

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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Aug 2023 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Swoyersville Harry E. AML Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project

- Submitted a Progress Reports and an invoice for Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management for July 2023 for excavation, hauling, and transportation of waste culm to the Panther Creek Co-Gen and Northampton Generating Station upon review of all the documentation submitted; Received and reviewed the Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC) Extension Letter from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management to the PA DEP Bureau of Mining Operations with a new termination date of September 30, 2028 and a new milestone date of October 31st 2024; Received an updated Certificate of Liability Insurance from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management, LLC and passed it along to the State Workers' Insurance Fund auditor for EPCAMR's Policy

Hollywood AMD & Coal Refuse Reclamation into Rare Earth Elements (REE) with Tetra Tech

- Worked on and completed the previously submitted grant application for several days with updates for re-submission in late August 2023 to PA DEP's AMD/AML Grant Program with Tetra Tech prior to submission; Received an official response back from PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management on the direction for any required approvals or permits from them for the proposed Hollywood Small-Scale REE/CM Recovery Facility to include with the application; No Waste Management permit is necessary because the Department believes that the coal materials that are being utilized are not considered a residual waste and therefore does not need a permit for processing. However, any waste generated off the process is to be managed and disposed of as a waste in a permitted disposal site; Received the MOU between PA DCNR and PA DEP BAMR

Freya Site AML Reclamation Project (proposed)

- *Jeff Randolph*, Managing Partner-BlueCup LLC called to inquire whether or not EPCAMR had heard anything on a recently submitted grant for the abandoned mine land reclamation project along State Route 309 in Hazle Township; EPCAMR hadn't heard anything to date and the project may still be going through the vetting process with the OSMRE

Just Transition Fund Rare Earth Elements Project

- *Chase Leach*, a Penn-State University student and EPCAMR volunteer created a brief literature review document of previous work, resources, and documents on rare earth elements that EPCAMR will build upon; Reviewed the 41 Anthracite samples that were summarized in the "*Dissolved metals and associated constituents in abandoned coal-mine discharges, Pennsylvania, USA. Part 1: Constituent quantities and correlations*" USGS 2008 report provided to EPCAMR by *Charles A Cravotta III*, Ph.D. P.G., Research Hydrologist/Geochemist, US Geologic Survey; Participated in a conference call with *Chad Ralston*, who was interested in hearing about EPCAMR's upcoming partnership development with Columbia University Professor *Sean Kinney*, to research and sample AMD for rare earth elements; Provided information to EPCAMR Staff Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance's Bucknell intern, *Ben Shimer*, who worked with the Northumberland County GIS department to pull information together last summer on AMD in the Shamokin Creek Watershed; He has numerous additional maps and data available; [Acid Mine Drainage in the Shamokin Creek Watershed: A Spatial Analysis of Economic and Environmental Consequences of Coal Mining](#); Reviewed the presentation; Reviewed *Steve Chrismer's* presentation on rare earth elements sampling in the Shamokin Creek watershed with Bucknell U. and his reference of EPCAMR's mine pool mapping work from our Mine Water Resources Report; Steve presented his presentation at the annual Mining Conference in State College, PA this month; Followed up with a phone call with him to talk about our work and his and the sharing of information as it is compiled; Met with *Dr. Margarita Rose*, King's College Environmental Economics Department to pull together a semester assignment related to creating infographics on rare earth elements and a market analysis for education and outreach purposes that EPCAMR can utilize and share on social media or in conjunction with future grant applications

