

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2012 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff submitted 2 grants, collaborated on another and provided several support letters for partner Growing Greener Grant proposals.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a tour for students and attended the PEC NEO Dinner (awardee)
- Continued to update mine pool GIS files in the Southern and Western Middle Anthracite Fields and North Western Semi-Anthracite fields.
- Created 1 published map file, 3 maps, 2 GIS and 1 statistical database for partners.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 16 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley and 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Measured flow on 4 discharges. Sampled 1 Passive Treatment System.
- Measured flow and chemistry on 4 more discharges with a grad student at Lehigh U.
- Updated www.epcamr.org. Administered the EPCAMR and HBPS facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff worked with Hedin Environmental and PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Operations (DMO) staff to prepare a \$97K proposal to the Growing Greener Program for the Lewis Mine Drainage Treatment System Revamp. The system was put in several years ago by the PA DEP as a Bond Forfeiture Project and is in need of repairs and upgrades.
- Attended an AML Campaign Meeting at the Foundation for PA Watershed Offices in Alexandria, PA. The meeting was to form a response to recent and ongoing threats to the AML Trust Fund "Honey Pot". The fund was setup specifically to cleanup past mining scars, but is often seen by legislators as "free money" and it's a constant battle to "inform" them of the contrary.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. EPCAMR Staff prepared monthly reimbursements to send along as well.
- EPCAMR and LRCA staff participated in the Lackawanna County Community Connections to Your Watershed Tour lead by Lackawanna State Park Education Coordinator, Angela Lambert, for school students participating from several schools in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties (maybe a few more surrounding counties). Led the students to the Old Forge Borehole to sample the discharge chemistry and learn how flow was being taken by the transducer in a stilling well. Staff also spoke to the students about future projects that could be done to treat and utilize the water flowing out of the Old Forge Borehole [LRCA].
- Prepared a letter of support and commitment to the Datashed project and sent it to Stream Restoration Inc. as they are applying to this Growing Greener Grant round for upgrades and training. EPCAMR staff will again be involved as subcontractors.
- Attended the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Office annual dinner as an awardee of the Environmental Partnership Award. Provided a short speech to the audience

stating how I have seen this area reclaimed and transformed over the past 10 years, but that a few sites could be kept as AML sites to remember what was here when EPCAMR and the watershed movement started.

Technical Assistance:

- Sampled several discharges with a Grad Student, Jill, from Lehigh University. Charles Cravotta, U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) in New Cumberland, PA is her advisor on the graduate project and recommended that she enlist our help to find the mine discharge points for an updated round of sampling. Sampled flow and chemistry at the Upper Wilson, Gravity Slope and Duryea discharges in the Lackawanna Watershed and the Newport Cemetery Lake discharge in the Wyoming Valley. Jill was able to go to several others in both the Anthracite and Bituminous Regions, will produce a report with her findings and agreed to give us a copy.
- Provided technical assistance to Mike Dunn, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Pittsburgh Office on the possibility of processing cross sections drawn in AutoCAD through “Skip’s Scripts” and creating raw scattered data for 3D model processing in earthVision. Even though the .dxf AutoCAD extension is “borrowed” to import traced cross sections from R2V into earthVision, they are in a different format. I am unsure how they could be translated. Recommended calling Skip Pack from Dynamic Graphic Inc., the maker of “Skip’s Scripts” for more info.
- Created an extent of underground mining, as portrayed in the Loyalsock Creek Operation Scarlift report, in the geobasins shapefile for the Bernice Basin in the Semi-Anthracite Coal Fields in Sullivan Co. Tweaked the 3D mine pool model for the Bernice Basin to clip to the extent of underground mining.
- Aided Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), as he continues to write a Lower Lackawanna Watershed Assessment and Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP). Conveyed information from GIS mapping related to the Central and No. 9 Mine Pools.
- Followed up with Aaron Eckert, OSM in Washington, D.C., to see if the LAS tools were available in ArcGIS 10, but they will be released with ArcGIS 10.1 later in the month. These tools provide for the USGS “Click” image processing capabilities that he presented on at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLPP) Conference.
- Updated GIS files from mine maps and created (and sent) several maps of the Good Spring Area for BF Environmental Consultants.
- Imported location points of water box study trees on the Huber Memorial Park property taken via handheld GPS sport unit to a GIS map. The VISTA team did not the HP iPAQ with ArcPAD and the process required downloading software for the conversion, but will be easier to do the transfer in the future.
- Monitored the flow of the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach discharges [LRCA].
- Downloaded the eAMLIS GIS database to compare to PA DEP’s Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) GIS Database. The eAMLIS database is a list of Abandoned Mine Land Features that the state reports they have completed or are currently working on to the federal government. The list includes several features stacked on top of each other related to the centroid of the original problem areas. Unfortunately, this list does not include all of the abandoned mine features that are in the states AMLIS.
- Created an excel sheet showing current reclaimed vs. unreclaimed AML features in PA as an attempt to update a spreadsheet that was compiled in 2003 by the PA AML Campaign. Spoke with a PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) staff member to gain some insight on how to go about completing the task for the Foundation for PA Watersheds.
- Followed up with a representative from First Energy Services out of Northeast Ohio about the availability of a “spoil pile database”. Sent a modified version of the AMLIS Polygon Features shapefile in which I removed all other feature types but refuse piles, spoil areas and coal silt basins. Proceeded to create a published map file for the Anthracite Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) with this layer as the feature and several other select layers

from Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) that would be good as background data or to navigate around the map.

- Ordered and installed a replacement screen on the Executive Director's laptop. The laptop screen cracked causing a "blacked out" portion of the screen that was unreadable.
- Continued creating figures and maps for the Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Plan document. Took field data and organized it into several tables for the report as well.
- Monitored the Espy Run Treatment System for chemistry and flow at several inputs and outputs to track the flow and chemistry improvements throughout the system [EC].
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to conduct water level monitoring of 15 boreholes related to the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool. Monitored the Jermyn borehole as well which is connected to the Jermyn Mine Pool. Monitored flow at the OFBH and Duryea Breach discharges, and downloaded transducer data [LRCA].
- Traveled around the Wyoming Valley to monitor water levels in 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley. Calculated flow for the Glen Lyon Discharge, Buttonwood Discharge, South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes and pipe full measurements on the Askam Borehole Discharge to calculate the amount of mine water flowing [SRBC].

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.