



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 2021 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced 29, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. Troubleshoot and repaired scanner. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, a call with **APEX Energy, Luzerne & Lackawanna CPB CAP Stakeholder Meetings**, & coordinated the **Centralia Tree Planting Event**
- Sampled AMD Treatment System on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, & 3 on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA**. Sampled AMD sites on **Lycoming Cr.** with **TU** & for nutrients in **Luzerne Co.** for the **CAP**.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and www.epcamr.org; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Aided Laura in accessing the Centralia Tree Planting Sign Up form, spreadsheet and updates to the webpage on the EPCAMR website. With all the publicity the list filled up quickly and we needed to switch over to a waiting list. Coordinated with Joe Sapienza of Centone Pictures to post "How to plant GrowBoxx" informational videos to our YouTube channel.
- Looked into Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) water quality, macroinvertebrate and fish sampling results from Black Creek of the Nescopeck Watershed. Recommendations suggested that the AMD from Derringer and Gowan Tunnel AMD Discharges were not really a problem anymore once the mine water mixed with stream water, but upstream sediment eroding off culm banks was clogging the stream and impacting macroinvertebrates.
- Had a discussion regarding Solar on Brownfields/Grayfields with EPCAMR Past President, Ed Wytovich. He was gathering info to talk to PA representatives and Dave Hess about the Governor's announcement to have 50% of government buildings run by solar power, but currently the Pennsylvania PULSE (Project to Utilize Light and Solar Energy) proposal does not promote Brownfields/Grayfields reuse. Also, the PA House is considering legislation to support community solar.
- Working on updates to the EPCAMR Online Store to incorporate/test PayPal and add products from previous stores. The new store is built on WordPress and the WooCommerce platform which is more familiar than the past online store platforms. I knew about WooCommerce a few years ago, but it was not well developed. Since then, the platform has progressed to include key features we need such as check payments and enhanced security.
- Forwarded Centralia Tree Planting media calls to Robert. Received 2 general calls regarding our Centralia Tree Planting project threatening lawsuits. Made EPCAMR Executive Director and Environmental Education Specialist aware so we can prepare and make sure all waivers are in order. Also getting calls from people asking to donate to the organization.
- Updated part-time GIS Technician job description and sent to EPCAMR Executive Director over Google Docs. [MSI]

- Added plugins to EPCAMR online store to increase functionality and security as suggested by our webhost, HostGator (ex. WPForms for contact forms, and PDF invoices and packing slips). Added WooCommerce Custom Product Addons to add fill-in text forms and check-boxes to products mainly to facilitate AMR Conference Registrations.
- Foot treatment in morning went to office afterward. Researched the availability of 6' tree stakes and 6' tall chicken wire. Home Depot website said they were in-stock at the store in Wilkes-Barre. Stopped by Home Depot to pick up the supplies, but unfortunately they weren't actually in stock in the store. After walking across the store several times to find staff to help locate the missing supplies, I had to leave the store because of foot pain.
- Took ATV down to Centralia with Denise on Thursday. Picked up 4' garden stakes from Home Depot on the way back.
- Was interviewed by Centone film crew in the safe at the office for the Appalachian Tree Planting Project. Picked up 6' tall chicken wire on the way down to Centralia. Cut some chicken wire into 3' sections to wrap around the trees for deer protection. EPCAMR staff test planted a few trees with Centone film crew on Friday.
- Ran registration table with Denise and past EPCAMR Board treasurer, Cheryl Brobst. Finished cutting chicken wire to fence trees on Saturday.
- Traveled back down to Centralia for a half 1/2 day trip to get ATV and other supplies on Sunday. Took Monday off.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a zoom call with APEX Energy solar producers to see how we could help them in their goals to develop on AML.
- Finished AC Power Solar on AML Phase 2 proposal to work on 6 sites identified with the GIS tool. EPCAMR plans to contact the landowners for half the sites to gauge interest in solar and gather historical data on each site from the AMLIS inventory.
- Approved report, plans, and budget with EPCAMR Executive Director on King's College Iron Oxide Processor development project.
- Caught up with Patrick on MSI program. Record 89 NMMR maps from July-September as georeferenced (already marked as scanned) and discussed that I needed to get AUX files to him (from Shawnese and Steve).
- Caught up on time sheets and travel reimbursements.
- Traveled to the Lycoming Creek Watershed and met up with Walt Nicholson, Trout Unlimited (TU) Susquehanna Chapter to measure AMD seeps near Ralston, PA. Impacted tributaries, Red Run and Dutchman Run were on opposite sides of the valley with discharges coming from mines at the top of the mountains that flank the valley.
- Participated in the PA AML Campaign call then traveled to the office to install mudflaps on the ATV with VISTA, Kyle Argenziano.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the Luzerne and Lackawanna Chesapeake Bay County Action Plan (CAP) Stakeholder Kickoff Meetings. Each meeting was hosted by Larson Design Group through video chat and focused on similar issues. The stakeholders from each meeting were organized into workgroups. [CAP]

Technical Assistance:

- Repaired the Colortrac 56" plotter flickering issue. Took apart the light panels and tested each. Found the malfunctioning panel and replaced it temporarily with a left-hand panel while the right-hand panel can be shipped from California.
- Spoke with Cheryl Nolan who reported she got her DIY Mayfly to send data to monitormywatershed.org and she was ready to install it on the field. Looked up property owners at the site she planned to deploy it along the Lackawanna River near Archbald. The west bank of the river is owned by Archbald Borough and the east bank is owned by Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. Cheryl followed up with those entities and reported that it was successfully installed. [See the data here.](#)
- Went to office and tested YSI Pro Plus meter back from repairs. It was measuring the pH of all 3 pH buffers within a few hundredths of a decimal. It was reading DO of the air to be 100% saturation which was perfect. It was reading ORP of the Zobell Solution around 240 mV and

according to the table at room temp (20C) it should be reading 230.35 mV. The ORP was the only parameter we decided to re-calibrate.

- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream and in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift) with newly refurbished YSI Pro Plus Meter. Recorded data in a database for reporting to the Sullivan Conservation District (SCD) and Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Sampled Nutrients in Luzerne County AMD Part 2 with ARIPPA funding: Duryea Breach, Plainsville Boreholes, Butler Water Tunnel, Knox Mine Disaster Seeps, Huber No. 3 Vein Seep, and Susquehanna No. Seep. Recorded and sent results to John Levitsky. [LCD]
- Research Susquehanna No. 7 Seep location with mine maps as we were concerned that we did not sample in the correct location. Found a potentially better location to look for the seep though it was not marked on any maps.
- Discovered Chrome will no longer download ZIP files even if the security setting is checked. Decided to use WaterFox browser instead and it opens the whole data1.common.psu.edu FTP site which is helpful in finding maps with bad links in PHUMMIS.
- QA/QC Nanticoke Upper Baltimore and Wilkes-Barre West Top Baltimore mosaics. Removed WBDO_WAR-02-04 from Wilkes-Barre West Top Baltimore as it was already in Wilkes-Barre West Bottom Baltimore mosaic. Georeferenced BMSA_3879-001 and BLUE_HUB-20-08 then added them to Wilkes-Barre West Top Baltimore Mosaic to fill in a gap. Removed WBDO_015-0C-09-02, WBDO_015-0B-09-01 and WBDO_015-0B-09-03 (both were dark copies), georeferenced BLUE_HUB-24-09 and BLUE_HUB-23-09 (linens) and added to Wilkes-Barre West Baltimore Mosaic. [MSI]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek and 2 flow sites in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed. Recorded data into sampling spreadsheet and delivered to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Replaced the LED panel in the 56" map scanner but still seeing blue lines on the opposite side of the scanner in a scanned image. Marked them for later investigation. [MSI]
- Continue QA/QC Wilkes-Barre West Ross vein mosaics. Georeferenced and added BLUE_HUB-17-10-01, BLUE_HUB-22-10-01, BLUE_HUB-23-10, BLUE_HUB-24-10-01, BLUE_HUB-26-10-01, BLUE_HUB-26-10-02, BLUE_HUB-28-10-01, BLUE_HUB-28-10-02, BLUE_HUB-28-10-03, BLUE_HUB-32-10-01 and BLUE_HUB-32-10-02 to replace 1:400 maps in the Wilkes-Barre West Top Ross mosaic. Evaluated BLUE_KIN-0A-10-02 thru 06 (Woodward) for addition to either Top or Bottom Ross Wilkes-Barre West mosaics. Georeferenced BLUE_KIN-0A-10-05 and 06. [MSI]
- 29 Added BLUE_KIN-0A-10-04 to Wilkes-Barre West Bottom Ross Mosaic. Removed BMSA_4928-20 and 22 from Wilkes-Barre West Top Ross Mosaic. Researched Franklin Colliery maps and found all veins in National Mine Map Repository (NMMR), but also copies in Wilkes-Barre District Office (WBDO) and Bureau of Mine Safety Administration (BMSA) state collections, some copies are worse than others. Added BMSA_5326-013 (Sugar Notch Twin) to Wilkes-Barre West Top Ross mosaic. Georeferenced and added BMSA_4733-001 (Franklin Middle Skidmore) to the Wilkes-Barre West Top Ross Mosaic. Brought over BMSA_1860-001 and geor_BMSA_1858-001_B (Loree) from the Top and Bottom Ross (respectively) Kingston Mosaics and EPCAMR_010911-06 and EPCAMR_010913-05 from the Nanticoke Top Ross mosaic. [MSI]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.