ARIPPA Mini-Grant Program Award

- EPCAMR's Board approved of the **\$4800** request for funding from Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) for the acquisition of nearly **1.87** acres of wetlands in the Quaker Run watershed in Kulpmont Borough as a part of a larger stream restoration project being funded by PA DEP Growing Greener; The wetland acreage will be added to the Veteran's Memorial Sports Complex which is owned by Kulpmont Borough and the funding will be used for notarization, purchase of the land, and the preparation and filing of the legal deed for the property; Keeping water on the surface as baseflow to Quaker Run prevents further degradation of the watershed and ensures that less stormwater and rainfall events will work their way into the underground mine pool complex in the area; The stream restoration efforts in the Quaker Run sub watershed will be very beneficial to the overall restoration of the Shamokin Creek watershed; Coordinated with *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* on their awards recommendations and approval and the need to pull together a brief PowerPoint presentation for the October ARIPPA Conference; Talked with *Cristy Sweeney* about our plans to pull together the slide deck to send it along to her in preparation for the Conference and Awards presentation; Worked on PowerPoint with *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR*

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR requested and received permission from the Earth Conservancy to reference their final report on the Askam Phase II AMD Treatment that is utilizing a Maelstrom Oxidizer to forward along to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) that is working on the Bear Creek AMD discharges Design for a similar system to treat mine water in the Wiconisco Creek Watershed in Dauphin County

- EPCAMR provided *Dave Fife*, Quad 3 Group (Q3G) with a copy of our [Mine Water Resources Report](#) upon their request; Q3G is filling the Huber Shaft behind the EPCAMR and EC Office and EPCAMR provided the firm with some information on the depths to the mine pool that we had measured years ago and found out that they also have a similar water level logger to obtain depth measurements; The depth to the mine pool was around 100' and that was very close to our measurements from years ago at 98.2'
- EPCAMR Executive Director and *Steve Cornia*, GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, scheduled and participated in a zoom call with *Emma Azadan*, [MySunShare](#) to discuss pulling together a proposal to help with site identification, doing site walks once sites are identified, helping to identify the environmental and geotechnical issues, and introductions to landowners in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties; *Emma* participated and attended the July Solar Summit in State College; Provided her with contact information for Tetra Tech that she requested
- Provided *Scott Cannon* with links and information on who to contact for a Right to Know request on the Williams-Transco Pipeline Project that has plans to cross the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley where extensive underground and surface mining has historically taken place; Suggested that he contact the [Mine Subsidence Insurance Program](#) or the [PA DEP Bureau of Oil & Gas Well Management](#); EPCAMR provided Scott with a link to the [Mine Map Atlas](#)
- Held a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting with EPCAMR Board volunteers; Provided the EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee members the questions and comments that EPCAMR submitted to the [STAC](#) and notes from the Strategic Planning Committee Zoom call on August 10th; We answered them to the best of our ability with a very short turnaround time that they gave us; The Chesapeake Bay Program and STAC are reviewing existing research and data to aid in the development of nutrient load reduction efficiencies for AMD treatment projects in the Bay Watershed; We're waiting on receipt of a full compilation of comments from STAC; *Cristy Sweeney* from ARIPPA provided EPCAMR with a list of the funded donations each year for the Mini-Grant Program and a compilation of the recipients of the sub-grants
- *Gary Leander*, Friends of the Nescopeck informed EPCAMR that PA DEP is now conducting water sampling at the Jeddo Mine Tunnel from the newly repaired USGS gauge #01538510; He provided EPCAMR with the last 6 months of data that has been collected
- *Tali MacArthur*, [POWER](#), has been considering opportunities to evaluate the barriers and opportunities to ensuring meaningful, practical, and sustainable engagement of watershed organizations in advancing AMD remediation with the federal resources now available and the much-needed focus on finally getting additional work on the ground; EPCAMR provided comments on a draft set of questions they are pulling together since they needed some additional feedback
- *Branden Diehl*, Earthwise Consulting forwarded information to EPCAMR on the Unassessed Waters Program potentially needing some streams electroshocked and surveyed in 2024
- Reviewed Earth Conservancy Parcel Map proposal with *Mike Hewitt*, Program Manager
- Call with *Sean Kinney*, Columbia University to discuss future rare earth elements monitoring and establishing locations for installation of future pressure transducers at a few AMD discharges around the region in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys that will be easily accessible and suitable to allow graduate students to obtain data on flow and chemistry of the AMD

