



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 2023 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a **PA AML Campaign** call, a **PA AMR Conference Committee** call, a watershed tour with professor from **Columbia University**, and hosted a Solar on AML Focus Groups in Nanticoke with **DEP EPO**
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; sampled 3 AMD TS, upstream & downstream on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** and **SCD**, sampled several sites in **Newport, Nanticoke & Warrior Creeks** for **NFWF** & recon 27 sampling sites in **Shamokin Cr.** for **SCRA**.
- Updated www.PaSolarMinedLands.org, www.TreatMineWater.com and www.EPCAMR.org; administered G Suite for Nonprofits and social media sites; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Finished writing the EPCAMR Program Manager Progress report for November.
- Created and sent a logistics email to 16 attendees of the last PA Solar on Mined Lands Focus Group meeting at Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) in Nanticoke.
- Created RAMLIS reports for Exeter North and Sullivan Trail Exeter AML Problem areas to aide a potential AML grant.
- Followed up on a potential idea for swag that the AMR Conference committee brought up on the last call. Worked with SAVR to design a 25th anniversary AMR Conference cup. Their artist asked for a vector file of the logo. Discovered, with the help of Google search, how to turn the AMR Conference pixelated logo into a vector file in Adobe Illustrator. Finalized edits to the Altoona Grand Hotel contract and sent to Shaina for changes which will incorporate National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) with the AMR Conference. Changes to treatminewater.com program page to reflect the combined conference with NASLR.
- Finished writing the EPCAMR Program Manager Progress reports for December and January.
- Reworked and submitted the November-January 319 reimbursement. Plan to submit another 2 months and then quarterly reimbursement.
- PA Solar on Mined Lands LCCC Focus Group meeting.
- Took recyclables to GFL Environmental but noticed that the 2 dumpsters that were supposed to be dedicated for non-profit recycling were overflowing and on the ground. Wondered if GFL will stop accepting recyclables from nonprofits? If so, we will need to find other places to recycle.
- On vacation April 11-18.
- Ordered bottles and CO2 kit for Shamokin Sampling. Needed 162 of each 16oz(500mL) and 4oz(125mL) LDPE wide-mouth bottles for 6 months of sampling. The original plan was to order from US Plastics, but when I went to order the website showed most of the bottles would be on

backorder. Found similar LDPE wide-mouth bottles on Grainger (at a lower cost) and asked Tetra Tech if it was OK to substitute these. The reply was yes, but then was made aware that both metals and dissolved metals were required which doubled the number of 4oz bottles needed. This will add ~\$370 to the supplies line that we quoted. I checked to make sure that the 0.45 micron filters we use are sufficient for dissolved parameters. Ordered the HACH CO2 CA-23 test kit but it will ship in 3-5 weeks. Called the PA DEP Lab to see when we could pick up the acid. Then there was a discussion between PA DEP BAMR and Tetra Tech about sampling Ferrous Iron which required Hydrochloric Acid as the fixer. Received a sampling methods document from Tetra Tech shortly after that required the bottles to be HDPE plastic. Since I had already ordered the LDPE bottles, I called the DEP Lab back to make sure LDPE plastic would suffice. The response was mixed but basically said LDPE would work. I also had them add HCL acid and address stickers for our coolers to the pickup order the following week. Sampling will have to start in May due to scheduling conflicts, delays in contract negotiations and far too many last-minute changes.

- Updated AML statistics and made maps for several more Congressional Districts in PA. Shared with the PA AML Campaign.
- Discovered that we could use Eventbrite for free if we did not charge a registration fee for an event. This would be perfect for the Solar on AML Summit and create a separate process than running the registration through our EPCAMR Online Store. Setup an event with tickets for Solar on AML.
- Participated in a field tour of Southern Wyoming Valley AMD discharges with Executive Director and Sean Kinney-Columbia U. Collaborating on a grant to monitor the discharges and set up transducers.
- Purchased supplies for Shamokin Sampling and coordinated with DEP staff to prepare for sampling the following week. There was still some confusion as to what parameters were being sampled, but we prepared the sampling sheets and printed labels for the bottles.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in an AMR conference call with other AMR Conference committee staff to work out details with the contract.
- Fixed the [Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System \(RAMLIS\) on our ArcGIS Online](#) portal. At some point some of the features lost the ability to display information. Found a setting to enable popup and that fixed it. Unfortunately, little things break on the interactive map occasionally.
- Traveled to Shamokin Creek Watershed to scout out sampling sites with Jim Koharski of the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA). We visited all 27 sites to make sure we could efficiently access each site. We recorded the latitude and longitude of each site to compare to a map we created earlier. It was a good thing that we visited the sites a week prior because we discovered we needed to bring rope to one of the last sites to rappel over the side of the bank to access one of the Cameron Mine discharges.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in an AML Campaign call after missing a few weeks.
- Looked into commercial liability insurance for renting vans for AMR conference tour.
- Added and changed locations of monitoring points in the Shamokin Watershed shapefile based on the reconnaissance earlier in the week. Correspondence with BAMR, Tetra Tech and Northumberland County Conservation District (NCCD) regarding the sampling event next week.

Technical Assistance:

- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the SCD & Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Evaluated Forest City Quadrangle mine map mosaics submitted by Shawnese Taylor, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist. Repaired file paths in ArcGIS Pro. In Forest City Quadrangle Lo Pittston vein mosaic, WBDO_052-06-01 was poorly georeferenced in 2015. Re-georeferenced this map now that the Forest City Quadrangle surface is available. As expected, the control points from 2015 were based on house outlines on the vein map, but those are

actually wrong when lined up with the grids and property boundaries from the surface map. The locations of houses were determined by a mathematical equation (apparently incorrect in this case) and placed on the vein maps by mining engineers who created the maps. Edited the boundaries of several more mosaics and sent updates to Shawnese for incorporation into her mosaic geodatabases (GDBs). Notified her she could start digitizing after updating her mosaic and after she completes the Digitizing Training posted to the EPCAMR SharePoint. [MSI]

- Sent along a marked-up map from Dr Klemow's report on Nanticoke and Newport Creeks for EPCAMR staff to field sample streams for macros, chemistry and flow while I am on vacation. The stream monitoring points were edited slightly after the fish shocking study last fall, so I also created a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Southern Wyoming Valley Brook Trout and Black Duck Habitat maps which includes all the wetlands we sampled and updated stream monitoring point locations. Warrior Creek watershed monitoring locations are also included on this map. Exported as a GeoPDF for staff to use the next time they go and sample the streams. [NFWF]
- Joined EPCAMR staff in monitoring several locations in Newport, Nanticoke, and Warrior Creek Watersheds for macroinvertebrates and chemistry to wrap up the sampling for the project. [NFWF].
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. Quarterly collection of transducer data from Nanticoke Watershed. [EC]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.