

EPCAMR 2020 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – November 19th

Zoom Conference Call

11:00AM	Discussion and Correspondence	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to new intern, Katie Van Orden and board members	Robert
Info. Portion of Meeting		
12:00PM	Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance - Joe Simons III, Christine Haldeman, Cristy Sweeney, John Levitsky, Leigh Ann Henry, Tim Ference, Mike Korb (quorum), Kendra Craig, Cheryl Nolan, Angela Meck, Kenneth Klemow, Gary Leander, Bobby Hughes, Michae l Hewitt, Denise Hernandez, Steve Cornia, Shawnese Taylor, Laura Rinehimer, Kyle Argenziano and Katie Van Orden	President
Begin Business Portion of Meeting	Minutes from Last Mgt. (Feb. 20th): <u>Filed for Audit</u> (Cristy, Leigh Ann & All)	Secretary
	Treasurer's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">See Balance Sheet, Open Sales Orders, Jobs List and Grant Prospects; Kyle had 3 more grants applied for recently to add to the Grant Prospects: Mt. Dew Outdoor Grants (\$5K), Cliff Bar Family Foundation (\$11.8K), and America Walks Community Change Grant (\$1.5K)2019 990s were filed with the IRS; completion by Kohanski & Co.<u>Filed for Audit:</u> Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (John, Cristy & All)	Treasurer
	AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; PowerPoint Presentation see attached)	Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Steve gave a live presentation of the Solar on AML GIS Modeling tool. Board Members chimed in on several projects they knew about.Laura showed how one of her grants was adapted to get environmental education boxes to kids to explore as they are learning from home.	
	Committee Reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AdHoc Communications: Report by ChairStrategic Planning Committee: Strategic Plan Updates 2020-2025 draft document completed; committee should finish action planning; Volunteers: Leigh Ann, John L., Dr. Joe, Cristy, and AngelaPersonnel Committee: will follow up with salary/hourly increases for 2021	Respective Comm. Chairs
	Old Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Joe took EPCAMR out fly fishing for the first time on Bowman's Creek	President
Hotlinks in this document will take you to more info.	New Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Motion</u> to approve committee decision(s)Created a Science and Education Committee with Dr. Ken as chair to help publish some of our work. Dr. Joe and Laura wanted to volunteer.<u>Motion</u> to adjourn business portion of the meeting (Joe, Ken & all)	President
1:00PM	Next Meeting: <i>Tentatively</i> February 18th, 2021 11:00AM (possibly virtual) Tentative for 2021: February 18 th , May 20 th , August 19 th , and November 18 th , 2021	President
Info. Portion of Meeting	Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops	Robert
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">	

Watershed Reports

All

Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited- received a grant for the Limestone Diversion well on Hightower Run in the Bowman's Creek Watershed. John looking at a concrete unit instead of the plastic one sine they have access by heavy equipment.

Friends of the Nescopeck - still holding socially distanced in-person meetings at the Conyngham Borough building and continue testing the creek including 3 macro invertebrate surveys. Almost ready to release the yearly report.

ARIPPA - Low power market prices have made it difficult to keep running. Tier 2 sources to be closed to just PA which will help the power market is to be included in the state budget.

Schuylkill County – QHUP for Mill Creek was submitted as Final. Christine is involved in a project to fill in a pit with sediments along Good Spring Creek off the Tremont exit across the road from Solar AML sites selected in tool. The project will restore floodplain areas and reduce flooding in Tremont and Pine Grove areas. New AMD treatment project at the Randolph Discharge near Palo Alto. Approval for preliminary design work for the Luceanne Discharge near Cumbola. Sha was approved to Otto construction to remove sediment from wetland ponds. Porter project mostly done. Bridge to connect Bartram Trail from Hamburg to Auburn will be starting shortly.

Lackawanna County – working on the County Action Plan (CAP) target nutrient reductions handed down from the DEP Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Implementation Plan. Susquehanna and Luzerne Counties will be teaming up together for a grant to write the plan.

