

EPCAMR 2022 1st Quarter Board Meeting

Tentative Agenda – February 17th

Zoom Conference Call

11:00AM	Discussion and Correspondence	
Info. Portion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passage and pending AML/AMD Infusion of Federal Funding; Waiting on Guidance for Grant Eligibility. Inter Agency Working Group IAWG formed to distribute the funding within the BIL. OSM is to announce availability of BIL AML funding in 3rd qtr. of FY2022 which would be APR-MAY-JUN timeframe. States would then have to complete a grant application to request the funding. OSM then needs a minimum of 60 days to review and approve the grant, so actual funding likely not available until sometime in the fall of 2022. Also, the guidelines for the program are supposedly completed in draft and under review within DOI. Once DOI review complete, OSM will share with states. No timeframe for how long that will take. This is the \$245M annually for 15 years announcement from Gov. Wolf. That is in addition to the ~\$65M annually AML Fee and AMLER funding. Looking at 30set aside	Robert
12:00PM	Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance: Dr. Joe Simons III, Christine Haldeman, Cristy Sweeney, Bernie McGurl, John Welsh. Eric Naguski, Leigh Ann Henry (quorum), John Levitsky, Gary Leander, Gabby Zawacki, Peter Haentjens, Ed Wytovich, Angela Meck, Mike Korb, Cheryl Brobst, Jerry Stiles, Nikko Simons, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Denise Hernandez, Shawnese Taylor, Laura Rinehimer, Steve Cornia, and Frank Sindaco	President
Begin Business Portion of Meeting	<u>Minutes from Last Mgt. (November 18th):</u> <u>File for Audit</u> (Cristy, Bernie)	Secretary
	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">See Balance Sheet, Open Sales Orders, Jobs List and Grant Prospects<u>File for Audit:</u> Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Bernie, Cristy) Questions What if we don't spend it all, we ask for a transfer to another line item or check back with funder to transfer to another watershed or similar subject.	Treasurer
	AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; <u>PowerPoint Presentation</u>) Is Amazon Smile working for us? We don't get much, less than \$100 over the past year Floating solar panels might be an option for Commissioner's Lake near Mount Carmel, but might be good to add to our AMD treatment ponds not only for energy production but for shade to keep them cooler. Schedule for filming of Brooke and Rainbow? Laura can share their plans. Potential to look at Shickshinny Creek, Paddy Run, and Rocky Run (AML Impacts) or Black Creek (AML Impacts) and Turtle Creek for future CHP projects	Staff
	Committee Reports (a Zoom Pro link can be setup for committee meetings) <ul style="list-style-type: none">AdHoc Communications: Submitted final comments to Strategic Plan. Similar to the Mine Fires Video, John W. started on one related to WaterStrategic Planning: Postponed approval of <u>Strategic Plan Updates 2020-2025</u> until everyone gets to review itEducation & Science: Submitted final comments to Strategic Plan. Leigh Ann asked if there is a To Do list to help with timelines? Can we setup a meeting soon? We will let the chair know.	Respective Comm. Chairs

Old Business

- Issue with reduced interest in applying to ARIPPA Awards over the past few years. Looking to get a conference call to help solve the issue in early March with ARIPPA and WPCAMR. Simplify the application or promote more?

President

Hotlinks in this document will take you to more info.

New Business

- Postponed approve committee decision(s)
- Moved to adjourn business portion of the meeting (Cheryl, Cristy)

President

1:00PM

Next Meeting: Tentatively May 19th, 2022 11:00AM (plan for face-to-face)

President

Info. Portion of Meeting

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Robert

- [Keystone 10 Million Trees Annual Mtg.](#) – Virtual 1-3PM Feb. 17, 2022
- [Biodiversity Conservation Grant](#) Letter of Intent due on Feb. 17, 2022
- [Keystone Coldwater Conference/PA Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#) - Ramada Inn, State College on Feb. 25 & 26, 2022
- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training \(B-WET\) Program / State Capacity Building Grant](#) – due on March 3, 2022
- [PATU Coldwater Conservation Planning and Implementation Grant](#) due March 4, 2022
- [PATU Virtual Training](#) on March 12, 2022 – contact Rachel Kester
- [PPL Foundation Grant](#) - due on March 15, 2022
- [Stanley Cooper Chapter TU Banquet](#) - March 26, 2022 at 5PM at Holiday Inn-East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre; Contact Mike Matso
- [PA American Water Environmental Grant Program](#) – due March 31, 2022
- PSU AMD/AML Tour (Wyoming Valley) with State College-Environmental Resource Management Program on April 9, 2022
- [PA's Annual Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference](#) at the Ramada Inn, State College on June 22 & 23, 2022
- ARIPPA Annual Tech Symposium Tuesday June 14th in Harrisburg

Watershed Reports

All

Lackawanna River- Donation of maps from the Mid Valley, Olyphant and Carbondale areas to the LRCA. Would like them scanned.

Catawissa Creek– came in 3rd place for river of the year but spawned a watershed event planned for this summer. The Cattie now has a QHUP completed by SRBC which qualifies it for the Active Treatment System being installed when DCNR gets the property.

Nescopeck Creek - Two major tributaries that are polluted Little Nescopeck and Black Creek (now a wild trout fishery) PA Fish and Boat Commission electroshocking 7 different sites and found substantial brown trout. EPCAMR worked with SRBC when they did a fishery survey on the Black Creek and the numbers were great! Mine discharges are good for the cold water, but still hits with heavy metals. Those are diluted enough by the time it confluences with the Nescopeck Mainstem.

Luzerne Co. - NFWF has declared Headwaters of Catawissa and Nescopeck target for agriculture mostly. Riparian zones are also allowed. Butler Enterprises area being sold to DCNR so it will be good to get those AMD discharge areas cleaned up and forested up in the Catawissa Creek Headwaters. Working with EC and EPCAMR to get together a strategy for Nanticoke Creek. Couldn't get a landowner for SRBC grant deadline for Plainsville, but will continue to work on that with O&M
ARIPPA – in the process of getting air emissions study completed comparing off gassing of coal refuse piles and emissions from Cogen Plants. Independent Fiscal Office required to review tax credit programs and found that the Cogen Tax Credit (\$4 per ton capped at \$20M per year) is meeting its goals. HB668 in PA House adds a member from ARIPPA to MRAB. Advanced to Senate in appropriations committee. Has DEP support. A lot of plants ramping up in production due to

seasonal demands and AEPS TUEER II border closure. Plants investing in maintenance and finding sources. Crypto currency publicity being handled by individual plants. Traditional coal fired power plants and nuclear plants are doing that as well, so the cogens get wrapped into not-so great publicity. Maybe get Matt Cochrane of Stronghold to present about the topic at our conference.

Schuylkill Co. - Otto starting this spring. Finished Kaska silt dam borings 620,000 cubic yards. Found some material that was marketable coal (pea or nut size).

Lackawanna Co. - Conservation District received funding on Elmbrook trib to Tunkannock Creek and Legetts Creek to the Lackawanna River. No-till corn planter. Additional funding for Ag Tech. No funding for stream bank stabilization and wetland floodplain disconnect in Roaring Brook (Dunmore). Looking to apply for a NFWF grant instead.

Zoom Chat

[Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) various funds by Eric Dixon](#)

[EPCAMR Donation Options](#)

Angela Meck: My kids love the trout puppet!

[Gov. Wolf Announces \\$25 Million Investment in Economic Recovery for AML](#)

[EPCAMR YouTube channel](#)

Mike: Have to wait to get more views and subscribers to allow us to regain a shorter name.

Laura: We're still deciding on how best to distribute the video but we'll keep you posted

[Dr. Joe's speech at the DOI Secretary press event](#)

[Sec. Deb Haaland, northeast Pa. Congress members tout AMR funding](#) – Pocono Re

[Cartwright, Casey, Haaland cite funding to clean up AML](#) – Times Leader

[This Week at Interior January 28 2022 Secretary Haaland highlights... \(YouTube\)](#)

[Reclaiming abandoned coal mining lands in Luzerne County - WBRE](#)

[Interior Department Extends AML Program through 2034](#)

[Pa. expects billions from the infrastructure law for coal mine cleanups.](#) -NPR

[Advocating for Solar Energy Projects on Abandoned Mine Lands](#) – PA Env. Digest

[Just Transition Fund Awards EPCAMR \\$25K Planning and Outreach Grant](#)

[The largest solar farm in Kentucky will be built on a former coal mine](#)

County Action Plans (CAP) for Luzerne/Lackawanna/Susquehanna Counties

- [Luzerne County Action Plan](#)
- [Lackawanna County Action Plan Highlights](#)
- [Susquehanna County Action Plan Highlights](#)

[Recording of Mill/Gardner Creek CHP Public Info. Meeting hosted by EPCAMR](#)

[Mill/Gardner Creek CHP Project Recommendations Story Map with photos](#)

[Live Stream Feed of EPCAMR's Rainbow Trout in the Classroom Program](#)

[Strategic Plan Updates 2020-2025 Version 2](#)

John W: Yes, I'll review that too now that I see it all together

Bobby Hughes: Alana had a conflict today with work. She provided comments with John to the Communications Committee notes that were added to the updated plan.

[Saturday March 26th is the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU Benefit](#)

Bobby Hughes: Cindy is invited to be a key speaker at our PA AMR Conference in June.

AMR Program Staff Anticipated Work for Next Quarter (looking forward)

Partners and Places in bold

General Staff

- Scanned & cataloged 764, georeferenced 62, & started Nanticoke and Mocanaqua quad. mosaics from **PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office** and **Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO)** collections to continue the 2018-2020 Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Processing Grant coordinated by the **California DMO**. Maintain a backup on 14TB local server.
- Submitted a 2019-2020 proposal to monitor **Loyalsock Creek & AMD Treatment Systems in Sullivan County** to the **Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association**.
- Coordinating the removal of waste coal piles at the former Harry E. Colliery with **Keystone Reclamation** for the **Swoyersville AML Pilot** project.
- Waiting for the **Luzerne County Rail Corp** to get GIS to deliver the scanned, georeferenced and digitized railroad maps in **Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties**.
- Continue to work on the GrowBoxx project with remainder of 2019 funding & \$38K **Inquiring Systems Inc.** Develop a curriculum & work with schools to implement.
- Continue an aquatic organism passage (AOP) study on creeks in the **Anthracite Region** with a \$15K grant from **Patagonia**.
- Continue \$21K **SRBC** Phase 1 Contract to map/model mine pools related to the **Mocanaqua Tunnel Discharge (Luzerne Co.)** and \$65K Phase 2 contract to monitor boreholes / discharges. Writing report which is due by the end of the year.
- Begin "Keeping Communities Flowing" cleanups using \$20K from **American Water Charitable Foundation**
- Continue education program with disadvantaged youth with remainder of \$10K from **Luzerne Foundation**.
- Continue **Huntsville Creek** Cold Water Heritage Plan \$4.75K funding from **PA TU**.
- Finish **Toby's Creek** Coldwater Heritage Plan with \$5K funding from **PA TU**.
- Continue to monitor chemistry/flow at **Askam** Treatment System in the **Nanticoke Creek Watershed** as needed by **Earth Conservancy**.
- Continue **RECLAIM** Act outreach and make maps w/ \$3K **Appalachian Voices** grant.
- Plan for the 2020 AMR Conference in June 24-25th 2020, Ramada Inn in State College, PA with **AMR Conference Committee**. Maintain treatminewater.com.
- Continue to look for stream segments in the **EPCAMR Region**, where improvements have been made to streams on the 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters, that should be reassessed and stand a good chance of being removed from the list. Gather supporting water quality monitoring or biological monitoring evidence and report to the **PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration (BCR) Section 319 Program**.
- Work on hosting **RAMLIS** for 2020 on an interactive website with updated information from the **Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Server**.
- Waiting on **WVSA** to determine discharges to monitor with PA DEP to develop a professional services agreement for AMD portion of their **MS4 Permit**.
- Coordinate a QHUP for the **Lackawanna River** with \$5K **LRCA** and **SMS, LLC**.
- Contract with **Tetra-Tech** to conduct Rare Earth Metals in AMD sludge research with **AML Pilot** funds or potentially Department of Defense funding.
- Continue to provide technical & outreach assistance to **EPCAMR partners** dealing with AML issues, as requested.
- Continue to provide AMD Field Tours and participate Environmental Outreach events.
- Bill-down and reimburse for projects and services (quarterly) to maintain cash-flow
- Update EPCAMR websites, including www.epcamr.org as needed, as well as the G Suite for Nonprofit Email / App Account and Facebook Social Media outreach tools.
- Participate in AML Campaign Calls to keep up on legislative happenings.
- Create monthly progress reports, post them to the EPCAMR website and send to **PA DEP BCR Section 319 Program** along with an invoice of time and resources spent for reimbursement.
- Harvest, dry, process, package, and inventory Iron Oxide products to sell online.
- Complete EPCAMR Annual Reports and post to GuideStar.org.

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

- Continue to work with **EPCAMR Board** to increase Quarterly Board Mtg. efficiency.