



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2018 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 81 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 111 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call, a site visit to a proposed hydropower project in the **Lackawanna Watershed**, a Water camp with **LRCA** and **PA American Water**, hosted an EPCAMR quarterly board meeting, a project update call with SRBC, and were filmed for a “Reclaiming PA” film series; Released trout from TIC tank into Abraham’s Creek all in the name of EE.
- Received a \$12k proposal to scan, georeference & digitize railroad maps for **Luzerne Co.** and ~\$5K proposal to monitor the **Askam Treatment System** for **EC**
- EPCAMR staff sampled and shocked for trout in a tributary to **Abraham’s Creek** for a **CHP**, sampled minepool monitoring stations near **Mocanaqua** for the **SRBC** and 2 AMD treatment systems along the **Loyalsock Creek** for the **Sullivan Conservation District**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org and www.NAAML2019.com; Added new items to the online store platform; Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAML2019 as well); Maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstations.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Attended a site visit of a proposed hydropower project in Old Forge lead by Renewable Energy Aggregators with several stakeholders including the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC).
- Delivered dozens of maps related to the Knox Mine Disaster to David Brocca for his documentary
- Wrote EPCAMR Program Manager progress reports for the month of May and June. Posted the reports to the EPCAMR website. Completed reimbursement paperwork and sent the documents to the PA DEP 319 program.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the PA American Water “Water Camp” at the Valley Library in Blakely with LRCA staff and volunteers. Staff involved the campers in kicking for macroinvertebrates and sampling chemistry in the nearby Lackawanna River. After lunch staff conducted an AMD tie dye workshop.
- Traveled to Pottsville to pick up several hundred maps from the Shamokin Creek collection. [MSI]
- Sent out a reminder for the upcoming board meeting next week with minutes, and an updated agenda. Created the treasurer’s report with EPCAMR Bookkeeper. Started a draft 2019 budget for the board to review and eventually approve.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call regarding the AML Pilot Program. EPCAMR staff were asked to create AML statistics based on the new Pennsylvania congressional districts.

- EPCAMR staff hosted the EPCAMR 3rd Quarter Board Meeting. This was also the annual board meeting where board members and the executive committee are nominated and elected.
- Traveled to the Hazleton area to collect iron oxide sludge for processing and picked up plants at a greenhouse for the Growboxx project. [Grow]
- Collected receipts related to the AMR Conference and reconciled the budgeted costs versus the actual costs. Also did this for the silent auction fundraiser.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee call. Provided the committee with updated budget information.
- EPCAMR staff were interviewed for an upcoming video series headed up by several EPCAMR board members. One video is called Reclaiming PA and the other is related to the Growboxx project. [Grow]
- Began drying recently collected wet iron oxide in the solar kiln. Pushed the kiln outside on several sunny days this week.
- Picked up a donated greenhouse frame from a family in Hanover Township. EPCAMR plans to use it for the Growboxx project. [Grow]
- Demonstrated how raster maps would be scanned, georeferenced and digitized in ArcGIS for staff of the Luzerne County Rail Corporation and fielded their questions. This meeting helped LCRC staff explain the project to their board and resulted in approval of the contract. [LuzRR]
- Continued adding items to the EPCAMR store related to the 2019 National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P) Conference registration. Corresponded with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) regarding different questions that needed to be asked of registrants for planning purposes. [NAAML P]

Technical Assistance:

- EPCAMR staff sampled flow and chemistry of Novicki's Tributary to Abrahams Creek with Trout Unlimited staff. Also performed a fishery's survey on the headwaters section of the tributary.
- Created a demonstration of raster maps in ArcGIS for the Luzerne County Railroad Mapping Project. Helped Luzerne County Rail Corporation (LCRC) obtain ArcGIS software. [LuzRR]
- Added georeferenced Mineral Springs maps from EPCAMR's map collection (donated by the Dombroski Family) to Wilkes-Barre East Surface, Upper Ross, Lower Ross, Upper Red Ash and Lower Red Ash mosaics. The maps from this private collection filled in a gap where no maps existed in the state collection. [MSI]
- Georeferenced figures 3A&B of the 1968 USGS report on "Geology, Hydrology, and Geochemistry of the Black Creek Watershed near Mocanaqua, Luzerne County, PA". Digitized the lines of section into ArcGIS in preparation for adding the cross sections into the 3D model for the Mocanaqua Tunnel project. [SRBC]
- Aided staff in scanning difficult maps and created a new map starter strip in the process. Found a "missing" map for a mosaic that was actually recorded incorrectly in the Pennsylvania Historic Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS) for the Mine Map Processing grant (MMG). [MSI]
- Added maps to the numbered veins mosaics (above the Snake Island vein). These numbered veins are very confusing to place in the mosaics because depending on the mine, the names can range from Top Snake Island, to Top George to Number 2 or Number 6 vein all within the same topographic map area. [MSI]
- Continue to record maps entered into mosaics on the Wilkes-Barre West tab of a Google Sheet. [MSI]
- Organized a vectorizing map document file for MMG staff to use when digitizing mine boundary polygons, mine openings and mine vein floor elevation points. [MSI]
- Taught Shawnese Taylor, EPCAMR Watershed / GIS Technician, to scan and catalog maps with regard to the MMG. The Shamokin Creek set of maps had no information database to go along with them. Pottsville District Mining Office staff asked that we gather the information from the map and write it on the connected tag and prefix the numbering system so that it fits into their Bureau of Mine Safety Administration (BMSA) collection. [MSI]
- Reviewed digitizing of mine entries and elevations with Shawnese related to the MMG. [MSI]

- Helped staff with adding georeferenced maps into mosaics. Much of the problem is caused by how the veins were named in PHUMMIS. Searching for the maps is difficult because you cannot select a local name from the dropdown list without selecting a formal name in the search. Most times the local name is correct, but sometimes the formal name is wrong. We asked Patrick to change how we search for local names to a type in form with wildcards. [MSI]
- Scanned and digitized the hydrograph paper from the gauge station on Nanticoke Creek downstream of the Askam Treatment System. [EC]
- Converted the cross sections from figures 3A&B into 4DVX curtains to begin tracing faults and several veins (Baltimore, Ross, Red Ash and their splits) in the earthVision 3D viewer. [SRBC]
- Scanned scrapbooks related to railroads in the 1950-1970s into digital format from Joe White from the Luzerne County Rail Corporation.
- Sampled field flow and chemistry at the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. Collected water samples at the tunnel discharge and sent them to Hawk Mountain Labs for analysis. Took transduced readings wirelessly with the app reader to my smart phone. Recorded all this in a google spreadsheet. [SRBC]
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (WALA Connel B and C Tunnel AMD treatment systems), upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek to judge the effectiveness of the upgrades to the Connel B Tunnel AMD treatment system. [LCWA]
- Upgraded the firmware on the network drives (X and M).

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.