

EPCAMR



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October 2012 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Made a presentation to the Scranton Rotary Club, Scranton, at the Lackawanna Radisson Hotel, on EPCAMR's Mine Pool Mapping Work and regional updates in the Lackawanna Valley on our collective work with the SRBC to remediate AMD in the Lackawanna River Watershed and throughout the EPCAMR Region; The presentation was well received by over **40** Rotarians
- Provided Mel Talmadge, EPCAMR Community Volunteer Services Coordinator, information and materials needed to set up our EPCAMR Exhibit at Boscov's Department Store in Wilkes-Barre, PA for the Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser for local non-profit groups; EPCAMR Executive Director set up on the 16th, while Mel set up on the 4th of October
- Attended a meeting of PA AML Coalition partners from across PA at the Foundation for PA Watersheds' Farm House, Huntingdon, PA to discuss recent proposed cuts to the PA AML Fund, sequestration, and future priority AMD and AML issues facing PA
- EPCAMR Staff and the NCCC AmeriCorps Team attended the 3rd Annual ChalkFest in Wilkes-Barre at the W-B Riverfront, conducted an iron oxide chalk making program with **200** youth, and allowed for the youth to take a piece and make a piece of iron oxide chalk recovered and recycled from AMD in the Wyoming Valley
- EPCAMR and LRCA Executive Directors, as well as Mike Hewitt, provided a tour and demonstration of the monitoring work that we're conducting at the Old Forge AMD Borehole to around **100** high school students that are a part of PA DCNR's year-long Community Connections Watershed Outdoor Education Program
- Attended the PEC NE Office Annual Dinner at the Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre, to be present for the presentation of Mike Hewitt's Environmental Partnership Award
- EPCAMR was asked by the PA EnviroThon to make a presentation and to assist at the 2013 EnviroThon at Juniata College, Juniata, PA on May 21st & 22nd ; EPCAMR Staff will be conducting an AMD Tie Dye with over **365** students from across PA
- Prepared an EPCAMR's urgent Letter of Support for ARIPPA related to the Mercury/Toxic Standards being considered by the US EPA that will have a dire impact on the waste coal co-generation industry at Jeff McNelly's request and forwarded it off to Senator Casey and other legislators suggested by ARIPPA

Education & Outreach

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust denied our **\$5000** Mini Capacity Environmental Education Grant Program application to support providing teachers within the EPCAMR Region with mine pool maps for their classrooms along with EPCAMR Presentations and Watershed Field Tours in the headwater tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay that are impacted by AMD; It has been very difficult to obtain funding from those partners that contend that “they all live downstream”; EPCAMR may resubmit it to the PA DEP Environmental Education Grant Program instead in December 2012

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Staff and Watershed Outreach Intern, Kelsey Biondo travelled to Sullivan County Conservation District to meet with Corey Richmond, Watershed Specialist to conduct a water quality field monitoring event on several AMD discharges to the Loyalsock Creek in preparation for our AMD/AML Field Tour with PACD, SCC, and many other officials from the PA DEP on November 16th; Finalized the draft tour agenda for the event with PACD and SCCD
- Followed up with Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. about the potential to work with a Maryland regional office of Synagro, based out of Texas, that has an interest in AML or active mine sites for biosolids; They have a permit approved for the land application of biosolids in PA and are looking for a Pilot Project where they can put out an RFP for stabilization of biosolids, construction of a processing plant or pug mill type system, adding lime, processing the biosolids, vector control, utilizing the biosolids in standard approved rates and alternative uses such as in deep trench rows for growing hybrid poplars; They are looking to create a lease arrangement for a nominal fee, or host fee, on some mine lands that are reasonably isolated away from the public, in terms of proximity to residential areas, but still has access to roadways or possibly rail
- Provided OSM TIPS with a success story on EPCAMR utilization of EarthVision 3D Modeling Software to give them an update on our Mine Pool Mapping work in the Anthracite Region
- Provided the Wilkes-Barre Career & Technology Center technical grant writing information for their FFA proposal to the USDA to assist EPCAMR and the HBPS with the AML reclamation on the Huber Miner’s Memorial Park and found out that the Tech Center was awarded an additional **\$2500** for FY2012-2013 to continue working on the reclamation project; The funds will provide landscaping materials, gravel, stone, topsoil, and plants for the site
- EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a Letter of Support for Stream Restoration Inc.’s Operation & Maintenance Technical Assistance Program through Growing Greener
- Corresponded with Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA to draft a **“Co-Generation Reclaimed AML Inventory Pilot Project”** proposal to be put forth by EPCAMR to assist the trade association in accounting for all of the great land reclamation work that they have accomplished over the years

Technical Assistance

- Provided the Earth Conservancy with a Letter of Support for their Growing Greener Grant application to reclaim the **200** acre Bliss Bank Operation that sits across the road from the Luzerne County Community College, along Middle Road, in Newport Twp., Nanticoke City, and part of Hanover Twp.

