

# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## November 2011 Progress Report

### **Highlights:**

- EPCAMR staff conducted a Teacher Inservice Field Trip for Wilkes-Barre Area, participated in an AMR Conference Call and prepared for and attended the EPCAMR 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Mtg. Updated and posted the Field Monitoring Binder, and exhibited at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival related to outreach/education.
- EPCAMR staff met twice with OFBH Project Partners on site to download transducer data and monitor flow at the Duryea Outfall
- EPCAMR staff sampled 14 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 12 in the Wyoming Valley and found 2 “new” boreholes to monitor. Updated 2 GIS databases and prepared 2 sets of statistics for EPCAMR partners.
- EPCAMR Staff continued work on the Jeddo Highland #5 project.
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

### **Education and Outreach:**

- Updated the EPCAMR Quarterly Meetings page on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org).
- Updated the Field Monitoring Binder, turned it into a PDF and uploaded it to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org).
- Pulled together attendee numbers, evaluation forms and budget information regarding the 2011 Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference into a synopsis as requested by AMR Conference Committee member, Tom Grote, to report on during the AMR Conference Call. Tom will be collaborating with the Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) to co-host the 2012 conference in State College.
- Sent EPCAMR staff performance evaluations to the personnel committee for a meeting and review prior to the board meeting where merit raises will be considered.
- EPCAMR staff stopped by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) office in Wilkes-Barre a few more times to pickup unwanted equipment and supplies for the EPCAMR office. We were able to pick up the larger items with the aide of Earth Conservancy and their big truck. Paperwork was sent again and was approved by staff in Pittsburgh office that are dealing with the surplus.
- Received a good article from WPCAMR’s Abandoned Mine Posts that described the DEP restructuring and hinted at the merger of the OSM and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) federal offices. Forwarded to the board and placed as a discussion piece for the upcoming EPCAMR board meeting.
- Updated the EPCAMR Board of Trustees list with new appointees and those that have resigned.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee Call to review the success of the last conference and look forward with planning for the next conference. The Ramada in State College was chosen as the venue and committee members were tasked with coming up with ideas for a theme for the next call.

- Attended and setup the EPCAMR display at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival hosted by the Schuylkill headwaters Association at the Sovereign Majestic Theatre in Pottsville.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. Aided executive director in preparing the reimbursement and sent to 319 program staff.
- Researched Senate Bill 1100 and created a pie chart to show the breakdown of the Shale Impact Fee and where the money that is collected will go as of the latest proposal by Senator Scarnati. Shared this chart with the Renew Growing Greener Coalition and the EPCAMR board.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting here at the EPCAMR office. Prepared minutes from the last meeting, created a draft agenda, gathered correspondence and sent out membership renewal reminders to organizations with membership that were expired or about to expire.
- Updated AMD and AMR pages on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) with new links and funding sources that have been used to clean up these legacy issues.
- EPCAMR staff conducted an inservice AMD Impacts Field Day related to the Tree Trout EE Program with Wilkes-Barre Area SD Teachers [PPL].

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Reviewed and updated borehole data from historic information found in the OSM Mine Map Folios for the Northern Field. Updated the borehole accessibility status from mine maps and a different database sent from PA DEP BAMR. Found several wells, discharges and mine pools on the surface that used to be monitored for their flow and elevation and several other boreholes that had been paved over long ago. Some were paved over because they had been blocked or collapsed while others were paved over and still may be accessible, important information to know if we are interested in “day-lighting” them. Heads up digitized the location of the “new” boreholes in ArcMap and loaded them on to the iPAQ handheld Mobile GPS unit [SRBC & LRCA].
- Created a narrative of work done to go along with Invoice 1 related to the work being done for the LRCA [LRCA].
- Worked with EPCAMR intern to teach her how to process the mine vein cross sections using “Skips Scripts” in preparation for 3D modeling of the other ½ of the Jeddo basin. After processing, 2D elevation grids and contour lines were created to compare to existing maps. The lines of section from the base map had to be readjusted, scripts, grids and contours reprocessed. This is an artifact from the older maps as they do not have start or end points for their lines of section clearly marked [Jeddo].
- EPCAMR staff performed a preconstruction water quality and quantity evaluation of the Askam Borehole Treatment System Project. The unseasonably warm weather had allowed this to be possible [EC].
- EPCAMR staff traveled to the Duryea Breach discharge with location LRCA staff to take flow measurements and to the Old Forge Borehole (OFBH) discharge location to attempt to download data from the Insitu pressure transducers. Transducers were unresponsive when hooking them up to the computer for data download. Contacted PA Tectonics staff to see if they could help troubleshoot. Came to the conclusion that since the desiccant was pink, the cables were probably inundated with water and the units would probably have to be pulled to the borehole and sent for maintenance [LRCA].
- Received a request from staff at PA Tectonics about GIS and mapping information in Newport Township. Responded with information that can be found in RAMLIS and the Operation SCARLIFT that is available.
- Traveled to Jermyn and Forest City to locate boreholes related to mine pools in the upper Lackawanna Watershed with EPCAMR intern. One borehole was found and sampled in Forest

