



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Forwarded around the Loyalsock Creek Newsletter to EPCAMR Staff
- Participated in the National RECLAIM Campaign Webinar and call to highlight efforts in PA, to explain what various abandoned mine land features are, and to talk about the types of jobs that could be created with the infusion of economic development funds into reclamation projects in PA and other coalfield communities across the Nation
- EPCAMR Staff presented and provided an AMD Tour to 30 high school students participating the ***Community Connections to our Watershed Program***, in partnership with PA DCNR at the EPCAMR Office on April 4th; Discussed AMD, Coal Mining Legacy in the Anthracite Region, 3D Mine Pool Modeling, AMD Treatment, and our Staff's work on the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program Mine Mapping; Showed several EPCAMR videos related to AMD/AML over lunch
- Attended the John B. McGlynn Learning Center's 30th Anniversary Dinner in Wilkes-Barre; EPCAMR has been a partner of the Learning Center for over 20 years and the Executive Director was one of the first cohort of youth to come through the after-school program back in the late 80s while growing up in the O'Karma Terrace, now called the Wilkes-Barre Boulevard Townhomes
- *Jessica McGuire*, Lykens, PA ordered some Anthracite Red Iron Oxide from EPCAMR to use in some of her artwork and offered to send photos of her work to EPCAMR to showcase the art and her talents as well as use them as an opportunity to promote the productive and artistic use of the once considered pollution source
- House Resolution 787 introduced by Rep. McCarter was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee wasn't going to get to the floor for a vote by the week of April 16th-22nd; *Cristy Doyle*, ARIPPA would inform EPCAMR when a meeting would be scheduled; He was going to be designating that week as "Clean Streams Week"
- Attended the Nanticoke Conservation Club's monthly meeting in Nanticoke

- Provided *Liz Hughes*, Earth Conservancy with a Letter of Support for her **US EPA Environmental Education Impact Program** grant to work with Wilkes University and EC on the development of a curriculum and toolkit related to abandoned mine lands and legacy mining impacts as well as technical skills and instruction on watershed restoration and assessment throughout the Wyoming Valley; EPCAMR Staff will provide trainings and lesson plans in the community and at the University and assist with the evaluation of the program
- EPCAMR Executive Director was asked by the PAEE President if he'd like to continue on for another year as the Regional Director for the NE Region of PA on their Board of Directors through 2019; EPCAMR has been a partner organization to PAEE for nearly two decades and has had involvement with the annual PAEE Conferences for many years and has developed many Environmental Education Programs, Workshops, Trainings, and Curriculums in partnership with PAEE members; EPCAMR Executive Director agreed to fulfill the term through 2019
- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited to be a part of an Earth Day Panel of Speakers in Downtown Wilkes-Barre, on Public Square, on April 22nd, as a part of Action Together NEPA's "Rally for our Planet Earth Day Celebration"; Action Together NEPA is a grassroots activist organization dedicated to community action, political advocacy and real progress; EPCAMR spoke about AMD, reclamation, redevelopment, environmental education, and community volunteerism and civic engagement in protecting and restoring our environment
- Worked with *Dr. Marianne Krasny*, Cornell University Civic Ecology Lab to put together the 2-day schedule (April 26th & 27th) for the EPCAMR Executive Director's trip to New York to make several presentations to students, researchers, and professors on our work in the EPCAMR Region and with *Dr. Krasny* on Civic Ecology work nationally through participation in online massive open online and global online communities; The theme for my presentations was "*Reclaiming Our Past Mining Legacy in the Heart of the Northern Appalachian Coalfields: EPCAMR's Role in Filling the Voids*"; Provided several photos for Cornell University to use for creation of flyers and posters; Presented to several student bodies and multiple professors and research graduate students at Cornell University on April 26th & 27th sponsored by the Cornell University Civic Ecology Lab
- Scheduled a conference call with *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School about ways that the Seminary would like to partner with EPCAMR
- *John Welsh*, EPCAMR Board Member received very good feedback from LA Film Festival screeners of his **Scorched: Mine Fires in PA Coal Country** Short Documentary and provided EPCAMR with a link to the screening comments; <https://documentaryshortfilmfestival.com/2018/04/14/highlights-april-2018-documentary-short-film-festival/> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=975-I_nOG2o
- Posted *Dr. Margarita Rose's* Environmental Economics Contingent Valuation Survey to EPCAMR's social media site that was developed by EPCAMR and the students of her class at King's College for a service learning project; <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SVDXJS2>

