



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### April 2023 Progress Report

#### Project Coordination

##### **Swoyersville Harry E. Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project**

- Followed up with *Hank Zielinski*, Northampton Generating to inform him that PA DEP BAMR had approved several of the invoices and they were making their way to EPCAMR; Sent along Keystone Reclamation Invoices for February (Invoice 32) and March (Invoice 33) 2023 to PA DEP BAMR for review and approval along with a Summary Narrative Report

##### **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watershed Assessment**

- Reviewed and utilized *Mike's* GeoPDF map that he created of the sampling points in each of the watersheds in the Southern Wyoming Valley (Warrior Creek, Nanticoke Creek, and Newport Creek) for the biological, field chemistry, and flow monitoring EPCAMR performed this month; EPCAMR was informed that we will have a new Project Officer named *Julia Appelrouth*; Worked on NFWF reimbursement; Participated in a Microsoft Teams call with Julia to catch her up on the project and to troubleshoot the online access portal

##### **Black Desert AML Reclamation and Townhome Economic Development Project (*proposed for future grant round*)**

- EPCAMR Executive Director continued to work on pulling together information for an AMD/AML grant submission for abandoned mine reclamation work and removal of waste culm material in the Hicks Creek watershed with Pagnotti Enterprises and Northampton Generating; Made a field investigation to the property to get a lay of the landscape for the proposed reclamation project; Prepared a draft application and forwarded the necessary requests for information that only the landowner could provide for the application submission; The application will remain draft until a future grant round and we can get the partners together to obtain the missing information needed for the full proposal; *Andy Friefeld*, a former intern for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, supervised and housed in the EPCAMR Office years ago completed a conceptual landscape design portfolio for this area while he was in the Tyler School of Art at Temple University for his Capstone Restoration Design Project and provided EPCAMR a copy of his earlier work; He's willing to do a townhome design if necessary, in the future if the landowner and future developer are interested if they don't already have a plan together

## **Carbondale/Mayfield AML Reclamation Logistics Center Economic Development Project**

*(proposed for future grant round)*

- EPCAMR Executive Director worked with partners in the Lackawanna Valley and LRCA to try and pull together an grant application for an abandoned mine land reclamation project in the Carbondale/Mayfield Area in the Powderly Creek watershed that could lead to a large economic development project in the region; Prepared a draft application and forwarded it to the partners to obtain the necessary requests for information from the landowner for the application, however, the deadline line was in the middle of the month and we were short on time and turnaround of information that wasn't able to be provided quickly enough; Discussed with *Bernie McGurl*-LRCA an estimated budget for their involvement in the project and a narrative description to include in the application; The application will remain draft until a future grant round and we can get the partners together to obtain the missing information needed for the full proposal

## **Technical Assistance**

### **Shamokin Creek Watershed Assessment OCED Project with Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) and Tetra Tech**

- EPCAMR reviewed PA DEP BAMR's lab form provided by *Matt Caccese* and sampling protocol for grabbing AMD discharges and water quality samples that go to the PA DEP Labs; EPCAMR conducted a field reconnaissance with *Jim Koharski*-President Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) to help identify the exact locations of 9 priority AMD discharges in the watershed and upstream and downstream monitoring locations; Tetra Tech informed SCRA and EPCAMR that all landowners were notified of the desire for future monitoring on their properties of the AMD discharges; EPCAMR travelled to the PA DEP Lab in Harrisburg to pick up acid for future sampling in the watershed that will be used to fix the samples

### **Solar on Abandoned Mine Lands Focus Group Outreach Sessions & Summit with PA DEP Office of Energy and Technology**

- Sent out a logistics email to stakeholder session attendees; Helped to facilitate the Nanticoke Focus Group meeting at LCCC; *Chris Vorlicek* from Bear Peak Power is currently working with the PA DEP to develop a solar project on the West Newton Banning Mine site in Rostraver; He offered to participate in a panel discussion to provide lessons learning regarding the development project to date, if we decide on a panel for the July Summit; Sent out a recap PowerPoint presentation and agenda of the Latrobe, PA meeting at St. Vincent's College to a number of colleagues who were not able to attend the meetings; EPCAMR is going to use EventBrite to register attendees for the July 19<sup>th</sup> Summit since the registration is free to attend
- Sent *Bob Wolensky*, information on PA Caving Laws at his request; [Recreational Use Statute](#); [Karst.org](#); [Liability Concerns with Caves](#); [Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy](#)
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation and forwarded it to *Nancy Dinger*- PA-AWWA, for EPCAMR volunteer and member, *Jacob E. Smith*, who is applying for the David A. Long, PA-AWWA Scholarship
- Clarified for *Elizabeth Hughes*, Earth Conservancy that their lands they own are pre-Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act and were abandoned prior to 1977 and that any post-SMCRA lands would be defined as those lands abandoned after 1977 or went into bankruptcy following the enactment of the law under the Carter Administration; The Growing Greener RFP, says a priority area for AMD is post-SMCRA

