our future needs to deal with monitoring the high flow AMD discharges
- Submitted a brief bio to Ed McCrea, who is facilitating the PAEE/NAEE Environmental Education Non-Formal Certification process and informed him that I would participate on the Marketing SubCommittee
- Submitted background information to Trout Unlimited on Solomon Creek for them to better understand the watershed and to assist in developing a timeframe for electro shocking in the Spring of 2012 in the watershed under a TU AMD TAG Grant; Bob Kent, an avid fly fisherman has even provided EPCAMR with anecdotal evidence of where the brook trout are from his fishing experiences and even made a donation to our organization
- Forwarded to Mike, an exhaustive database from Jack Lee-PA DEP BAMR of historical mine pool elevations from boreholes in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valley that are not in our database

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the October 2011 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement & Progress Report; Reviewed Mike's, John's, and Justyna's monthly Board Report prior to sending to the PA DEP
- Completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter QSS Survey for the Department of Labor & Industry and US Census
- Reconciliation completed of the EPCAMR QuickBooks Accounts; Preparation for EPCAMR Board Meeting; Attended the EPCAMR Board Meeting on the 17th
- Completed EPCAMR Executive Director Self-Evaluation; Reviewed Mike's completed Evaluation and sent both along to the EPCAMR Personnel Committee
- Upgraded our NeatReceipts scanner with Maria Shmakov

- Conference call with Sonnia Hove, a marketing strategist from Florida, with ties to NE PA, who is offering pro-bono consultant time and her expertise to helping EPCAMR further develop our Marketing Strategy and Strategic Plan; Provided her with several documents, references, pictures, and marketing pieces that are existing as a starting point; Provided her with our recently developed Marketing Plan FY2011\_2012 by the CreateAThon volunteers
- Conference call with Trefin Luker from e-Tapestry about providing EPCAMR with the opportunity to use the latest and most efficient tools for fundraising
- EPCAMR Staff moved OSM Office surplus supplies to EPCAMR Office; Reorganized Office; Received some bookshelves, tables, chairs, conference chairs, television, DVD player, display cases, binders, cabinets, storage lockers, and a large-scale black & white copier ; In total, several thousand dollars of surplus materials have been provided to EPCAMR since the closure of the OSM Office in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Provided Karl Brown-State Conservation Commission with an updated copy of the EPCAMR Executive Director's resume for submission to become officially appointed to the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board as a voting member
- Interviewed Zach Yodis, a King's College Environmental Science student, for a Winter/Spring 2012 internship



**Bedding Plane Outcrop directly in the middle of the Main Stem of Solomon Creek in Hanover Twp., Luzerne County, PA**