Project Coordination

- Planted the 40 tree seedlings from Midway Gardens, Pittston at the Huber AML Site and Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley as a part of the ***EPCAMR/ACCT Waterboxx Research Project***; with the AmeriCorps NCCC Team; Watered the 40 seedlings and photo-inventoried them as well as provided ID names prior to planting; Monitored several field following planting for the research effort; Provided the ACCT with an update of the project, a photo-inventory, an aerial map of the locations of the Waterboxxes, and the Excel Sheet with our preliminary data for the initial planting
- Scraped the perimeter fence around the Huber AML Site, conducted a litter cleanup, cleared brush from the site, primed the fence with rustoleum, painted the fence jet black, spread topsoil and mulch around the park bench concrete pads and foundation for the Huber Miner's Memorial, and created some rock garden beds near the perimeter fence with the AmeriCorps NCCC Team and volunteers with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- Collected iron hydroxide from the Old Forge AMD Borehole with the AmeriCorps NCCC Team to bring back to the EPCAMR Office to be placed in to the Solar Kiln for drying AMD; Murray Small, a gentleman who attended a stakeholders meeting conducted by LRCA and EPCAMR in Duryea, just a few months ago is a chemist/metallurgist/ retired Penn State Professor who is interested in looking at the outputs we have to see if there are any metallurgical applications for Old Forge and Duryea AMD discharges; EPCAMR didn't get to collect any iron hydroxides from Duryea just yet; EPCAMR will be providing the dried samples to the Lackawanna River Corridor Association; Toured the Old Forge AMD Borehole with Bruce Leavitt-Stream Restoration Inc. and SRBC who were conducting aeration tests for possible use of Trompe system to increase the aeration of the AMD to allow for additional iron hydroxide settling over a shorter period of time using the water pressure coming from the discharge
- Provided Kris Hendrickson, a videographer from WVIA-TV with a tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley AMD discharges and background information on EPCAMR for a ***AMD Documentary Project*** for the Foundation for PA Watersheds
- Completed a Growing Greener Grant Application in the amount of **\$96,914** for the ***Lewis AMD Mine Bond Forfeiture*** discharge in Sullivan County, in partnership with Hedin Environmental and the Moshannon District Mining Office after touring the site with the landowner, Marc Lewis, who is in agreement to go forward with a rehabilitation of the existing AMD treatment system and to construct an additional pond for removal of flushed iron hydroxides during the operation and maintenance of the system

Project Coordination

- Worked with PA Tectonics, who EPCAMR sub-contracted to perform environmental services related to daylighting the Taylor Borehole and concreting the cap in the middle of the road for future water level elevation monitoring into the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex as a part of the **SRBC Anthracite Region Mine Pool Mapping Project**; PA Tectonics completed the work to EPCAMR's satisfaction
- Continued working on writing and drafting the **Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan**; Followed up with Shawn Rummel, PA Trout Unlimited to see when they would be able to provide us with a copy of their fishery assessment; EPCAMR requested a 2 week extension on the grant through December 1st, 2012 to receive the report, incorporate the findings into our final report, and to hold a meeting to review the draft narrative report

Conference Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff, along with Tom Clark-SRBC finalized our paper, sent it off to Iowa, and co-presented our Abstract and Paper at the **2012 National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Program** (NAAML) Conference in Des Moines, Iowa from the 23rd of September through the 27th; EPCAMR was invited because of our work on the 3D Modeling of the Mine Pools in the Anthracite Region (<http://www.2012naamlp.com/Pages/TechnicalSessions.aspx>)
- Paid an outstanding invoice to Skelly & Loy, Inc. for work performed on the **Hicks Creek NSCD Project** related to the design and a meeting attended by Gerald Longenecker and EPCAMR in front of the Exeter Borough Council and Planning Commission
- EPCAMR Staff were not able to participate in the early October 2nd PA AMR Conference Call to begin planning the **PA AMR 15th Anniversary Conference** and followed up with WPCAMR following the call
- Informed Chari Towne, Schuylkill RiverKeeper, that we would promote the **2013 Watershed Congress** on their behalf as a partner in the region; Saturday, March 9th at the Montgomery County Community College, West Campus-Pottstown, PA

Volunteer Coordination

- EPCAMR assisted with securing housing for free for all the volunteers at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA's Camp Kresge and provided them with an orientation/welcome meal as well as an Appreciation Dinner at the Executive Director's home the evening prior to their departure
- Supervised Dillon Long, a youth in need of community service hours from the Danville area, while he removed and transplanted **8** white pine trees/seedlings within **4** hours from along a trail that is on the inside perimeter of the Huber AML Park to another area within the 3 acre park where an existing grove of pine trees are abundant

Volunteer Coordination

- EPCAMR hosted and sponsored an AmeriCorps National NCCC Team from the 5th of October through the 17th to work on EPCAMR Projects and to assist the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with their AML reclamation project in Ashley, PA at the future Huber Miner's Memorial Park and Open Space area; **8** AmeriCorps volunteers from across the country joined EPCAMR for the two weeks to provide community service and support to our organization and others that are partners of EPCAMR including the YMCA, Camp Kresge, Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Committee, The River Common, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Earth Conservancy, Luzerne County Community College, Wilkes University, and the Appalachian Coal Country Team; They provided EPCAMR with in-kind services that amounted to more than **\$15,000** in just **10** days
- Working with Mel to respond to online referrals from volunteers through VolunteerMatch.org who would like to work with EPCAMR on some of the virtual, web-based volunteer activities such as a grey literature researcher for us and marketing ideas

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed the September EPCAMR 319 Board Report and Reimbursement and submitted it to PADEP
- Interviewed Sarah-Jane Gerstman, senior from Wilkes University, with a background in environmental science, for a non-paid internship for credit through Wilkes; Sarah-Jane had previously been an EPCAMR volunteer on several illegal dump site cleanups in the Wyoming Valley over the last few years; Sarah-Jane started working with EPCAMR on October 23rd
- Disbursed the ARIPPA-EPCAMR checks to the award winners for 2012
- Signed up for BlueBilling through BlueCross/Blue Shield of NEPA to allow EPCAMR to bill pay online our health care benefits premium to avoid paying for postage and writing additional checks on our account; Waiting on a confirmation in November for processing



Mike and Justyna walking upstream towards the S. W-B AMD Boreholes on Solomon Creek