- Provided *Kathleen Sebastian*, Kingston Township Manager, with a [link](#) to PA DCNR funding and an EPCAMR Letter of Support to *Jim Reino*, Kingston Township, for a PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant to fund trail improvements at Center Street Park they are submitting
- Provided *Bernie Hansen-Teichos* with a link to the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) to research additional possible funds for their reclamation and solar development project in the Hazleton area
- *Mike Overturf- [Overturf Industrial Development, LLC](#)* reached out to EPCAMR who works in the energy storage field; A couple of years ago, he was introduced via the VA Dept of Mines and Energy to a concept of using underwater coal mines (mine pools) for the purposes of energy storage; The concept, as it was, is to pump water up during low demand and then drop it down through a turbine-equipped shaft to respond to higher demand; He was interested in whether or not EPCAMR would want to be a prime sponsor of a grant submission through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with a detailed response and state of progress on mine pool feasibility needs and funding and requirements for matching funds for these types of projects as well as ARC's areas of interest in determining where the Energy Communities are located; Participated in a follow up Zoom call with *Mike* to go over other discussion points and to provide him with additional resources and contacts
- Provided *Sean Kinney*- a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University and a visiting research scientist at Rutgers University, where he runs a spectroscopy lab in the rock core repository, with a tour of 3 AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley for him to collect a few samples to take back to his lab at Columbia University for analysis; We used our YSI Probe to get some initial readings to provide to Sean; He's interested in collaborating on a grant so that he can have an intern come and grab monthly samples under our supervision for lab analysis for 2 years; This initial monitoring could give us some real-time, long term data to help develop rating curves for predicting future flows that could then help with determine loadings of iron and other water quality parameters; EPCAMR will write a letter of support for him once he has a draft together of the grant, if necessary; He is also interested in purchasing pressure transducers for the 3 sites that don't current have them for some real-time, long-term monitoring as well as sample bottles, PVC pipe, hasps, locks, signposts, and wire in his grant; Mike provided Sean with reference reports from EPCAMR in case he needed to cite any previous work completed in the Wyoming Valley

## **Education & Outreach**

### **ISI Healing the Scars EE Project**

- Provided *Laura Rinehimer*, with a copy of the current [PA Environment & Ecology Standards](#) and the latest [report](#) on where the Standards are at with the PDE; Provided her with the "proposed" revised Standards that were approved, but still have to go through the regulatory review process before being finalized; ([6-12](#)); ([K-5](#)); ([All Standards including Science and Technology](#)); The proposed regulation would require instruction to be fully aligned with the revised standards by the 2024-25 school year; However, the timeline depends upon when the regulation is approved by IRRC and the final regulation is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*; The goal is to provide schools at least three years to implement the new standards; When the standards are final, the Department will make support available during this transition period to assist public school entities with standards implementation

## **Iron Oxide AMD and Mine Mapping Videos with Centone Productions**

- Scheduled the dates of May 24-25<sup>th</sup> to have Joe and Jason come up and meet with EPCAMR and the two local artists who are using AMD pigment in their artwork for demonstrations to be included in the short video EE video; Provided *Diane Cziakowski* with a digital copy of the HAER Report [drawings](#) of the Huber Breaker

