



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, GISP
Program Manager

101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

Main Line: (570) 371-3522

E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

April 2019 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 38 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 99 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Continued scanning, georeferencing and began digitizing maps for the **Luzerne Co. Rail Corp.**
- EPCAMR staff participated in a **NAAMLPL** meeting, **PA AML Campaign** call, **Clean Water Coalition** call, and presented to **Kings College** students
- Raised **TIC** trout and aided in forum for **PA FB&C**; livestreamed tank at www.dailymotion.com
- EPCAMR staff sampled minepool monitoring stations near **Mocanaqua** for the **SRBC**, **Askam** and **Espy Run** AMD Treatment Systems along **Nanticoke Creek** for **Earth Conservancy**, and 2 AMD treatment systems along **Loyalsock Creek** for the **Sullivan Conservation District**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAMLPL as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Co-hosted a media day with Keystone Reclamation, Representative Aaron Kaufer, Congressman Kanjorski's office, PA DEP and other project partners for the Harry E. Culm Pile Removal project in Swoyersville. [SWOY]
- EPCAMR management staff participated in an AMR Conference Call to approve more scholarship recipients and other coordination regarding the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLPL) conference in September.
- Fielded questions from folks trying to register for the NAAMLPL conference. Most of the issue is that people cannot add the registration to their card because they are not filling out all the required fields.
- Created a Google Form to gain support for the RECLAIM Act from affiliate groups, businesses and individuals. The form collects responses in a table. Created and sent a RECLAIM Act Letter of Support from EPCAMR and additional groups that support the act. Started a similar form to gain support for AML Reauthorization, but stopped at the request of the PA AML Campaign.
- Setup reclaim@epcamr.org and paamlcampaign@epcamr.org listserves and Google Drive folders to aid the PA AML Campaign as they coordinate and work on factsheets related to the RECLAIM Act and AML Reauthorization legislation respectively.
- Edited and uploaded the ARIPPA AMD/AML Award Application to the EPCAMR.org website. Sent it to WPCAMR to upload to their website as well. The turnaround for this grant round is only a month since the ARIPPA Convention is in June this year. [ARIPPA]
- EPCAMR presented GIS work related to the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) program to Kings College students taking a GIS course with professor Jayne Klenner.

- Hooked up trailer lights and loaded up the ATV to take it for a tune up in preparation for upcoming cleanup and sampling work.
- Coordinated cleanup along South Main Street in Ashley with Benco Dental and other EPCAMR volunteers.
- Answered questions from Stephen Lee a reporter from Bloomberg News regarding the RECLAIM Act and example projects. Central Appalachian groups were also copied on the email. Mentioned our Swoyersville Project and other AML Pilot Projects being done specifically on AML.
- Showed Conal Herron, EPCAMR Volunteer, how to scan the PA Game Commission wildlife slides. With only one box of the original four left, he should be able to finish up the project quickly.
- Aided outreach staff in preparing for the Green Fair in Scranton.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in a Clean Water Coalition call regarding stormwater and specifically the opposition to the “rain tax” in the Wyoming Valley. EPCAMR discussed our potential contract with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) and the scope of work involved.

Technical Assistance:

- PA Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (DEP BAMR) staff were flushing the Loyalsock Creek AMD treatment systems last month and trying to diagnose a plugging issue. We offered to share our flow and chemistry sampling results with them. They in turn promised to share their chemistry results with us, but they do not take flow. We were asked to verify flows for the Loyalsock Sampling events especially for the raw AMD and flows coming out of the treatment systems as they seemed really high based on what the system was designed to treat. Downloaded the data from our Swoffer Flow Probe to make sure we didn't write the wrong numbers down in the field book. Also sent video and photo evidence. Last year was a high precipitation year and this year is already on trend do be the same. [LCWA]
- Correspondence with PA DEP staff about MSI MMG work submitted last month. Uploaded missing files to the travel drive and will send when we send another set of data. Worked with DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) Internet Technology (IT) department to gain access to mandatory trainings through their VPN. [MSI]
- Looked at the Black Creek report to figure out which tables and maps should be digitized. Selected several tables for EPCAMR Volunteer, Conal Herron, to digitize into the historic data tab of the Google Sheets water quality database for the Mocanaqua Tunnel AMD Minepool project. [SRBC]
- Added railroad maps to an ArcGIS Pro map document as well as the Luzerne County Parcel Database via Internet Mapping Service (IMS) to aide staff in digitizing parcel boundaries. Obtained Lackawanna County Parcels from the Lackawanna County GIS Department to add to the map. Continued to quality assure and quality control (QA/QC) and re-georeference railroad maps as needed. Combine the railroad crossing points tables and imported into ArcGIS Pro as railroad crossing points shapefile. Began QA/QC and added points that had no coordinates based on description. [RALC]
- Sampled the Askam AMD Treatment System and downstream Nanticoke Creek points to determine the efficiency of the system for the Earth Conservancy (EC) especially after waterfalls and large boulder were added upstream of the intake to possibly aide with dissolve oxygen integration. Sent results to EC. Also investigated seeps along Dundee Road that drain to Nanticoke Creek. [EC]
- Continued QA/QC railroad crossing points and met with staff to review property digitizing progress. Split the shapefile into two pieces so two staff could work on it at the same time.
- Asked by residents to investigate maps related to a subsidence in Wilkes-Barre Township. Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Folio maps indicate that the area across the road had subsided in the past. Later that day it was reported by the news that DEP also tied the subsidence to the underground mines as well.

- Sampled the Espy Run AMD Treatment System for EC. The system was heavily plugged with beaver dams at every weir and several in Espy Run as well. The function of the system, however, was not greatly impacted. The beaver dams are actually creating waterfalls and pretreating water that typically short circuits around the new ponds and enters the old wetland directly. The beaver dams on the outlet are redirecting flow over and eroding the berm. This has been happening for a while, and over time can weaken the berm. Sent results and suggested placing right angled pipes through the dams over the weirs to stop the splashing noise. [EC]
- Field sampled flow and chemistry at 2 sites along the Black Creek for the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. Collected water samples at the tunnel discharge and sent them to Hawk Mountain Labs for analysis. Took water levels and transducer readings at 3 strip pits, and 4 boreholes and 3 water quality monitoring sites. Recorded results in a google spreadsheet shared with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. [SRBC]
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (WALA Connel B and C Tunnel AMD treatment systems), upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek to judge the effectiveness of the upgrades to the Connel B Tunnel AMD treatment system. [LCWA]
- Found PA state road and railroad crossing points and railroad line databases on PASDA. Four of the five railroad line shapefiles ranging from 1996 to 2018 were poorly drawn but contained a litany of helpful information. One railroad line shapefile was generated as a LiDAR break line byproduct which was very accurate, but contained hardly any information. Clipped this file to Luzerne County and took information from the other shapefiles to fill in the attributes. Added missing lines directly digitized from the Redevelopment Authority of Luzerne County railroad maps. [RALC]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.