

EPCAMR 2021 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Tentative Agenda – November 18th

Zoom Conference Call

11:00AM Discussion and Correspondence

Info.
Portion

- None

Robert

12:00PM

Call to Order Business Meeting: (virtual roll call) Joe Simons, Bernie McGurl, Cristy Sweeney, Christine Haldeman, Ed Wytovich, John Levitsky, Mike Korb (quorum), Aaron Eldred (Columbia), Ben Paul, Gary Leander, Gabby Zawacki, Robert Hughes, Mike Hewitt, Denise Hernandez, Laura Rinehimer, Steve Cornia, Frank Sindaco

President

Begin
Business
Portion of
Meeting

[Minutes from Last Mgt. \(August 19th\): File for Audit](#) (Joe, Cristy)

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

- See Balance Sheet, Open Sales Orders, Jobs List and Grant Prospects
- File for Audit: Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Bernie, Gabby)
- Approval of EPCAMR 2022 Budget (Cristy, Ed) – Questions on fundraising initiatives? EPCAMR participates in Giving Tuesday November 30th, Boscovs, and Amazon Smile, NEPA Day of Giving and others. Questions on conference income vs expenses? Committee plans registration cost and sponsor tiers to maintain a net income. We can charge some staff time for registration

Treasurer

AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; [PowerPoint Presentation](#))

Staff

- Hurricane Ida buried and washed away temperature monitors installed in the Mill Creek (Luzerne Co.) Watershed. They are Bluetooth, but have to be really close to find them on with your phone and download data.
- Asked for ideas on Iron Oxide for the next Reclaiming PA Videos. Merchandizing with the new trout characters.
- Natural Attenuation and mine pool stability help AMD chemistry to improve over time, but if there is a flush that opens up sludge coatings and exposes pyrite, the mine will release bad chemistry for months afterward until that coating can be re-established.
- Swoyersville project ramping up processing with electricity demand in winter
- NACERO plant going in Nanticoke Area near the old Dan Flood Industrial Park. Close to where solar sites were proposed, along Newport Creek and areas we are currently assessing for NFWF project. Some decent Black Duck Habitat unfortunately will be destroyed. Will need a large water source. EPCAMR is promoting mine pool use. It's being promoted as a "0 life cycle carbon footprint", buzzwords? Contact Rep Kaufer's office.

Committee Reports (a Zoom Pro link can be setup for committee meetings)

- AdHoc Communications: Report by Chair. Sent out notes for comment.
- Strategic Planning Committee: [Strategic Plan Updates 2020-2025](#) draft document completed; Awaiting final comments before adopting
- Education & Science Committee: Dr. Klemow to update Board on Committee. Sent out notes for comment.
- Personnel Committee: Recommendations for Staff Wage Increases for 2022 will be discussed by the committee after the meeting waiting on decisions from others. Kudos to EPCAMR for keeping staff in this environment and no turnover in staff. That was a goal for this year.

Respective
Comm. Chairs

Old Business (none)

President

Hotlinks in this document will take you to more info.

New Business

- Motion to approve committee decision(s) for Communication, Strategic Planning, Education and Science committees December 17th date to get comments back (Joe, John, All)
- Motion to make a decision on the Personnel committee following this meeting (Ed, John, All)
- Motion to adjourn business portion of the meeting (Ed, Cristy, all)

President

1:00PM

Next Meeting: *Tentatively* February 17th, 2022 11:00AM (possibly virtual)

President

Info. Portion of Meeting

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Robert

- Saturday March 26th is the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU Benefit

Watershed Reports

All

Lackawanna Co. – Thanks to EPCAMR for coming up and assessing AMD Discharges for the Countywide Action Plan. Newly rediscovered Giombetti Slope routed to “UFO Pond” for treatment near Carbondale with a Watershed 2000 project.

Sullivan Co. - Wants to continue the limestone addition to WALA Lake. Talk to John Levitsky about this and how it can be applied in Loyalsock.

Wyoming/Luzerne Co. - Liming in Mountain Springs to Bowmans Creek and in Mehoopany watershed (should be done any day now), Game Commission (Dallas office) land managers are very impressed with the chemistry is improving data and they have become involved to improve wildlife habitat (especially macro populations for insectivore birds and bat populations). Looking at adding limestone to their road repairs. Difficulties on Watertower Run Diversion Well installation and grant. Ed mentioned to talk to Doc Fritchey Chapter of TU for history on operation and permits. Christine said they are liming 3 streams in Schuylkill County with no problem. John would like to chat to talk about solutions that are working and how to convince DEP staff in the Northeast Regional Office to move forward. August-September were over 365% of normal precipitation (over 3x) for Luzerne County.

Catawissa Creek - River of the Year Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper and TU nomination. Small population in the watershed need all the help we can get.

Wilkes University - fly fishing club (Jake Smith is contact). Nissan truck TV ad promoting stream destruction. Nissan donating \$10k to TU as an apology and changed the ad.

Northumberland Co. - Ben Paul reports SCRA/NCCD had an EE day on Coal Mining History in Shamokin/Kulpmont area and 100 students lots of hands-on planting and building bird boxes. Bucknell is working on a new website for Shamokin Creek.

Luzerne Co. - LCD involved with Kings College Grad Student Water Willow Study in the Susquehanna River. It’s a native species that may be useful in BMPs (stream bank stabilization and absorption of nutrients/pollutants)

Columbia Co. - Aaron Eldred and Abby Seig are the new watershed specialists. If the River of the Year is awarded, we have all kinds of ideas for Catawissa Creek Festival in the borough. 10 million trees program to get trees planted (large 50-acre plot near Ashland on the border of Columbia and Schuylkill counties owned by Girard Estates). Check to see if it was a Solar site we recommended.

ARIPPA - tour on AML sites up in NEPA. 2022 budget was approved and the ARIPPA award is included for \$5K statewide. PA senate bill to add a member of ARIPPA to the pa DEP MRAB. Air emissions study is still a work in progress, Jaret presented preliminary results at the AMR conference

Nescopeck Creek – Gary Leander was able to attend AMR Conference “was great”.

Schuylkill Co. - Christine reports the Silverbook AMD Treatment System had their gate smashed. Now squatters needed to be removed and repair gate. Kaska project, a breached silt dam, moving along. Boring now to see the depth of silt and see what needs to be removed to put in the treatment system. Neumeister project may be coming back.

Links from Zoom Chat:

[Giving Tuesday](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure House Bill - Congress.gov](#)

[House sends Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to Senate - PA Env. Digest](#)

[Restoring Waters AMD on the Cheat River Video – App Voices](#)

[Joe Pizarchik's ideas on AMD – App Voices](#)

[AMD in Ohio – App Voices](#)

[Aqua Informatics Ripple Effect Grant](#)

[Diversion wells in Rausch Creek](#)

[Nissan reworks tv ad showing trucks in streams - TU Magazine](#)