- Provided some resources and advice to *Roseanne Weinrich*, President, Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association on how to navigate the upcoming funding sources, grant management, consideration for future operation and maintenance of any AMD Treatment systems they might be considering in the watershed like the Packer #5 discharge; Provided her with contact information with the PA DEP Office of Energy & Technology so she can inquire about how solar panels might become a part of the solution to reduce utility costs at future AMD Treatment system locations in the watershed should they consider that as an option to keep the long-term operation and maintenance costs down over the life of the system; MCWA purchased 20+ acres in Girardville that is the home of the Packer #5 Discharge and Borehole; Costs of construction is rising and MCWA needs an extension of their Growing Greener grant beyond December 31st 2023 to finish the permitting review process; MCWA, like EPCAMR is finding it very difficult to understand how small non-profits are expected to apply for and manage multi-million dollar grants with minimal capacity and staff support, when most non-profit groups are being run by community volunteers
- Provided technical assistance and review of some mine maps to *Stephen Bush* on suspected Mine Subsidence in Mill Creek Acres, Plains Township, Luzerne County
- Conference call with *Dr. Charles A. Cravotta*, US Geologic Survey about coordinating bringing a team of USGS Scientists from across the country to the Wyoming Valley to work with the Earth Conservancy and EPCAMR in the Nanticoke Creek watershed to perform additional research and monitoring of stream restoration efforts that are ongoing and additional work that will soon begin in the watershed; They want to look at the mine pools and the potential for rare earth elements as well at a number of the AMD locations

Education & Outreach

American Water Charitable Trust Project

- EPCAMR sent a copy to Center City Print, Kingston, PA, of a final layout of the 2024 AMD & Art Calendar jointly with the CAPAA High School Art Class from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District CAPPA Program on hexagon shaped art pieces using EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment once we received the updated high resolution logos from Wilkes-Barre Area's *Mike Corcoran*; They provided a quote for producing 75 copies of the calendars that was within the small grant budget we had for printing; They completed the printing after a number of reviews and edits by EPCAMR before September 1st so that we could use a copy for the Hexagon Exhibit in Scranton at Artsonia
- Invited by *Beth Berkhauser*, The Hexagon Project to exhibit our EPCAMR 2024 Iron Oxide Calendar with the 21 CAPAA students from Wilkes-Barre Area that painted hexagon art pieces with iron oxide in September at Artworks Gallery, Scranton, PA for the month at the [17th Annual 2023 Interdependence Hexagon Art Exhibit](#); Provided *Beth* with images of the artwork from the students to create a poster for the Exhibit and donated a raffle basket of art supplies, iron oxide, and an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt to the First Friday Event in September
- Participated in 3 weekly PA AML Campaign conference calls
- EPCAMR dropped off a dozen Growboxxes for the Wilkes-Barre Area Community Garden volunteers to *Jessica Letteer*, Garden Coordinator

