

EPCAMR



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November 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Discussed with Ron Rohall about waiting until after the New Year for the PA AML Campaign partners to create a template for the State Conservation Commission to follow and PACD related to the AML Trust Fund and possible Federal Budget Sequestration; Andy McAllister-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator is already working on a letter to the PA Delegation while EPCAMR is working on updating RAMLIS Inventory numbers since there is a discrepancy between the way OSM and PA are telling the tale of the AML numbers
- Worked on updating the draft meeting Agenda, Watershed Tour, and Media Advisory with Brandi-Davenport-Director of Education from PACD for the mid-November event being coordinated by the Sullivan County Conservation District and EPCAMR of AMD/AML Projects and Successes in Sullivan County and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed
- Kenneth T. Kristl, Esq. and Associate Professor of Law/Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic at Widener University School of Law, Wilmington, DE provided EPCAMR with the first of many Citizen's Guides that we requested with the first one being on the topic of "***The Pennsylvania Environmental Good Samaritan Act***"; The Act would appear to provide the potential for some immunity for organizations which EPCAMR works with; Professor Kristl directed EPCAMR to the language concerning how making a profit might impact the ability of someone providing materials or services from claiming immunity; They purposely kept this language vague and general--in large part because it may not be an issue for most citizens; They included it, however, because EPCAMR has indicated that some organizations may want to make a profit (by selling water or minerals removed) in connection with their reclamation work; This "entrepreneurial" focus creates some risk of losing the protection of the Act; EPCAMR provided this analysis to our Board and will be providing it to our regional partners before the end of the year as a resource guide

- EPCAMR Staff conducted a public meeting hosted by the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) in Shamokin, PA to update the community and the watershed group on our Mine Pool Mapping efforts in the Western Middle Anthracite Region and our need to do more, pending the availability of future funding and a continued partnership with SCRA
- Led a County-wide AMD/AML Tour in partnership with the Sullivan County Conservation District for PACD, SCC, PA DEP BRC, and members of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association around the Loyalsock Creek watershed; Showcased AMD Treatment Systems. land reclamation projects, biosolids reclamation projects, limestone sand dosing projects, and discussed the need for additional AMD Treatment at the A Tunnel; EPCAMR presented to an audience of over **30** people in attendance on our recent Mine Pool Mapping efforts for the Bernice Mine Pool in the Bituminous/Semi-Anthracite Region of Sullivan County
- Informed Mike Hewitt, of the new outstanding online server where EPCAMR can download almost any natural resources data sets that we may from PA DCNR; <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/maps/index.html>

Technical Assistance

- Forwarded Tom Koptchak's contact information, our new OSM TIPS Service Manager, to Mike Hewitt who has to follow up with him to obtain the ArcGIS 10.1 Install CDs
- Provided Aaron Stredny, Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District information on stream reaches that could possibly be considered for delisting from the Federal 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, including 1.84 miles of Sugar Notch Run in the Solomon Creek Watershed; Suggested that he follow up with Mike Hewitt to see if there are additional segments that he could forward to him that are AMD impaired in Luzerne County that might warrant a second look
- Attended the OSM GeoSpatial Data Standards National Team Meeting at the Denver, CO Headquarters of OSM to finalize our ASTM Data Standards for Title IV and Title V Coal Mining under SMCRA and to review GEOMINE
- Jason Tarnowski, PLS, from the Engineering Department of Blaschak Coal Corporation is interested in EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping in the areas that they are actively mining and would like to meet with us to see if we can provide them with some professional technical services; EPCAMR will be setting up a meeting with him over the Winter 2012
- Thomas J. Krall, Program Director- Sustainable Resources Group, Inc. (www.SustainableResourcesGroup.com) has a party that has a large quantity of calcium hydroxide sludge cake and would like to see the material used rather than land filled; The material is a byproduct of acetylene production and does not have any metal or organic contaminants of concern; He's reaching out to you to see if you know of anyone that might be interested in this material to neutralize AMD. The one challenge is that the material is a damp cake rather than the dry powder used in mechanical feeders; It might also be spread as a partial substitute for ag lime; The challenge using it instead of ag lime is the material will react rapidly raising the pH but not have any residual neutralization capacity to maintain the pH; EPCAMR will be following up with the Sullivan County Conservation District and White Ash Land Association to see if they are interested