City related to the Forest City pool, but the other borehole in Jermyn was not found and was assumed to be paved over.

- Calculated flow from readings taken at the Duryea Discharge with EPCAMR's JDC meter and LRCA's Global Flow meter and compared them with readings from SRBC's flow meter. EPCAMR's flow meter is giving consistently lower flows while LRCA's meter is giving consistently high flows as compared to SRBC's meter. After a discussion, we decided to request an amendment to the budget to allow EPCAMR to purchase a better flow meter and other monitoring and borehole "day-lighting" supplies. Began searching for the best flow meter that fit our monitoring needs. Sent updated borehole accessibility tables to SRBC with priorities for "day-lighting" [SRBC].
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Lackawanna County to sample the flow at Duryea with SRBC staffer, Tom Clark, on to the Old Forge Borehole to collect flow data via the "lemon method," to the Anthracite History Museum to look for mine maps and searched for the borehole in Jermyn with a magnetic locator borrowed from Earth Conservancy. Located the borehole paved over in the street in front of a bar/restaurant on the Nebraska section of Jermyn. Ended the day with a strategic discussion about work related to the Upper Northern and Lower Southern Field [SRBC/LRCA].
- Received a report from the LRCA that PA Tectonics removed the transducers from the Old Forge Borehole in response to our report and sent them off for maintenance. One of the transducers was loose from the piping and damaged. One of the cables was lacerated causing the communication errors. Also, the piping was unscrewing probably due to the intense vibrations within the borehole environment and had it not been removed soon, the entire sampling probe could have plummeted to the bottom of the borehole carrying thousands of dollars in equipment. If a more permanent sampling probe is placed back in this environment it will need a more robust design as learned from this trial [LRCA].
- Followed up with Brad Schultz, Skelly and Loy, to ascertain EPCAMR's role in the Catawissa Creek QHU Plan. Suggested a scope of work that would satisfy our grant award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).
- Aided EPCAMR Volunteer with the Neat Receipts scanner and software installation on the EPCAMR server computer. Executive Director asked her to scan all the receipts into the program, but the computer is older and required many updates before this could be accomplished. Searched for a cost effective replacement desktop computer and suggested it to Executive Director.
- Received a Request for Proposal from the PA DEP BAMR office related to the design of AML reclamation projects. Brainstormed strategically the best fit for EPCAMR in this proposal with past president, Ed Wytovich and Executive Director and came to the conclusion that we could partner with firms to provide services that are within our niche (ex. mine pool mapping and surface water to underground infiltration interactions). Also discussed other funding sources that EPCAMR could pursue. Added this discussion to the EPCAMR Board Meeting agenda.
- Pulled together property data that was available in the vicinity of the Duryea and Old Forge Borehole Discharges. Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties still do not provide their data publically online and can only be accessed via visiting the courthouse [LRCA].
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to conduct water level monitoring of 14 boreholes [LRCA].
- Continued to update mine pool GIS layers using Bureau of Mines Report maps from S. H. Ash denoting pools of water, mine water flow direction and barrier pillars. Judgments were made on the effectiveness of the barrier pillar based on altitude of effectiveness and breach statistics in the report and new discharge locations since pumps were shut down following the closing of underground mines in the Wyoming Valley. Drew anticlines and faults from the I-series maps in the Wyoming Valley and other maps for the Lakawanna Valley [SRBC/LRCA].
- EPCAMR Staff traveled around the Wyoming Valley to monitor water levels in 12 boreholes in the Upper Wyoming Valley. Also searched for new boreholes as we drove the typical route.

We were able to find 1 additional open borehole in Kingston related to the Dorrance Colliery, which may shed some light on the situation with the frequent discharging of the Woodward Borehole [SRBC].

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.