- Continued to promote the [NEPADOC screenings](#) for Director and partner, *Dave Heinemann*, from Bloomsburg University for the months of September 2023; EPCAMR Executive Director attends as many of the screenings as possible to be a part of a panel presentation following the screenings to talk about EPCAMR's work in the region on AMD and AML projects and recent funding opportunities
- Participated in a conference zoom call with *Claudia Meglin*, [Inquiring Systems Inc.](#) to provide her with an update on The Mental Insight Foundation project, educational videos and development of a webpage for the educational resources being compiled and written by *Laura Rinehimer*, EPCAMR Education Specialist; Coordinated with *Laura* about the September 2023 STEM Camp to settle on a date to begin promoting it locally and to review the budget and coordination with *Annie Reiner*, Reiner Productions, who will video the CAMP activities
- EPCAMR Staff participated in the PA American Water's Annual Water Camp in Peckville at the Valley Library and taught nearly **24** youth about macroinvertebrates and stream health and ecology of the Lackawanna River, which runs along the Library; EPCAMR also conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the youth, in partnership with the Lackawanna River Conservation Association; [WBRE-28 News](#) covered the event
- Completed the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail/Lackawanna River 2023 Survey on behalf of EPCAMR
- EPCAMR signed on to the RECLAIM Coalition [Sign-on Letter](#); The letter outlined priorities for coal-impacted communities in the FY 2024 Congressional appropriations process; Both the House and the Senate have released their appropriations bills, some of them have passed committees, while others are still awaiting votes; The bills in the Senate and House are very different, with the House proposing major cuts to important programs, and the Senate generally maintaining FY23 appropriations levels or proposing minor cuts
- DOE intent to fund critical mineral projects and EPCAMR reviewed a [funding source](#) potential
- Provided some notes on Federal Updates on Legislation and Budgets Discussions from the Choose Clean Water Coalition to the PA AML Campaign; There is talk of a [Chesapeake National Park Recreation Area](#) Act
- Informed *Quinn Hartung*, Sullivan County Conservation District Watershed Specialist that PA DEP BAMR will be looking to revamp the Connell A and B Tunnels AMD Treatment Systems on White Ash Land Association property this year; EPCAMR had a conflict and couldn't attend a field meeting with PA DEP BAMR, Susquehanna Chapter of TU, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, White Ash Land Association, Sullivan County Conservation District, Kleinfelder, and others on-site on the 17th of August to discuss the rehabilitation plans with the new federal funds that have become available
- EPCAMR Executive Director was informed by *Dr. Margarita Rose*, that he was selected to be one of the recipients of the [David Frey Community Service for Peace Award](#) at the [Peace & Justice Center's](#) Annual International Day of Peace Awards Dinner on September 21st, 2023 at Newberry Estates, Dallas, PA for service work in the region and coordinating volunteer efforts throughout the region on watershed restoration and environmental education efforts

- Provided *Rosa Hance*, [Choose Clean Water Coalition's](#) Energy Contractor with information on EPCAMR and background resources on AMD, AML, solar siting on abandoned mines, and other websites to provide her with enough background to become familiar with PA's environmental issues in the realm of AMD and AML
- Zoom call with *John Zatkansky*, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper to discuss future environmental education efforts in partnership with one another
- Coordinated with *Keith George*, West Nile Virus Coordinator for the Luzerne Conservation District, who wanted to visit the illegal tire pile in Preston, Hanover Township, Luzerne County, so that he can obtain a few samples of the standing water in the tires to test for West Nile or Zika Virus mosquitoes to try and elevate the pile for an easier removal once the test results come back from the lab; We met on site on the abandoned mine land area behind the former Preston Hose Company to grab water samples on August 23rd
- Made a virtual introduction to *Natalie LaMagna*, Environmental Scientist, and new employee with Stream Restoration Incorporated, who will be working alongside *Cliff Denholm*, Executive Director; Everyone from the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Committee are looking forward to meeting her in October
- *Elizabeth Hughes*, at Earth Conservancy, created an after school curriculum with the SHINE Program in Luzerne County about a sense of place and history called "[We Reclaim](#)" that is now published for others to adapt; EPCAMR reviewed it and will promote it when possible
- *Cody Whipple* sent EPCAMR and other classroom programs that implement the [Trout in the Classroom Program](#) information on the 2024 anticipated delivery dates in January, [aquarium resource guide](#), and a reminder of the timeline to prep and pre-cycle and clean the fish tanks for the arrival of the eggs

Community Volunteers

- Coordinated with PA American Water, Lackawanna River Conservation Association, and Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority volunteers to rehabilitate the Natural Area Playground along the levee and Lackawanna River located along Nay Aug Avenue by planting several trees in the park and painting new iron oxide stain on each of the playground structures and posts; PA American Water sponsored the project with **\$500** to go towards the supplies, polyurethane stain, iron oxide pigment, brushes, cups, gloves, and tape needed to complete the work