- Loaned out EPCAMR's Macro's On Ice Environmental Education Supplies to *Liz Rosser* to borrow for her PSU Master Watershed Steward volunteers to show and teach the Lake Noxen-Elementary students about macroinvertebrates at their Earth Day Program in the Lake-Lehman School District since EPCAMR had other commitments to other events
- Provided *Gabby Zawacki*, Environmental Specialist-Retail, Patagonia with a list of upcoming events that EPCAMR and other partners are either hosting or sponsoring in the area

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR Executive Director reached out to *Neal Fowler*-Director, PA DCED, to inquire about applying for a *Leadership Development and Civic Capacity* grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); EPCAMR is interested in being able to provide trainings for both adult and youth citizen scientists, local municipal officials, and staff from regional non-profit environmental organizations in our region on water quality issues, environmental issues related to abandoned mine reclamation, watershed assessment and planning, and restoration of streams polluted by abandoned mines; EPCAMR can provide organizational support and technical services related to geographic information systems (GIS) of surface and underground mine mapping, the mapping of MS4 discharge points that are contained within sewersheds of regional municipal stormwater authorities, determination of mine hazards on abandoned mine lands for future economic development opportunities, and technical grant writing support and grant administration for those community organizations that lack the professional, technical, managerial, and administrative capabilities to do so; EPCAMR would like to continue to build on our coalfield communities' capacities that we serve to mobilize resources, gain and provide leadership experience, and continue to strengthen community institutions and partnerships that we have built for nearly two decades in the region; EPCAMR has strong partnerships with the PA DEP, PA DEP Bureau of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations, PA DEP Environmental Education, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA DEP Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Program in the Bureau of Restoration & Conservation, the US EPA Brownfields Workforce Development Training Program with our partner, the Earth Conservancy, and the US Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement; Neal mentioned that we should be in good hands when talking with *Kurt Bauman*, NEPA Alliance
- Provided *Chris Weber*, reporter from the Times News Online newspaper, with a link to information on the Quakake AMD Tunnel; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakake_Tunnel
- Provided *Craig Stevens*-CSI, LLC with a link to information on the PA AMR Conference; www.treatminewater.com and *Christine Haldemann*- Alfred Benesch & Company with information on how many Professional Development Hours (PDHs) can be obtained from attending the Conference

- Met with *Dan Bochicchio*, Skybernetics, LLC and *Martin Helmke*-West Chester University down at the Centralia site on April 13th, to conduct some aerial drone surveillance and then went over to Silver Creek AMD Treatment System outside of New Philadelphia with *Cruck Cravotta*-USGS after conducting some sampling on AMD seeps into the Mahahoy Creek in Girardville; Participated in a follow up conference call with *Dan* and *Chris Brooks* to discuss drone technology applications in abandoned mine reclamation
- Drafted a quote for professional services from EPCAMR to provide to the Luzerne County Rail Authority (LCRA) to assist them with scanning and mapping their 55 miles of railroads and parcels within mostly Luzerne and a small part of Lackawanna County; Forwarded the draft for review to the EPCAMR President, *Bernie McGurl* for comments
- EPCAMR sent *Peter Horger*, Senior at Keystone College, a copy of our EPCAMR logo for his Keystone College Capstone Project Poster Presentation on his Study of the Temperature Changes along the Lackawanna River from the Jermyn Outfall down to the Old Forge AMD Borehole
- Prepared and provided a Letter of Support to PA DCNR for the purchase and acquisition of the 5,541 acres of woodlands called the Butler Forest Tract from Butler Enterprises in the Catawissa Creek Watershed
- Provided Earth Conservancy with a final drone footage video flyover of the Askam Maelstrom Oxidizer AMD Treatment System choreographed by the EPCAMR Executive Director and *Scott Cimkosky*, EPCAMR Watershed GIS Specialist Intern for use in education and outreach events or social media; <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6iu7bl>

Project Coordination

- *Mike* provided the EPCAMR Executive Director with the Mine Mapping Project Word Document Template to prepare the SRBC Final Report for the ***Rausch Creek Mine Pool Evaluation and Discharge Transport for Abandoned Mine Land Problem Areas (PA No. 1629, PA 3010, PA 1424)***; Completed the written report and forwarded to *Mike* for conversion into a PDF and Final Document Report for submission to *Pierre MaCoy* and *Tom Clark*, SRBC; *Mike* followed up with some more information on more detailed mapping for the iron oxide sludge injection into the Markson Independent Mines above the mine pool water table
- Talked with *Jeff Gittleman*, Hawk Mountain Labs, to provide him with more information on the detailed analysis we needed from the Lab for Ferrous Iron and Carbonic Acidity; He couldn't provide those two samples, so EPCAMR ended up sending them out to Mahaffey Labs, that could sample them relatively cheaply for the ***Mocanaqua Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Project***; Requested quotes for sampling from the Kirby Health Center and Quantum Labs, and received one that was much higher than Hawk Mountain Labs; Forwarded *John Pippy*, AES, LLC, a copy of the SRBC extension request letter for him to use it to develop the revised timeline and project diagram requested by *Pierre MaCoy*, SRBC; Provided the revised timeline and extension letter to SRBC on April 11th after receiving a final

copy from *John Pippy*-AES, LLC; Provided *Teddy Borawski, Jr.*-PA DCNR with the information he requested for the Exploratory Drilling Permit application and reviewed the final draft document and made comments and corrections; Signed an SRBC Extension Amendment on April 16th and sent it back down to SRBC for their file to move the completion date of the project to December 31, 2019; Provided AES, LLC with language and steps that that needs to be taken and put into the drilling contract agreement that are a part of the SFRA; Driller RFPs were sent out and the low bidder was selected Eichelberger's, Inc. Drilling; EPCAMR Executive Director compiled the initial database in EXCEL for water quality monitoring points for the project on the surface and at the Mocanaqua Tunnel and provided it to our project partners for comments; Talked with *Nick Lylo*-PA DCNR District Forester about discussing what we will need to do with the Bureau of Forestry's Road Use Agreement

- Governor Wolf announced on April 9th, funding to support environmental cleanup and revitalization projects at 12 abandoned mine sites across the State under the **2017 PA AML Pilot Program**; Swoyersville refuse pile/community athletic complex, Swoyersville Borough: In the first phase of the Swoyersville culm bank reclamation (site of the former Harry E. Colliery Breaker), approximately 15 acres of the 55-acre coal refuse pile will be removed and remediated, with over 2 million cubic yards of refuse anticipated to be usable for electricity cogeneration facilities; Floodplain restoration will improve water quality in the Abraham Creek Watershed and reduce flooding; 7 acres of the reclaimed property will be transferred to Swoyersville Borough for development of a new community athletic complex that will allow multiple teams to play, drawing more people to the borough; EPCAMR will be the recipient of the grant agreement for **\$4M**, the largest grant ever awarded to date to EPCAMR; Forwarded information over to Congressman Barletta's Staffer, *Emily Ackerman*; *Scott Cimkosky*, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Specialist Intern worked with the Executive Director to finish up a drone fly-over video of the site with project details to use for outreach and education purposes; Forwarded a Q & A document to some of our project partners within the Co-Generation Industry so that we could develop responses to questions that were asked by local residents; EPCAMR compiled the list of concerns from the "People Who Grew Up in Swoyersville" Social Media page; <https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-announces-funding-support-environmental-cleanup-revitalization-projects-12-abandoned-mine-sites-across-state/>
- Requested a meeting with *Joyce Zaykowski* and *Butch Frati*-City of Wilkes-Barre to review the Scope of Work in the **NFWF Technical Assistance Grant** that EPCAMR prepared and was awarded to Clauser Environmental, LLC, one of the approved technical assistance providers to take a look at stormwater best management practices in 10 parks within the City, all of which are in mining impacted watersheds; The amount is for **\$49,500** worth of technical assistance services to the City and EPCAMR at no cost to the City; The technical assistance is more for design and conceptual design elements of various best management practices that could be constructed in the future for stormwater management to meet they City's MS4 requirements with the US EPA and could benefit the partnership the City has with the WVSA; EPCAMR has been holding off on releasing the announcement on the grant until the City gives us the green light; EPCAMR is working around scheduling conflicts with the City Administration

- Talked with *Eugene Ehrenfeld*, the new owner of the Highland Manor, Exeter Borough, Luzerne County, about the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Restoration Design & Construction Project***; Informed our Project Advisor, Greg Davis- PA DEP BAMR, that the owner has talked with their lawyer and has requested many assurances that EPCAMR cannot provide and therefore cannot move forward with the construction aspects of the project and the bid site showing; He didn't want any noise pollution disturbance, fugitive dust, vehicle access, cutting down of trees that would change the landscape near the hillside where Hicks Creek is located, and would want there be no issues to his residents or staff on the property
- EPCAMR's partner, Earth Conservancy, was awarded a **\$200,000** US EPA Brownfields Program 2018 Cleanup grant for Espy Run, Hanover Township and Nanticoke, PA, a 400' segment of the stream, that travels through mine-scarred lands once used for anthracite mining by the Blue Coal Corporation; The EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields; The stream is impacted by sedimentation and AMD; Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities and monitor institutional controls; EPCAMR supported the application submission and offered technical assistance and monitoring support

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Worked with *Scott Cimkosky*, EPCAMR Volunteer to identify several sites for drone flyover footage and informed him that the Plainsville AMD site, Plains Township, Luzerne County, would be a high priority; Scott finished up a pre-flight of the fly-over and it was accepted by EPCAMR to perform the flight path once clearance came in from the Forty-Fort Airport or the flight height was lower than 400' in elevation
- Met with *Sofia Espinal* (8th grader) and her mother *Shirley Espinal*, from Attleboro, Massachusetts, who were being considered for a casting call by Joe Sapienza for the tentative "AMD Avengers EPCAMR Series"; Joe is looking for a young actor/actress to play a co-host for the series; *Max Vivino*, showed up for a casting call interview as well with his mother
- *Melissa Ferkile*, a student at the University of Maryland, majoring in environmental science and technology with a focus on environmental health was interested in EPCAMR's work and is a resident of Scranton, PA; She was seeking opportunities for an internship to fulfill her college requirements; Informed her to submit a cover letter and resume to EPCAMR for further review
- *Matt Groshek*, Shavertown, PA submitted his resume for a possible Summer Internship; EPCAMR Executive Director will review it prior to interviewing for Summer 2018 Internships; Matt participated in the EC/EPCAMR Brownfields Workforce Development Training Program in partnership with PA CareerLink and Penn-State Wilkes-Barre

- EPCAMR assisted in the coordination the “Pipe Road” Cleanup in Newport Township, Luzerne County, led by the Nanticoke Conservation Club, Earth Conservancy, Newport Township Crime Watch Organization, and Newport Township Road Department for April 28th; Added EC on our Certificate of Liability Insurance for the cleanup; Conducted the cleanup with over **50** volunteers present and removed nearly **6.8** Tons of trash in under **4** hours
- *Briana Button*, Community Outreach Coordinator for King’s College, reached out to EPCAMR about CityServe 2018 on August 24th, to see if we had any projects in mind; Referred the Project Interest document to *Mike Washo*, with the Luzerne County Housing Authority to see if we can get an event coordinated for Dana Street, along the Valley View High Rise in Wilkes-Barre
- *Stephen Lee*, Plymouth, and *Destiny Erdman*, Bethlehem, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteers
- *Cosima Wiese*, Dallas, PA, a Professor at College Misericordia, that teaches an Environmental Science Course signed up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR and would like to coordinate an AMD Tour for her students in the Fall of 2019

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- *Tyler Breech*, Union County, 4-H Program Assistant, requested assistance with trying to find out how he could become a certified Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Culvert Assessment Lead Observer; Referred him to Phil Thomas with TU, the PA State Coordinator for the NAACC, to get him signed up to be able to take the online certification before going into the field to identify and assess his 20 culverts
- Informed *Allan Schreffler*, PA Fish & Boat Commission Aquatic Resource Program Specialist, that several of the EPCAMR Staff and a dozen members of the Schuylkill County Chapter of TU will be attending the Fly Fishing and Fishing Skills Instructor Training at Frances Slocum State Park and are looking forward to being provided with educational resources to utilize for future environmental education programs with youth and adults alike; Attended the Fly Fishing and Fishing Skills Instructor Training on April 10th and became a certified instructor
- Participated in a PA AMR Conference Call on April 5th to continue planning for the Conference; Secured a 48-passenger, white transportation bus for the **20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference** Tour from *Cookie Long*, Long Transportation Company, once the quote was received (\$320) and was within our PA AMR Conference Budget; Informed *Carl Hampton*, Cole Transportation that we received a lower quote and would look to get back in touch with them when we are back in State College in a few years; Sent a sponsorship letter to *Bill Gongaware* and inquired about whether or not he was going to be submitting an abstract to present at the Conference; Reached out to *Dave Hess* to see if he would like to become a sponsor of the Conference and he obliged at the Silver Level of \$1000; *Dave* helped EPCAMR/WPCAMR push out the Conference Announcement; Reached out to PA

Anthracite Section of SME for sponsorship; Pulled together a nomination for *Craig R. Morgan*-former Schuylkill Conservation District Manager- for the 2018 Mayfly Award for his work in the Anthracite Region and with EPCAMR; Received a Bronze sponsorship from Ernst Seed for the Conference and forwarded their logo on to *Mike* for the website and to *Anne* for the Program brochure; *Jefferson Martin*, Synfluent Corporation had to withdraw their abstract due to a conflict with a contractual obligation on another project they had to attend to; EPCAMR Staff GIS Watershed Specialist *Rachael Grube*, will be submitting a presentation on New Innovative Methods for Creating Digital Format for Historic Coal Mine Maps; Provided *Rachael* with a template for submission of the Executive Director's EITC Abstract for the Conference; Reached out to *Tammy Cree*-PA DEP to see if she could obtain contact information for *J. Scott Roberts* and *Pam Milavec*, both who were former Mayfly Award Winners that we wanted to invite to the PA AMR Conference in June; Reached out to former Mayfly Artist from 2017, *Mark Chuck* to see if had the time to be commissioned for two more pieces of artwork for 2018 and he agreed; Continued to manage Conference Registrations come in to EPCAMR on a daily basis

- Provided an AMD Tour of the Wyoming Valley to 14 Dickenson College students and Professor *Toby Reiner*, April 28th prior to heading up to make the presentation at the Anthracite Heritage Museum
- Exhibited and attended a closed Career Fair for the EC EWT Workforce Development Training graduates at Penn-State Wilkes-Barre and accepted several resumes for future consideration for internships
- Attended the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU Annual Banquet in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited to be the first Guest Lecture at the Anthracite Heritage Museum 2018 Lecture Series by *Dr. Bode Murin*, Site Administrator for the AHM; Presented on "***The Sustainability Factor of Coalfield Community Groups in both the Anthracite and Bituminous Regions of PA and EPCAMR's Role Throughout NE & NC PA***"; The presentation was geared towards abandoned mines, mine reclamation, mine water pollution, environmental advocacy of long-term community groups within the coalfields, and survey results of groups from across PA that continue to work on legacy abandoned mine issues that make them sustainable and continue to persevere. Lessons learned and advice from long-standing community groups from across PA that have worked in the anthracite and bituminous coalfield communities will be highlighted. An explanation of the Surface Mining Reclamation Control Act, the RECLAIM Act, Environmental Good Samaritan Act, and brief highlights of regional EPCAMR Programs, Environmental Education Watershed Tours, water quality monitoring, aquatic connectivity surveys, and technical services that we're providing to the Commonwealth of PA and the public at large will be discussed as well including our underground mine mapping project, state-wide conferences on abandoned mine reclamation, and 3D underground mine pool modeling

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed the April 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Reached out to *Spencer Rappaport*, Evolutionary Computers to see if in the near future he could come in to the EPCAMR Office and take a look at our Network and Server System to see if there was a way to make it run and operate more efficiently to restore, retrieve, backup and transfer data
- *Sandra Kehoe-Forutan*- Professor of the Department of Geographical and Geological Sciences- Bloomsburg University, requested information on internships at EPCAMR
- Interviewed *Laura Rinehimer*, Hanover Township, PA for a Summer Internship; *Laura* was a former EC EWT candidate and has a Master's Degree in Environmental Education
- *Rita Yelda*, Delaware River Watershed Coalition, Outreach and Communications Manager reached out to EPCAMR and thanked us for attending the Delaware River Watershed Hill Day at the end of March in Washington DC, given the snowstorm that everyone faced and had to work through during the few days many of the DRWC and CCWC partners were visiting with legislative staffers and Congressmen; It was an invaluable opportunity to meet with Members of Congress who represent the watershed to discuss policy priorities for PA and for EPCAMR
- EPCAMR signed on to a Sign On Letter with the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations in opposition to regulatory review House Bills 209, 1237, 1792, 1959, and 1960
- *Liz Hughes* from Earth Conservancy provided EPCAMR with the name and number, *Tracey Kleban*, of the contact person for the On the Job Training Program at CareerLink; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with her to see if there were any Federal Programs to bring on a few of the EWT candidates for internships or
- *Mary Ruth Wagner*, Columbia County Conservation District Manager, informed EPCAMR that she would be retiring on June 30th, and would be resigning from the EPCAMR Board