Luzerne County – EPCAMR recently received the NFWF grant for Black Duck / Brook Trout Habitat improvement. PA Fish and Boat and Game Commission were contacted and engaged. John has a KMZ file of Black Duck Habitat to share. Wilkes University Newport and Nanticoke Creek report will be referenced. John would like to be included in the Loyalsock Creek monitoring data.

AMR Program Staff Anticipated Work for Next Quarter (looking forward)
Text from Robert's PowerPoint

Board Assistance Needed

- Inform EPCAMR Staff of any interested private landowners of AML that might consider their properties for Solar Installation in partnership with EPCAMR and the PA AML Pilot Program or other PA Alternative Energy Grant Programs
- Volunteer on the Strategic Planning Committee to finalize the 2020-2025 EPCAMR Strategic Plan
- Help promote our Charger Fundraiser to secure the additional \$800 needed to purchase additional Polaris ATV attachments: roof, windshield, mudflaps, doors, etc.
- Identify county-specific foundations from around the Region that EPCAMR could approach with a Letter of Intent to secure additional funding and provide contacts
- Identify regional artists and educators that may want to purchase our iron oxide and create items they might be willing to donate a portion of their proceeds to EPCAMR

Full Monthly Reports for all staff are [available online](#) for your review

Progress since Last Board Meeting

- Staff still have the flexibility to work remotely from home and some are periodically in and out of the Office since September 2020; We were able to physically return to work July 6th with social distance policy in place.
- **Coldwater Conservation Planning Grant** for **Mill Creek/Gardner Creek** in Luzerne County is underway with a large number of stream culverts throughout the watershed having been assessed for aquatic organism passage
- **[Swoyersville Harry E. Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project](#)** has halted operations due to COVID-19; An extension has been filed with the PA DEP to transfer the acreage of reclaimed land to the Borough and the grant has been amended; The Borough maintains their continued support of Phase 1 of the PA AML Pilot Project
- **\$50,000 [Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Technical Assistance Grant](#)** to assess coal-impacted watersheds along the eastern flank of the Southern Wyoming Valley (Sugar Notch Run, Warrior Run, Nanticoke Creek, and Newport Creek). The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) was announced by Congressman Cartwright at Press Event at the Nay Aug Ave Natural Playground
- **[Chesapeake Bay Trust Meaningful Watershed Education Experience \(MWEE\) Mini-Grant](#)** to work with thirty 4th grade youth from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District in the Fall of 2020 was completed, packaged, and provided to the students to work through the activities and nature journaling
- Solomon Creek Illegal Dump Site & Trash [Cleanup](#) on [SGL 207](#) in Hanover Twp. & Ashley Borough at the Sandy, Millie, and the Rocky; [WNEP Coverage](#); 75 volunteers removed an estimated 4.5 T of trash
- 7th Annual Centralia [Cleanup](#) was held on October 17th ; In 2.5 hrs, removed a 20 cubic yard dumpster of trash (~ 3 Tons), 2 televisions, 42 tires, and 50 volunteers
- Ashley Borough Main Street Cleanup along Sugar Notch Run and Luzerne County Rail Corporation AML property in September; In 2.5 hrs, 25 volunteers picked up enough trash to fill a 40 cubic yard dumpster (5.5 Tons)
- Three more cleanups in September: State Route 309 Cleanup in the Solomon Creek Watershed from the Broadway Tavern to Bentley's, Sulfur Run Streamside Cleanup and Debris Removal with Ashley Borough Public Works Department and Luzerne County Rail Corporation AML property Cleanup (Part 2) where 12 volunteers participated in removing an additional 20 cubic yard dumpster (2.5 Tons) in 2 hrs
- Co-coordinated a massive 2-day illegal dumping cleanup along Lower Broadway AML site along the Honey Pot AMD discharge and the slackwater section of the N. Branch Canal in Nanticoke with the Nanticoke Conservation Club, Nanticoke City, Nanticoke Police and Fire Departments on October 18th and November 1st; Removed 90 tires & 100 cubic yards (~16 Tons) of trash with 50+ volunteers participating 8 hrs
- **"Charger" Fundraiser** developed by Kyle Argenziano and Executive Director to obtain additional vital parts for our Polaris ETX Side-by-Side

- **2020 PA AMR Conference held** “virtually” on October 28 & 29th, 2020 using the WHOVA App (www.treatminewater.com) was a complete success with 180 attendees.
- EPCAMR purchased our drone thanks to the grant and donation from [The Luzerne Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee](#) and are actively studying to obtain several FAA licenses and created an educational outreach poster
- EPCAMR Staff working on developing our PA Department of Education **\$3000 STEAM in the Streams Environmental Education Program** with Wilkes-Barre Area 6th grade students for the Spring of 2021; See [article](#)
- Test out the 360-degree software ([3DVista](#)) with John Welsh at the [Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System](#) to enhance our virtual learning capabilities; See the [Walden School](#) example
- Finished development of a **Site Selection GIS Tool for future solar installations on AML** (reclaimed or unreclaimed); Met with AC Power and Earth Conservancy for a tour of their sites that fit criteria.
- Ordered temperature sensors for the **Mill Creek Temperature Monitoring Project** to determine changes in temperature which may indicate the stream flow, find AMD discharges and cold water to warm water fishery transitional areas.
- Drafting the **Huntsville Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan** for public comment and the Final Report by December 31, 2020
- Conducting monthly monitoring of the **Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System** on Nanticoke Creek for the Earth Conservancy and the **Connell B & C AMD Tunnels and the Lewis Mine AMD Treatment System** in the Loyalsock Creek watershed for the Sullivan Conservation District and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association; Coordinated a socially distance AMD Tour with Sullivan County partners
- Developed an Environmental Justice Roundtable for the Scranton Area with Justin Dula, Regional Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Justice held in October
- [PA AML Campaign](#) updated our [SMCRA Fact Sheet](#) and OSMRE posted an updated [Report](#) on the Status of the AML Trust Fund; working with former OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik to create videos that were showcased at the PA AMR Conference and are available on our EPCAMR YouTube account.
- EPCAMR received notice of our US EPA Region 319 Program Conservation District Mining-East Grant for **\$390,000** and our **\$72,454** PA DEP approved Growing Greener **Bear Creek AMD Treatment Survey, Conceptual Design and Preliminary O & M Plan** grant for the Bear Creek Valley Lykens AMD Water Level Tunnel discharges in Dauphin County in partnership with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- EPCAMR provided technical assistance to the Lackawanna County Conservation District and the Lackawanna Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited on the installation of a [DIY Mayfly](#) Monitoring Station on the Upper Lackawanna River
- Participated in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser for EPCAMR
- EPCAMR Staff hosted Wilkes-Barre City youth from the Living Waters Youth Ministry on an AMD/AML Hiking Tour along Earth Conservancy's Penobscot Ridge Trail
- Former Intern from the Summer 2020, Levi-Sunday Lefkowitz, was selected as one of the top 3 Interns by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce; He's now back at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY
- Presented to the Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter with a Facebook Live Event that was very well received.
- Participated in the 2nd Annual NEPA Learners Conference sponsored by the Scranton Area Foundation, the PA Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting, the [Reimagine Appalachia](#) Webinar with Senator Robert Casey and discussed AML Reauthorization, support for the CCC, and the Reimagine Appalachian Framework
- Led an LCCC Environmental Science Class Field Tour around the Wyoming Valley with Dr. Brooke Yeager and a Southern Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Watershed Tour for college students from Lackawanna College
- Co-presented with Wyoming Seminary's Dr. Andrea Nerozzi on our Iron Oxide AMD Art Curriculum & STEM “Changing the Perspective of our Waterways” EE Program for the Hexagon Project's PA Art Education Association (PAEA) Panel
- EPCAMR Staff installed a new stilling well for Tetra Tech at the Old Forge AMD Borehole