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

25th Anniversary PA AMR Conference

- Participated in the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee call to continue to coordinate the conference; Participated in a separate call with coordinators for the NASLR Conference that will be happening alongside of our Conference during one of the tracks; Followed up with scholarship recipients from Conservation Districts that the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee had approved for travel scholarships to cover their lodging costs; Discussed RES sponsorship of with their logo and the PA AMR Conference logo on beanies for all registered attendees; Confirmed *Robert Young's* and *LaBella's* co-presentation on the Assessment of Opportunities for Grid-Scale Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in PA with *Anne-WPCAMR*; The Conference is maxed out at **175** attendees and over **20** exhibitors; The PA AMR Conference Committee casted their votes for the annual Mayfly Award winners and *John Stefanko* and *Janie French* were selected; Reached out to Staff from the Department of the Interior to see if *Laura Daniel-Davis*, was going to be able to provide a video message to conference attendees if she was available, however we didn't get a response back in the month of August; Reached out to Senator *Casey's* Office and Senator *Fetterman's* Office to see if they wanted to provide a video message or send a staff person to provide comments in honor of our 25th Anniversary Conference on abandoned mine reclamation; Senator *Casey's* Office responded and informed us that they would have a staff person present to make a few comments; *Jordi Comas*, PA DEP NC Regional Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Justice committed to speaking at the Conference as opposed to *Juan Serrat* or *Justin Dula*; Followed up with *Elizabeth Hughes*, Earth Conservancy about their sponsorship; Followed up with a phone call to *Carl DeLuca* to see if he can refer us to *Steven Holmes* with the US EPA who might be able to speak on Minority-Owned Businesses/Women-Owned Businesses and 2CRF200 and didn't get a response back at the end of the month; Followed up with *Adam Rousselle* to see if he was still planning on presenting an update presentation on his work at the Old Forge Borehole, however, we didn't hear back from him at the end of the month; *Anne*, *Mike*, and the Executive Director continued to move some presentations around before the final track sessions were accounted for and completed prior to the Conference and printing of the Program brochure; Called the Altoona Grand Hotel to check on room availability for attendees since there was some confusion on the number of block rooms available because the front desk was looking at another conference the following week with an similar acronym to ours; Worked on layout and floor plan for exhibitors with *Mike*; EPCAMR Executive Director wrote up the "Welcome Reflections on 25 years" in the conference program brochure and provided it to *Anne* for the final draft

ARIPPA Conference

- Coordinated with *Cristy Sweeney* to secure an EPCAMR exhibit table at the [ARIPPA](#) Annual Conference in Harrisburg on October 3rd, 2023

Kleinfelder Coal to Solar Webinar

- Reviewed the Coal to Solar Webinar presentation with Kleinfelder's *Dave Clouser* and *Sami Pretzel* prior to the actual webinar on August 23 at noon; Participated in a webinar rehearsal with the speakers online to time the presentation accordingly and provided questions and additional slides to complete the slide deck; The presentation from Kleinfelder and EPCAMR explored: - Understanding the process for feasibility evaluation of existing mine sites -Discussing geotechnical, environmental, and regulatory challenges -Recognizing constraints involved in potential sites -Identifying potential funding opportunities

NTTP AMD Passive Treatment Training for Conservation District Watershed Specialists

- Worked with WPCAMR to coordinate the planning and implementation of the NTTP AMD Passive Treatment 3 Day Course with OSMRE and PA DEP BAMR in State College in September 2023 for County Conservation District Watershed Specialists; Worked on the final menu for food for the training days with the planning coordinator at the Ramada Inn Conference Center

11th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

- Informed *Maria Castro*, that while EPCAMR couldn't sponsor the [Forum](#) in September 2023, that we were active in continuing to support the work of AMD treatment and watershed restoration work in the Upper Lehigh River and Upper Schuylkill River subwatersheds to the Delaware River and the work of the Delaware River Watershed Coalition; We sign on to as many letters as we can when they arise to support important pieces of legislation that can provide funding to the entire watershed