Project Coordination

- Continued working on the completion of the final narrative, an internal review of PA Trout Unlimited's AMD TAG fishery survey results, and our pictorial essay for the **Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan**; Contacted both local media newspapers and was able to get front page news in one and another briefing in the other about the public meeting scheduled for November 29th to highlight the final Conservation Plan and EPCAMR Recommendations for future Implementation Projects; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/study-of-polluted-solomon-creek-finds-positives-1.1409201> ; <http://www.timesleader.com/stories/Coal-ash-raising-Solomon-Creek.235458> ; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/to-improve-solomon-creek-water-quality-report-suggests-attacking-decades-old-problem-1.1410587>
- Prepared an invoice for Stream Restoration Inc., for services that EPCAMR provided related to the **Datashed Education and Outreach** Program
- Provided April Trent-ACCT Coordinator with our idea for a region AMD/ART type **ArtPlace** proposal project that could incorporate art forms at our AMD Treatment sites and historic preservation locations; EPCAMR will need to follow up with her either by Conference Call or a call back
- EPCAMR was informed by Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA that his Board will once again be provided both Coalitions with a **\$5000** donation in 2013 to support AML/AMD related projects throughout PA under the **ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Reclamation Awards Mini-Grant Program** administered by the Coalitions for the last three years
- Toured the "Duryea Swamps", sand and gravel pits along the west side of the Lackawanna River and just northwest of the Lower Lackawanna Valley Sanitary Authority to look for any outlets of AMD into the Lackawanna River with LRCA, EPCAMR Staff, and Shawn Jones, from SRBC; Walked at least a mile long stretch of the floodplain and didn't find any outlets; On another day, EPCAMR Staff and LRCA Executive Director looked at an aerial map and other mine maps (vein maps) at the EPCAMR Office and found the abandoned "Marcy Shaft" in one of the pits that had an iron tailings discharge into a small pit and analyzed the geologic and hydrogeological structure of the underground mine workings in that area; Looking for areas to potentially treat the Duryea AMD Outfall that is located on the east side of the Lackawanna River as a part of the **Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Assessment Plan (LLWRAP)** being completed by EPCAMR, SRBC, and LRCA

Conference Coordination

- Made a request for some revisions to the **2013 PA AMR Conference** Contract with the Ramada Inn Hotel, State College, PA; EPCAMR is awaiting a revised contract
- Mailed off a final scholarship reimbursement to Ron Hamlen, PhD. Vice-chair, Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern PA, Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to Education, Support, and Prevention of tick-borne diseases who was a premiere presenter at the 2012 PA AMR Conference

- Participated in the November **2013 PA AMR Conference** Call to discuss ideas for our upcoming 15th Anniversary State-wide Conference in State College; EPCAMR presented some themes and ideas that tied into our 15 years of commitment to cleaning up AMD in PA; Looking for presentations this year on environmental health and AMD relationships
- The Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) and the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management are going to be hosting a day-long event that focuses on **Advocacy and Capacity Building Symposium** on the front end of our State-wide 15th Anniversary PA AMR Conference and are seeking EPCAMR/WPCAMR's Involvement in the Symposium Planning efforts on the Committee; EPCAMR to work with Gwen Johnson, Project Coordinator on the event planning with the first planning meeting to be held in late December 2012
- Ruth Roperti, PAEE President requested assistance from EPCAMR to pass the word along about potential exhibitors at the March **2013 PAEE Conference** in the Poconos; EPCAMR is awaiting the appropriate flyers to pass along to our partners and constituents in the EPCAMR Region

Volunteer Coordination

- Claudia Moyer, from Schuylkill County is interested in volunteer opportunities within the EPCAMR Region; EPCAMR directed her towards the Schuylkill Headwaters Association; She is interested in community cleanups and fossil hunting

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the review and preparation of the EPCAMR Staff Evaluations for 2012 and forwarded them on to the Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation to the full Board with the results of their evaluations to be retroactive to July 1, 2012
- Reconciled EPCAMR Accounts
- Completed the Oct. EPCAMR 319 Board Report and Reimbursement; Submitted to PADEP
- A briefing notice on the Baucus Amendment was sent to all EPCAMR Board Members that was forwarded to MRAB Members;
http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Mining/BureauOfMiningPrograms/BMPPortalFiles/MRAB/Agendas_and_Handouts/2012/October_25/Baucus_Amendment_Briefing_071812.pdf
- Meeting with Bernie McGurl-EPCAMR President to sign checks and to further discuss the Lackawanna River Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan development
- Worked with Mike on renewals of web sites that EPCAMR is hosting with GoDaddy.com
- Completed the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS)