



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Executive Director and EE Intern, *Laura Rinehimer*, met with *Liz Masi*, Education Coordinator and *Carol McGrane*-Director of The Graham Academy to discuss partnering on our **Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyard Project** and starting a **Trout in the Classroom Program** for 2019 for their classes with students with autism; Suggested that Liz reach out to the Stanley Cooper Chapter of TU with a request for an amount of funds that they would need to start up their tank based on what supplies and materials they have and need
- Promoted a fundraising raffle on EPCAMR's social media outlets at the request of *John McGovern*, Ashley Area Trout Stocking Association to raise funds for their 2019 Annual Fish Stocking on Solomon Creek in Ashley Borough at the location of our recently completed **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Improvement Project**
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an AMD Tie-Dye and Macro-Invertebrate ID Workshop in partnership with the PA American Water **2018 Water Camp** at the Peckville Library and along the Lackawanna River with *Bernie McGurl*, Executive Director-Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) on August 8th
- Began additional filming with *John Welsh* and *Joe Sapienza* for the pilot of "**RECLAIMING PA**" at Solomon Creek boreholes and Askam AMD Treatment System; Reviewed the opening trailer to the pilot sent by *Joe Sapienza*; Reviewed the questions that will be asked for the first series with Mike
- Reached out to *Doug Hamilton*, Keystone Mission, Sherman Hills-Wilkes-Barre, PA to inquire what type of assistance he was looking for from EPCAMR; Explained to him EPCAMR's mission; Informed him that we have worked previously with the youth from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church's Living Youth Ministry on several projects
- EPCAMR was featured on the front page of the Patriot News, Harrisburg, PA on a leading article entitled "WHY ARE SO MANY PA WATERWAYS ORANGE?"
- Coordinated with *Dr. Jessica Nolan*, Scranton U. about setting up a screening of the Centralia documentary with *Joe Sapienza*; The Chair of the History Department is willing to co-sponsor the public screening

- Interviewed by *Carrie Pauling*, freelance writer for *Susquehanna Life*, a regional magazine on the area's coal mining heritage, the pride that residents have in the culture of coal mining, reclamation, watershed restoration, and EPCAMR's mission
- Provided *Dr. Krasny*- Cornell U. with a copy of the EPCAMR Presentation on our regional work that will be used for the Fall Webinar for her Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Civic Ecology on October 18
- Coordinated with *Lorne Possinger*-PA DCNR on a status update on the possible purchase of the Butler Enterprise Tract within the Catawissa Creek Watershed at the request of one of our EPCAMR Board Members, Peter Haentjens; Offered our continued support and provided him with a copy of our April 24 Letter of Support that was previously submitted to *Katie Woodbury*, PA DCNR, Office of Planning & Policy
- Provided an updated to *Lyndsey Taurus*, from the Alliance from Appalachia and *Veronica Coptis*, from the Citizens Coal Council, on EPCAMR's work in our region on the RECLAIM Act and reclamation projects
- Provided *Peter Oullette*, Managing Director, [Clean Money Squad PA](#), and State Coordinator for [Representing PA](#), with questions related to abandoned mine reclamation that may be asked at an upcoming planned Luzerne County Congressional Forum

Rare Earth Elements PA AML Pilot Demonstration Project Proposal- Provided over two dozen sites of AMD discharges from the EPCAMR Region to the project partners for review

Technical Assistance

- Provided *Jessica Sprajcar*- Executive Director, [RiverStewards](#) with links and contact information to organizations that have available important databases that are related to water quality within PA; She is partnering with Harrisburg University on developing a shared database clearinghouse and development of a future collaborative network within the Susquehanna River watershed; Sent her information on [Datashed](#) and the [SRBC Mine Drainage Portal](#)
- Provided *Nate Lotze*, Nature Conservancy with two images from our Lewis Mine AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation Project in Sullivan County to possibly use in a media campaign for Renewing Growing Greener
- *David Brocca*, Director for the Knox Mine Disaster Documentary stopped in the Office to pick up some map scans
- Requested a copy of the **Packer 5 Design Growing Greener Grant** submitted by Skelly & Loy, on behalf of the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association; EPCAMR prepared a Letter of Support and Commitment for the application and provided it to *Joe Mills*, Skelly & Loy; Offered to review the mine maps in the area
- Received a paper from *Dan Bochicchio*, Skybernetics Drone Technology, written by Martin Helmke, West Chester University, on the potential for harnessing geo-thermal energy from coal mine fires; *Martin* and *Dan* worked with EPCAMR while flying over Centralia for geo-thermal readings of the mine fire signature; Another article was written in the PCPG Newsletter
- Received a copy of *Peter Horger's* research paper on his study of the Jermyn AMD Outfall in the Lackawanna River Watershed

- Provided *Al Budinsky*, Skelly & Loy, Inc. with photos of the Valley View Tunnel, the Markson, and E. Brookside Shaft
- *Shawnese Taylor* began looking into 3D Printers for EPCAMR so that we might be able to write a grant to obtain one and use it for printing some of our underground mine pool models and coal measures
- Provided *Joe J. Carey Sr.*, with a Letter of Support for the West Side Landfill Reclamation, Plymouth Township at his request

Project Coordination

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- *Ryan Pippy*, District Office Manager-Rep. Kaufer's Office provided EPCAMR with contact information *Paul Macknosky*, Regional Director of the NE Office of the PA DCED, to loop him in on the project so he can keep the Governor's Office up to speed on the progress once the reclamation and economic development project gets underway; Forwarded *Paul* background information on the project and key documents and maps to get him acquainted with the effort underway; Worked with *Hank Zielinski*, Northampton Generating Company, L.P. and *Mike* to get *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President and *Christine Haldeman*, EPCAMR Secretary, to sign the necessary signature sheets for the project; Informed *Bernie Walko*, PA DEP BAMR that EPCAMR had sent down our fully signed grant agreement to *Donna Ullrich*, PA DEP Harrisburg for the remaining signatures; Informed *Bernie and Hank Zielinski*, Northampton Fuels Generating, LP that EPCAMR was working with Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management to execute the Professional Services Agreement following the review by attorneys from both parties and that Keystone was working on executing the Pagnotti Enterprises lease; Provided *Donna* with the Mining License documents from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management and their Insurance Certificate of Liability; EPCAMR provided *Donna* with our Application Form needed for Contract Operator Approval and Ownership and Control; Revised the Budget over a 5 year period and obtained the additional signature sheet signed by the EPCAMR President and Secretary; PA DEP NE Region is planning a public information meeting on the project for November 7, 2019 at the Swoyersville Hose Company from 6-8PM, under the direction of *Colleen Connelly*, Community Relations Coordinator

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyard

- Began filming documentary and short film for the Growboxx Project with *John Welsh* and the EPCAMR Staff; Attended the Wilkes-Barre Farmer's Market to film and talk to local and regional farmers and growers of fresh fruits and vegetables; Filmed some of the curriculum development with; Provided *Rachael* with a list of the farmers that EPCAMR interacted with at the Wilkes-Barre City Farmer's Market and discussed how to create the Food Desert Map; Forwarded a link to Staff on a [Winter Growing Guide and Overwintering Schedule](#) for planting vegetables from Johnny's Selected Seeds; Tom Clark-SRBC provided EPCAMR with a link to [What, When, & How to Grow Garden Vegetables](#) to support the project; *Lisa Van Houten*-Full Circle Mushroom Compost provided EPCAMR with a calendar for planting vegetables; Discussed meeting with *Ray Clarke* from Huber Breaker Preservation Society at his house to look at his patchtown garden and interviewing him for the film; Coordinated with *Liz Masi* from Graham Academy on when we could come over and film the elementary school's garden area; EPCAMR Staff are officially Green Musketeers with Groasis;