Solar on Abandoned Mine Lands Summit with PA DEP Office of Energy and Technology

- Provided *Robert Young*, PA DEP with an updated link to the BIL/IIJA funding [links](#) to include in the final report; EPCAMR posted The Solar on Previously Mined Lands Summit combined presentations by visiting the [PA Solar on Mine Lands](#) webpage and downloading the PDF below the Agenda; A complete Assessment Report is anticipated to be completed in the Fall 2023 and a final presentation made at the 25th Annual Statewide Conference; PA DEP will make a presentation with LaBella Associates on the Assessment of Opportunities for Grid-Scale Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in PA; Provided the information to *Annie Regan*-Campaigns Director for [PennFuture](#), and *Molly Updegrave*-Director of Outreach for [Reimagine Appalachia](#) so that they can promote it on their Coalition update conference call on August 15th since EPCAMR had a conflict with being on the call since we were participating in the PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting that same day
- EPCAMR Executive Director participated in the August 15th **Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting** that was held virtually to discuss AMD and AML issues in EJ communities; EPCAMR assisted *Amani Reid*, PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice, in helping to get speakers for the meeting as a part of a roundtable discussion with various presenters from the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys including Earth Conservancy, PA DEP BAMR, Lackawanna River Conservation Association, and the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority; Postponed a planned tour to the Old Forge AMD Borehole for the EJAB members due to budget constraints
- EPCAMR was informed that Watershed Specialist *John Levitsky* from the Luzerne Conservation District, and EPCAMR Board Member was being honored with this year's NE Environmental Partners' Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award for 40 years of service by The NE Environmental Partners, comprised of the PA DCNR, PA DEP, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PPL Corporation, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company, and Wilkes University; The 2023 Emerging Environmental Leader Award will be presented to *Jacob Smith*, for demonstrating leadership, initiative, and dedication and exceptional personal attributes and skill sets he repeatedly applied to the successful planning and execution of various volunteer work, and educational events with numerous partners; He's a rising senior in the Environmental Engineering program at Wilkes University where he is excelling in his studies; *Jacob* educates his fellow students about fisheries sustainability and involves them with clean up events, stream restoration, and developing informational signage about native species; *Jacob* has volunteered on stream restoration projects, surveying, cleanups, mapping, and educational events with the PA Game Commission, Trout Unlimited, and is an active EPCAMR volunteer and student member; The date of the event will be October 19th at the Woodlands, Wilkes-Barre

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts with Denise in QuickBooks; Provided *Denise* with a copy of the monthly bank statement for Quickbooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for the August 2023 renewal with Highmark; Paid EC the rent; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB
- EPCAMR received and paid our invoices automatically for payroll services from OneSource for the month of August 2023
- EPCAMR signed our 2022 Audit Engagement Letter with Kohanski & Co., CPA to allow them to review our financial statements and project audits of a few of our grants that were federally funded; Submitted the letter and Fiscal Year End 2022 Single Audit form to the State Bureau of Accounting and Financial Management; Provided a number of documents to Kohanski & Co., CPA at their request
- Submitted EPCAMR's signed W-9 to *Meg Cole*, Coordinator-Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), Chesapeake Research Consortium
- Provided *Frank Sindaco*, part-time, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist with a copy of EPCAMR's SIDES responses and submission for UC Claim; EPCAMR submitted a Request for relief from charges from the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry, Office of Unemployment Compensation Benefits
- Discussed with *Dr. Ken Klemow* and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi* about swapping Chairmanship roles of the EPCAMR Education/Science Committee since *Dr. Klemow* moved to San Diego, CA upon recently retiring from Wilkes University; *Dr. Nerozzi* agreed to assume the role of Chair
- EPCAMR received our Contract Operator's License Renewal from PA DEP
- Reviewed 2023-2024 Pa Department of Labor & Industry's SWIF Worker's Compensation EPCAMR Employers Liability Insurance Policy and files and filed them
- Completed the August 2023 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike* to upload to the website for the August 17th Board Meeting; Prepared documents for the Board Meeting; Convened the EPCAMR Board Meeting