## **Keep PA Beautiful-Open Your Eyes to Litter Educational Booklets and Interactive Online Activities Project**

- Reviewed the Spanish version completed by *Denise Hernandez*-EPCAMR of the first litter booklet; Submitted a second invoice for *Denise* and *Laura*'s time on the project related expenses
- Provided *Meredith Davenport* and *Rachel Bacon* contact information for *Bob Hedin*, Hedin Environmental for them to inquire about the business development side of utilizing iron oxides from AMD as he has done successfully with his company, how he scaled up his business, and his rights to the pigment; Hedin Environmental in Western PA; They thanked EPCAMR for our letter of support and enthusiasm for their grant submission; They are going to include some industrial sieves in the grant that would allow for EPCAMR to sift through the iron oxide much easier and some funding for marketing and development of a better branding graphic for the iron oxide packages; EPCAMR will provide a tour to any artists that they might bring to the area if they are successful in obtaining the grant; EPCAMR is looking forward to seeing some of the iron oxide art that they are going to create as well since they are artists themselves
- Provided a link to the PennFuture [testimony](#) on Bitcoin Mining and Co-Gens to Jarett Gibbons and Cristy Sweeney at ARIPPA for their review since it referenced waste culm and abandoned mine land reclamation; The testimony didn't really acknowledge the environmental benefits of the Co-Gen plants and the work that they have done that EPCAMR has been in full support of since our existence as they have reclaimed abandoned mine lands
- Participated in a National RECLAIM Working Group Zoom Conference call
- Kleinfelder would like to make a donation to EPCAMR for a future video sponsorship for EE; Provided them with a copy of EPCAMR's W-9
- Participated in the Clean Water Advisory Committee conference call to provide updates on projects in the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority's boundaries
- Provided *Dan Taylor*-Appalachian Region Field Organizer for the Blue Green Alliance contact information for PA DEP BAMR for him to request a list of priority AML Reclamation Projects; Some colleagues from Penn-State he met at a Congressman Cartwright event in Monroe County were interested in obtaining a list if there was one
- Reached out to *Lindsay Barker*-Art/Science Teacher at Wilkes-Barre Area School District's Middle School to schedule a time to meet with her and her students to encourage them to create a small art piece with iron oxide pigment provided by EPCAMR before the end of the school year in mid-May, early June; Extracurricular activities were difficult to schedule before their mandatory PSSA testing was completed
- Participated in a Microsoft Teams call with *Joe Rosenberg*-[Turning Point Energy](#), Maine to introduce him to EPCAMR's work in PA and to provide him background information on the AMD and abandoned mine land problems in PA

- EPCAMR received word that our long-standing partnership with *Beth Burkhauser*, a veteran art teacher with 40 years of teaching experience, and the 2016 NAEA Emerita Art Educator. and her Interdependence Hexagon Project received the *2023 Ecology and Environment Interest Group's National Art Education Association Outstanding K-12 Project: Elizabeth Burkhauser, The Hexagon Project!* EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment was utilized by students to create artwork in Hexagon patterns; Beth is well deserving of the award and we are always honored to be an integral partner in reaching our youth through art, iron oxide, providing outdoor experiential learning opportunities in our environment, and fostering creative expression shown by students we've worked with over years to create art through their eyes and what they see around them, even if it can sometimes be seen as an environmental justice issue; The project entitled "Transforming Conflicts" used art as a medium to address environmental and ecological challenges and promote awareness about actions to mitigate those challenges; This is part of an annual International Interdependence Hexagon Project (hereafter, The Hexagon Project); The Hexagon Project collaborates with art teachers in the US and internationally to provide opportunities for children and adolescents to address social justice topics through art-making and participate in social action and activism within communities to promote change; Artworks are made on hexagon-shaped templates that stand as a metaphor for the interdependence and interconnectedness of people in our communities and the world; The project was done in collaboration with art teacher *Valerie McEuen* (Sullivan High School, Sullivan, MO), science teacher *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi* (Wyoming Seminary College Prep School, Kingston, PA, and EPCAMR Board Member), and *Bobby Hughes*, Executive Director, of Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Met with *Mark Boris*-Department Lead, Borton Lawson Engineering (a Verdantes Company), Wilkes-Barre, to provide him with an overview of abandoned mine reclamation and AMD projects in the region and the type of technical assistance and outreach EPCAMR provides to the coalfield communities and our partners in the region; Provided Mark with information from *Patt Webb* from PA DEP BAMR on how his firm can get on a list of contractors for future bids on AMD and AML reclamation projects and background information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill and state-wide contacts for PA DEP BAMR and District Mining Offices
- Krista Schneider*-PSU TAP, Hazleton-Technical Advisor, provided EPCAMR with a link to the [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$450 Million To Deploy Clean Energy Projects on Mine Lands -Department of Energy](#); She informed EPCAMR of several large AML sites in the Hazleton area that have been reclaimed and planned for industrial development; The Penn-State Renewable Energy Engineering program faculty may be interested in discussing partnership opportunities, with PPL from a research perspective; Short turnaround on the grant submission however, and our capacity is very limited; It's the organizational capacity that is a limiting factor for EPCAMR at the moment and if these become multi-million dollar projects, fiscal and project management capabilities for a small group like ours will be difficult, especially if they are only reimbursable grants, it will make the implementation and process even more difficult for small non-profits; We are worried about this same issue with the State BAMR and BIL and Infrastructure funds; Lots of funding, however, the pipeline to receive those funds is very challenging
- EPCAMR signed on to a national letter in support of several national appropriations for the FY24 Federal Budget that included \$5 million for the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative under the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) in addition to the OSMRE's full FY24 budget request \$301.9 million; \$447 million for the Mine Safety and Health Administration's budget, particularly for staff to increase inspections at coal mines; \$165 million