Provided ISI, LLC with invoices for the ARRI/OSMRE Conference attendance reimbursement and some initial working capital for the project; Advised Denise and Laura that they will need to follow up with *Mrs. Jessica Fletcher*, Elementary School principal at the Greater Nanticoke Area School District who the EPCAMR Executive Director has a chance to briefly talk to about the project and our interest to work with an interested 4th grade section and teacher in the Spring 2019; Received an animated video of the Groasis Growboxx from *Pieter Hoff*, Groasis CEO

Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project

- Worked on completing the Reimbursement and Application for Reimbursement Supplemental Sheets for the project to bring it to a close and sent them to the *Gregg Davis*, PA DEP Project Manager

Plainsville AMD Borehole Monitoring Project

- Discussed with *John Levitsky*, Watershed Specialist, Luzerne Conservation District, the plans to continue to monitor the Plainsville AMD Borehole and conduct a sludge sampling effort within the 13 acre abandoned topsoil pit filled with AMD; John prepared an ARIPPA grant to support the monitoring of the Plainsville Borehole

Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project

- Provided *Nick Lylo*-PA DCNR District Forester with the weight of the drill rig that will be on-site in Mocanaqua drilling the 4 monitoring boreholes in September 2018 and the estimated number of days to complete the drilling at 4 days according to Eichelbergers; The EPCAMR submission to DCNR for a Mineral Prospecting Permit for State Forest lands in Pinchot State Forest to investigate and monitor the deep abandoned mines on the Mocanaqua Tract, has been completed and executed by the Department as of August 1, 2018; Entered the water quality data from 8-27-18 into the water quality database; Worked on the Mocanaqua Road Use Agreement with *Mike* to forward to *Nick* and all project partners along with the map of the road and locations of the boreholes; Provided updated monthly information on the status of the project on a Conference call with SRBC and partners on 8-7-18; The drilling dates were set for September 10-14

Luzerne County Rail Corporation Mapping Project

- Worked on drafting a professional services agreement to work with the Luzerne County Rail Corporation that owns some active and abandoned railroad lines that lie over abandoned mines throughout the County who are looking for EPCAMR to scan, digitize, and geo-reference an estimated 300 maps that are in their collection; Submitted the draft agreement to *Andy Reilly*, Executive Director of the LCRC

Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration

- Followed up with *Greg Gulick*, Ashley Borough Manager to get a status update on *Matthew Williams's* Community Service Project; Informed *Matthew Williams*, Eagle Scout candidate, who will be proposing to the Boy Scouts of America a community service project to construct and install an informational kiosk within the Ashley Borough Park, along with 4 new trash barrels that Ashley Borough Council approved his proposal; Mailed his paperwork back to him once it was received from Ashley Borough, who had approved the project; Approved of the interpretative sign quote from Fossil Industries and made the deposit payment; Provided high resolution photos and text for the informational signage to Fossil

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Spoke with *Tom Mayka*, Dallas Area Municipal Authority Stormwater Coordinator to schedule some time to get into the field within the watershed for some field reconnaissance in the tributaries to the Toby Creek as a preliminary way to get GPS points of potential locations that will need further investigation; Toured the Goodleigh Farm area along Upper Demunds Road with a local resident who was familiar with the area to get a sense of where that particular stretch of Toby Creek flows; Met with *Tom Mayka* in the EPCAMR Office and scheduled a field reconnaissance of the tributaries in Kingston Township, PA to start out; Downloaded dozens of pictures to label and document from the field reconnaissance on August 27; Provided a completed draft document of the notes for the field reconnaissance to *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District and *Tom Mayka* for their review and comments

