

EPCAMR 2021 1st Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – February 18th

Zoom Conference Call

11:00AM	Discussion and Correspondence	
Info. Portion of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration and Renewal: The New Appalachian Economy (2021) -Report Highlighting EPCAMR's creation of a Site Selection GIS Tool for Solar Development on AML in the Anthracite Region• Choose Clean Water Coalition Legislative Briefing Book for 2021-2022	Robert
12:00PM	Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance - Joe Simons III, Christine Haldeman, Cristy Sweeney, Bernie McGurl, John Levitsky, Tim Ference, Cheryl Brobst, (quorum), Mike Korb, John Welsh, Alana Mauger, Angela Meck, Gary Leander, Kendra Craig, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Denise Hernandez, Steve Cornia, Shawnese Taylor, Laura Rinehimer, Frank Sindaco, and Kyle Argenziano	President
Begin Business Portion of Meeting	Minutes from Last Mgt. (November 19th) : Filed for Audit (Bernie, Cheryl & All)	Secretary
	Treasurer's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Balance Sheet, Open Sales Orders, Jobs List and Grant Prospects• Filed for Audit: Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Cheryl, Cristy & All)	Treasurer
	AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; PowerPoint Presentation)	Staff
	Committee Reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AdHoc Communications: Alana volunteered to chair the committee with Joe, John W. and Laura; suggested doodle poll to choose a date for the meeting• Strategic Planning Committee: Strategic Plan Updates 2020-2025 draft document completed; suggested doodle poll for to choose a date & EPCAMR can provide a Zoom link for committee to finish action planning;• Education Committee: newly formed with Ken Klemow as chair, Laura, Andrea, Ed, Leigh Ann, and Alana; suggested doodle poll for meeting date	Respective Comm. Chairs
	Old Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the Stormwater Fee being called the "Rain Tax" issue, Chesapeake Bay issues, promotion of Green Energy on AML... Mike's WVSA Stormwater fee is currently \$14.40 per quarter. We can apply for credits (ex. Rain Barrel). In the Lackawanna Valley, a study was done a little differently with housing equivalency units and it may only be \$15/quarter for the average homeowner which could generate \$12 Million annually for stream restoration. We are building infrastructure for green energy and to protect the community from potential cleanup we should talk about a bonding issue. Many solar companies staff talk to do plan for removal once the equipment has expired. Board expressed the need for a campaign of good information vs. misinformation.	President
Hotlinks in this document will take you to more info.	New Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moved to approve committee decision(s)• Moved to adjourn business portion of the meeting (Cristy, Bernie & All)	President
1:00PM	Next Meeting: <i>Tentatively</i> February 18 th , 2021 11:00AM (possibly virtual) Tentative for 2021: February 18 th , May 20 th , August 19 th , and November 18 th , 2021	President

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Robert

- [2021 Virtual Riparian Forest Buffer Summit](#), March 10-11
- [2021 PAEE Virtual Conference](#)- "Opportunities for Action", March 22-23;
- Statewide Master Watershed Stewardship Program, April 27 from 12-1 (EPCAMR Executive Director to be a Panelist for an AMD Presentation)
- Lackawanna RiverFest will be Saturday, September 25th
- [2021 PA AMR Virtual Conference](#) using WHOVA, October 27-28

All

Watershed Reports

Luzerne County – (John) Regarding the NFWF grant there are 73 waterbodies in the study area. We will compare mining impacted ones to non-mining impacted by chemistry and macroinvertebrates. PA Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission are willing to help and Earth Conservancy has given permission to enter their land. We will be working closely with Nanticoke Creek flow monitoring project they are currently doing. We will setup a zoom kickoff meeting soon.

Cleanwater Action Plan (CAP) being coordinated for the PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Program in Luzerne Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. EPCAMR has been sampling AMD for phosphates and nitrates. Potential to co-treat AMD and phosphates as scientific paper research shows. Phosphates could be coming from geology or potentially CSO or malfunctioning septic systems that leak into the mine pool. Nitrogen needs to come from the surface. Christine was interested in these data for Schuylkill County as they are also going after the CAP WIP funding as well.

Lackawanna River – (Bernie) Clear cutting near Lowes, Gibbons. The 1960s reclaimed and reforested Stoors Colliery has been clear-cut along Main Ave. near the I-81 Exit to become a strip mall. This will certainly cause runoff issues.

Minefire above the Sinram Plant (Pagnotti and D&L Reality land) being dug up near Olyphant with plans for “big box” warehouse pads which will drain to Eddy Creek and Sterry Creek. All these development projects will impact wild trout habitat.

LRCA also received a NFWF grant for 1 mile design on Leggetts Creek Stormwater Management (swales from street to rain gardens) and river access. Keystone 10 Million Trees Program plantings of several thousand along the river. DCNR grant to acquire land near Nature Conservancy. Hoping for in-person RiverFest this year in September. The Olyphant mine fire is one of the 5 fires John and Alana highlighted in their short film "Scorched: Mine Fires in Pennsylvania Coal Country." You can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/200026751>

Bowmans Creek – (Joe) nothing to update on the Limestone Well TU is waiting on DEP approval. Visited the Catawissa Creek but no macros under the rocks. Instream habitat is remarkable and it will be a trout “gold mine” when restored.

Nescopeck Creek – (Gary) Finished Water Quality testing and published the report for 2020. Would like EPCAMR to print the posters again. Black Creek Township contributed \$400. Working on our Friends of the Nescopeck website. SRBC has electroshocked the Black Creek around the Derringer and Gowan Tunnels and report shows a decent diversity of fish and macros.

ARIPPA – (Cristy) Submitted comments to the Environmental Quality Board to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for promotion for reclamation. Successful on closing Tier 2 energy borders to keep Co-generation plants going.

Links from the chat: EPCAMR YouTube link

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXk8H7jRkhP7J3wMHCwnxjg>

WPCAMR YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/user/WPCAMR>

EPCAMR Kids Corner <http://epcamr.org/home/kids-corner>

WVSA Stormwater <https://www.wvsa.org/stormwater-management/pages/stormwater-fee>

Green Infrastructure Plan for the City of W-B <http://epcamr.org/home/2018/epcamr-49500-grant-through-the-national-fish-wildlife-foundation-chesapeake-bay-technical-capacity-program-develops-green-infrastructure-concept-plans-for-green-spaces-in-wilkes-barre>