for The Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program, including a carveout to support staff to manage the program and funding for a GAO Study of the program.; \$8 million to facilitate the work of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization; and \$200 million to support The Recompete Pilot Program, so long as the program is structured to be inclusive of rural communities

- Worked with [David Heinemann](#), Director, of [NEPADOC](#), to secure the Wilkes-Barre Movies 14 Theatre to premiere his experimental, non-verbal, environmental documentary that involves some areas around the coal region in addition to other industries that define and have historically defined and been a part of Northeastern PA's landscape; He wanted to have EPCAMR's work highlighted in the region if any donations were provided following the screening; EPCAMR Executive Director was a part of a panel discussion following the film debut and several other Staff were in attendance; NEPADOC is a new feature-length documentary about intersections of environment, industry, and identity in Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 300 years; The idea for NEPADOC was borne out of more than a decade of research into the history and culture of the Northeastern region of Pennsylvania (often abbreviated as "NEPA"); Filmed over a period of eight months across more than a dozen Pennsylvania counties, NEPADOC is the first feature film by director David Heineman; Great [article](#) on the film from Northcentral PA

NEPADOC highlights the resilience of a people who, surrounded by the insular beauty of Appalachia, maintain a well-earned mistrust of authority, a fierce sense of independence, and an often-tenuous relationship with their own past; Drawing inspiration from nonverbal documentary landmarks such as *Godfrey Reggio's Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and *Ron Fricke's Baraka* (1992), the filmmakers focused the camera's attention on the many beautiful natural landscapes found throughout the region, on ruins of the bygone lumber and coal industries that defined the region's history, on the hustle and bustle of contemporary life, and on the many faces of those who continue to define NEPA's character and community. NEPADOC combines gorgeous new 4K images, remastered and rarely seen archival footage of the region, and a sweeping synth-driven score into a dizzying and contemplative meditation on culture, on place, and on how we choose to remember the past; In this way, the film showcases the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth in the region, revealing that the story of this place is a story one shared by many places across the globe; *David* and the EPCAMR Executive Director went on WILK-AM and 103.1FM News Radio Talk Show with *Nikki Stone* to promote the film's premiere on Friday afternoon a day before the release; The film featured on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM; Provided *David* a list of historical, art, and cultural organizations to follow up with that he may want to reach out to should he want to set up additional screenings around the NEPA region

- Reached out to PA State Representative [Jim Haddock](#) (Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties-118<sup>th</sup> District) to introduce him to EPCAMR and our line of work in the region; Representative Haddock is also a new member to the State's Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board that the EPCAMR Executive Director is appointed to by the PA State Conservation Commission; Provided Rep. Haddock a rundown on some projects and partners in both counties related to abandoned mine land reclamation, AMD remediation and monitoring, and watershed restoration efforts
- Reached out to State Representative [Paul Takac](#)-(part of Centre County-82<sup>nd</sup> District) who was interested in learning more about rare earth elements in AMD since PSU had just received a large \$2.1M grant to study and conduct research on AMD through a Department of Energy Grant; *Jen Quinn*, Legislative and Political Director for Sierra Club Pennsylvania referred him to EPCAMR