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Followed up with *Rob Dubas*, Keep PA Beautiful about the Camera Loaner Surveillance Program for Centralia to install cameras in the future once the PA DCED Legal Department approves the placement of the cameras; Dave Hess published an [article](#) to help spread the word about our October 20th Fall Cleanup in Centralia; Received approval and financial support in the form of a **\$250** donation from Pagnotti Enterprises to access the Graffiti Highway to clean up the road and illegal dumping of spray paint cans alongside of the guard rail and in the drainage ditches along the entire length of the road; Registered the Centralia Cleanup with Keep PA Beautiful through the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC); The [Centralia Cleanup Event Page](#) was created on EPCAMR's social media page; Worked on designing a graphic for the Centralia T-shirt for the volunteers; *Andrew Hagenbuch*, posted information about the cleanup on his www.centraliapa.org site; Provided The Daily News Item with information on the cleanup to help with the promotion of the event
- Thanked *Dr. Rose* from King's College for providing EPCAMR with the results of the survey her Environmental Economics class conducted and informed her that I would review the results of the data and see how EPCAMR could use them to help us with further outreach into our communities impacted by past mining practices; Completed a Community Partner Service Learning Evaluation Form as well and submitted it to *Dr. Bolan*
- Coordinated a Day of Service project with Wyoming Seminary Upper School and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Chair of the Science Department, have students come over and process EPCAMR's iron oxide
- *Corey Bower*, Bloomsburg, PA, who works for the Columbia County Conservation District, signed up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR and receive our monthly newsletter

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Participated in the PA AMR Conference call to discuss the **2019 PA AMR Joint Conference** Planning with NAAMLPA and NASLR
- Attended the **ARRIPA Trade Association Convention and Awards Luncheon** to accept a donation of **\$2500** for EPCAMR's Mini-Grant Program for 2018; \$1750 each will be awarded to the Centralia Cleanup, sponsored by the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association and Plainsville AMD Borehole Monitoring, sponsored by the Luzerne Conservation District
- Several of the EPCAMR Staff attended the **ARRI/OSMRE Conference** in Indiana, PA; EPCAMR was a sponsor of the Conference and set up an Exhibit as well as talked to Federal partners and regional non-profits on our upcoming Growboxx Project; Provided *Claudia* with a Summary Report from the conference and the agenda and program booklet following the event
- Closed out the 2018 Budget numbers for the **20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference**; Provided Craig Morgan, Winner of the 2018 Mayfly Award for Eastern PA with a brief write-up on the Award and sent him a few pictures of him receiving the award; Provided the Conference Committee with a potential presentation for 2019 in Pittsburgh from Collin Lennox on his new [Portable Lab Scale Bioreactors Cleaning Water 2.0](#)
- EPCAMR Executive Director applied for a scholarship to attend a one-day Fundamentals of Financial Management Training sponsored by the Moses Taylor Foundation and the Scranton Area Foundation Center for Community Leadership and Non-Profit Excellence to be presented by the Non-Profit Center at LaSalle University

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 August 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Attended the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting; Finalized the Service Agreement with Keystone Reclamation and mailed it to Matt Cochran, and sent the Mining License Application and Notary documents to Harrisburg for the **Swoyersville Refuse Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project**
- Submitted timesheets to EDSI for the TWE Interns working for EPCAMR and inquired about the transition from the TWE to the On the Job Training (OJT) Program at CareerLink with *Kevin Ryan* and *Mike Vacula* before all of the interns have completed their internships and EPCAMR has to make a decision on who they may hire full-time and part-time; Provided *Kevin* with the job description for the GIS Technician full-time position that we are considering interviewing *Shawnese* and *Scott* for; Met with *Mike Vacula* to sign the OJT agreement with EDSI
- Requested that *Denise* take a look at the 1st Federal Charitable Foundation grant round to see if EPCAMR can apply again this year
- Checked with OneSource on an anticipated payroll services increase for 2019; Provided OneSource with all the necessary paperwork to bring *Shawnese Taylor* on as a Full-Time MSI GIS Watershed Specialist under the **MSI Mine Mapping Grant**