- EPCAMR Executive Director wrote a blog on the benefits of wetlands at the Hanover Marsh property in the Warrior Creek watershed on the North Branch Land Trust's conserved property at the request of *Ellen Ferretti*, Executive Director to share with the Times-Leader, WeConserve PA, and other social media outlets
- EPCAMR Executive Director provided responses to interview questions provided by *Bethany Hanak*-Biology student, Susquehanna University, who were interested in community leaders ideas for policy development solutions for AMD treatment and cleanup in PA
- *Andrew Yablonski*, [Profile Products, LLC](#) requested information on becoming a member industry with EPCAMR and was interested in participating in our PA AMR Conference in October; Provided him with information on both
- Participated in four weekly PA Abandoned Mine Land Campaign conference calls to hear updates on legislation, funding, updates from regional partners around the state, STREAM Act, OSMRE communications, NAAML and IMCC communications, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding as it relates to abandoned mine land reclamation and AMD
- Informed *Christine Czubeck*, Legislative Staff person for *Senator Rosemary Brown*, that EPCAMR was in support of her Community Solar bipartisan PA Senate Bill 550 legislation that advocates for development of solar projects on abandoned mine lands; See [article](#)
- Participated in a White House Energy Briefing online with the [IWG](#) to discuss long-term solutions towards shifting to alternative energy projects in the coalfields including the cleanup of AMD and reclamation of abandoned mine lands to spur economic development and job creation; *Brian Anderson*, Executive Director of the IWG made some announcements along with other federal agency heads on support, resources, funding programs, tax credits, and technical assistance for energy communities; They announced an additional 10% energy [tax credit](#) for solar projects
- Informed *Todd Burns*-NE Regional Director of PA TU, and *Rachel Kester*-Program Coordinator, from PA TU that originally EPCAMR was asked by the Friends of the Nescopeck Creek Watershed association to possibly be a fiduciary sponsor of a grant under the Infrastructure or AMLER program that was discussed at our Board meeting last Fall and then we were informed that PA DEP BAMR was going to take the lead on the project and more than likely either bid or subcontract for preliminary work to be done in regards to the Jeddo AMD Mine Tunnel (See [video](#)), directly; EPCAMR stepped back to a supporting role if they needed us; We still work with Friends of the Nescopeck and assist them throughout the year with water monitoring throughout the watershed, including at the Jeddo Tunnel; *Gary Leander* and *Tim Ference* are the local contacts for [Friends of the Nescopeck](#); *Janet Schmitt*, President of the Western Pocono Chapter TU was inquiring about progress being made in the watershed; EPCAMR suggested that it may be may be best to take direction from the local watershed group; EPCAMR has been and will remain a technical assistance provider; EPCAMR provided Todd and Rachel with information we have available on our website for the [Nescopeck Creek](#) and work that we've done in the watershed
- The BlueGreen Alliance prepared a [fact sheet](#) to showcase the available investments to energy communities in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act
- Attended the PA DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board Meeting via Microsoft Teams

## Community Volunteers

- *Chase Leach*, Penn-State student from Wilkes-Barre, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer over the Summer while he's home prior to heading back to the Harrisburg Campus to complete his Mechanical Engineering degree; EPCAMR signed him up for the NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Lead Observer certification
- EPCAMR worked with *Kobina Ooto*, a Wilkes University football player, who offered to bring over **17** members of his team to a community service cleanup along S. Main Street, Ashley and in Hanover Township, Luzerne County; EPCAMR Executive Director planned the cleanup and coordinated it with the Wilkes University Football team to pick up trash and tires from the Ashley Park n Ride all the way down S. Main Street to the guard rail over Sugar Notch Run, a tributary to Solomon Creek on April 15th; The players cleaned up the drainage swales on both sides of the road of plastics and trash that would have otherwise been sent downstream by heavy rains into the stream; **25** bags (**1125** lbs) of trash were picked up by PA DOT
- Investigated an illegal dump site of tires in the Ridgeview section of Newport Township and found 310 tires dumps along an area close to Newport Creek off Access Road; Coordinated a cleanup with *Todd* and *Nate Eachus* and The Tire Guys to pick up the tires within a few days and covered the cost of the cleanup through funds available through the PA American Water Charitable Trust grant
- Forwarded information on the Nanticoke City-wide Cleanup with the Nanticoke Conservation Club and other partners on April 22<sup>nd</sup>; EPCAMR picked up the costs of tire removal for the project with funding from the PA American Water Charitable Trust; Informed *Megan Boone Valkenburg* from Wilkes University that volunteers are more than welcome
- Provided *Jason Tarnowski*, Earth Conservancy a number of garbage bags and EPCAMR's Litter Crew ahead sign picked up from one of our partners that was borrowing it for the Nanticoke City-wide Cleanup; EC was going to focus on picking up trash along Front Street in the Hanover Section of the Nanticoke
- EPCAMR donated garbage bags and gloves to the North Branch Land Trust for a cleanup volunteers from King's College Environmental Club were completing on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for Earth Day at the Hanover Marsh along Spencer Road, Hanover Township, Luzerne County; *Melissa Lopez* picked the supplies up; **15** tires were collected and **30** bags of trash (~**1500** lbs); They got some local media [coverage](#)

## Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

- EPCAMR Executive Director applied for a scholarship to attend the first day of the [Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference](#) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Harrisburg to talk about our work in the Chesapeake Bay watershed on a panel that will discuss the benefits of alternative solar energy on abandoned mine lands and the reclamation of those sites to help clean up the sediment issues affecting the watershed
- Attended the Junior Achievement STEM outreach and education event with over **2000** high school students in the Northeast Region on April 18th at the Mohegan Sun, Wilkes-Barre on our work in the region to provide examples of the type of career opportunities that are available in the field of abandoned mine land reclamation and AMD cleanup



- The PA AMR Conference Planning Committee looks like they will decide on [travel mugs](#) with our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on them to give to conference attendees in October at the PA AMR Conference; We'll look to order them in a few months; You can get a silicone lid that can also be used on gas station coffee cups; They are made from recycled plastic in the USA (San Diego, CA), BPA Free and dishwasher and microwave safe; There was some consideration for beanies and cozies too that are being researched for pricing to present before the next Committee meeting; Sent additional comments back to *Shaina* at the Altoona Grand Hotel for incorporation into the contract agreement for the Conference after committee members reviewed it again; Ordered a Zettle Card Reader to be able to take payments with credit cards at the Conference since the Here Card no longer is supported; Followed up with potential speakers to get them to submit their abstracts using our easy fillable PDF form; Discussed the tour and the need for additional vans or a bus and insurance policy; Scot May from NASLR provided the Committee with a copy of their policy
- Submitted a bio for the Executive Director to *Michael Edelman*, with the PA American Institute of Professional Geologist (AIPG) PA Section, who is scheduled to be a guest speaker on May 5<sup>th</sup>, to talk about regional activities in AMD and abandoned mine land reclamation as well as funding opportunities at their Annual Regional Sections Meeting of a number of surrounding State Sections in Middletown, PA at the Bureau of Topographic Survey Office
- *Kaitlyn Spangler* -Postdoctoral Scholar in the Geography Department at Penn State University requested that EPCAMR be a panel presenter as a part of [Penn State's first annual Climate Solutions Symposium](#), to be held on May 22 and 23 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center; The Executive Director would be a part of a [breakout session panel on energy justice](#); It's their goal to have a panel of 3-5 speakers to first define energy justice broadly and in their work, as well as to discuss the solution pathways they are building toward more decarbonized and just communities through a moderated discussion, that would include our work in the coalfields of Northeastern and Northcentral PA, as well as our state-wide involvement in abandoned mine land reclamation and environmental justice issues; The EPCAMR Executive Director will present virtually since he will be in Harrisburg that same day on another panel at the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference
- EPCAMR Executive Director was asked to again be a part of the Renewables Work for PA (RW4PA) Coalition, the PA Solar & Storage Industries Association (PASSIA), [PA Solar Center's Renewable Summit](#) to talk about abandoned mine land reclamation funding and progress being made with recent influx of Federal funding to PA on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May in Camp Hill at the Penn Harris Hotel
- EPCAMR was invited to make a brief presentation and to exhibit at the White Haven Trout Festival sponsored by the Western Pocono Trout Unlimited Chapter at the White Haven Library and Community Center on June 3, 2023 from 12-5

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts; Provided Denise with a copy of the monthly bank statement for Quickbooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for the April 2023 renewal with Highmark; Paid EC the rent; Made deposits to FNB for incoming checks; Met with *Janice Perry*, FNB to drop off quarterly retirement contributions for EPCAMR Staff for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
- Called Highmark BC/BS Member Services to receive a duplicate copy of the 1095 Form that indicates health care coverage for EPCAMR Staff
- EPCAMR was having discussions with *Branden Diehl* around the Federal IIJA Reimbursement language since it may be a hindrance and a burden for smaller non-profits; Concerns and ideas were relayed to Staff at Senator Casey's Office
- Communicating with *Greg Berry*-The Sport Shirt, to see a sample of the quality of the t-shirts that he is offering through his company; EPCAMR Staff could use a nice quality made safety t-shirt for when we are in the field and we're looking into pricing
- Worked on completing several renewal forms for the PA Department of Revenue for EPCAMR's Sales Tax Exemption Certificate
- Worked on revising and correcting our November 2022 through January 2023 319 Request for Reimbursement and forwarded it to *Trish Attardo*, our Project Officer
- Renewed EPCAMR's annual General Liability Insurance and membership with the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers for 2023-2024 and completed the questionnaire of dates when we have advanced notice of scheduled meetings, conferences, and events
- Completed the IPP Registration documentation for EPCAMR for the Federal Treasury Department
- Completed the April 2023 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for the Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike*