



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### August 2020 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as some worked from home to georeference & digitize mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. 45 maps were scanned. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, several **PA AMR Conference** calls, a Solar on AML zoom call with **Downstream Strategies**, & an EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Sampled the Askam TS along **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, sampled 2 TS along **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** and worked on the **EnviroDIY Mayfly** for **Lackawanna CD**.
- Updated [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) and [www.epcamr.org](http://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.:

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call where the committee officially decided to hold a virtual conference in October and postpone the in-person conference to June 2021. Purchased Zoom from Techsoup, contacted Jenn West from Ramada to get the contract paperwork and Robert spoke with Whova to get that platform purchased. This all needs to happen quickly as the virtual conference is now in less than 3 months.
- Participated in filming an environmental education video segment on chemistry sampling vs. macroinvertebrate sampling with our VISTA, Kyle Argenziano as our EE coordinator, Laura Rinehimer, filmed and directed.
- Updated [www.treaminewater.com](http://www.treaminewater.com) website to reflect the change to a virtual conference in October. Started looking for resources so speakers, attendees, and exhibitors know what to expect.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a zoom call with Downstream Strategies to talk about the Solar on AML project. Developing a GIS database and wanted to make sure we are including everything we should based on Downstream Strategy's experience with the WV database.
- Sampled Loyalsock Creek upstream, downstream and inflow/outflow of the two Connell Tunnel Treatment Systems. [LCWA]
- Prepared and sent the January to March 2020 MSI Reimbursement. Figured out re-distribution of funding after Gavin left and how other staff could fill the work gap.
- Paid the Whova Invoice and got access to the Whova Platform again for the AMR Conference (interesting how quickly they can block access). Worked on a "presenter information" document for the virtual conference based off resources Anne Daymut got as a presenter at the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) conference.
- Participated in a Zoom call with Anne and our account manager, Dylan, to learn some tips and tricks in Whova. Asked questions about billing because we did not have the Exhibit area enabled (but should have). Wanted to make sure we have the right add-ons. Added all

conference committee members as administrators so they can see the Whova Web App and Mobile app as Anne and I work on the draft program.

- Reviewed QuickBooks accounts with Denise in preparation for the Treasurer's report. Started writing the minutes from the last board meeting.
- Aided in the Mill Creek Coldwater Heritage Plan (CHP) report to help integrate portions of the Mill Creek SCARLIFT Report as a historical perspective on what projects were recommended in the past.
- Followed up again with Whova to regarding the add-on features I have and the ones I thought I ordered. It seems there was a misunderstanding or we were placed in a different package which includes face-to-face conference features for a cost savings. Purchased one additional sponsor for \$50. Researched how-to guides for attendees and exhibitors to help them navigate the Whova event app and how to use the virtual exhibit area. Earth Conservancy functioned as an exhibit area early tester to help us figure out what exhibitors could add to best promote their business/organization as they had participated in virtual events in the past. Found an event checklist for the committee to work through. Working on some speaker and moderator guidelines.
- Submitted tax exempt paperwork to Zoom as they were charging us tax on our account. Attempted to follow up several times through the month but could not reach anyone.
- Prepared for the EPCAMR annual board meeting. Sent a draft treasurer's report to our EPCAMR Treasurer.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting virtually over zoom. Reported we are currently working on 18 grants which is the most we have ever juggled at one time. We had seen an increase in grants being funded since the COVID pandemic. In the past, we received roughly 50% of the grants we apply for and now it's closer to 100% which is a blessing and a curse because we now have to figure out how to complete these during the pandemic.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in the weekly AML Campaign calls.
- Received word from Cody Whipple, PA TIC program coordinator for the Fish and Boat Commission that the Trout in the Classroom 20/21 Egg Shipment will be delayed.
- Spoke with Jayne Klenner, Kings College, who wanted to schedule us to speak to her GIS class is on Tuesdays from 2 - 4:30 via a Zoom meeting. This year they were going to be mapping the opioid crisis and asked for guidance. Their goal is to have a story map that they can submit to ESRI story map contest. Forwarded this request to our GIS Technician, Frank Sindaco, as he has more experience with community data.
- Researched more into how Zoom interacts with Whova and how to virtually do things we would normally do in a face-to-face conference. It was quite the learning experience. Asked the AMR Conference Committee about purchasing a second Zoom account with conference funding as we will need to have two accounts to host the concurrent tracks planned. Suggested that Anne Daymut be assigned the account as she will be scheduling the zoom calls and programming them into the agenda in Whova.
- Asked by Tetra Tech to prepare a proposal to obtain flow data and lab samples over a short 5-week time period of bi-weekly samples from the Old Forge Borehole. This also included hourly sampling over a 1" rain event with a mechanical sampler. Contacted LRCA to see the status of the transducer.
- Working with Kyle on a grant to Cabella's to potentially get EPCAMR staff some sampling gear.
- EPCAMR staff sampled the inflow/outflow of the Askam Treatment System, upstream and downstream (below Espy Confluence) on the Nanticoke Creek. [EC]
- EPCAMR staff facilitated a discussion between current EPCAMR President, Joe Simons and past president Ed Wytovich. Joe is working with Stanley Cooper TU to install a diversion well on a tributary to Bowmans Creek that is acid impacted. Ed has a lot of experience in diversion wells with his work in Schuylkill County and was able to help guide them in the way of what type of materials and other logistics.
- Received word from PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office that they found what appears to be an old steel borehole behind Breezewood Drive in Jenkins Township and asked if we wanted to sample it before it was capped. Researched and discovered it was right near the boundary of the Gardner Creek Watershed. It's likely an original

borehole to the Pennsylvania No. 6 Colliery, which itself does not have a monitoring borehole that was installed by the state, but it doesn't really need one since it is hydrologically connected to the Pennsylvania No. 14 Colliery to the southwest which has a double plate borehole along River Road near the intersection with Saylor Ave. The next closest borehole is the Ewen Colliery to the northwest which has a newer 1-foot round borehole along Friend Street in Pittston (technically Jenkins Twp. as well). That one shows the level of the pool related to the Knox mine disaster discharge to the river. It holds a pool a little lower than the Pennsylvania No. 14 and No.6 Collieries. It would be better if they could get a reading at Ewen and No. 14 boreholes the same day as well. That way we can say if the water elevation matches one pool or the other.

- Prepared and submitted another MSI Reimbursement for work completed from April to June 2020 and finished up the May-June PHUMMIS/Drive jive to make sure the entries match what is being provided in the drive sent to PA DEP California DMO. [MSI]
- Made changes to [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) and re-opened conference registration. Prepared an email invite to notify potential attendees that we are going virtual this year. Added all AMR Conference committee members as administrators on Whova initially, then realized that only a few of us would really need to be admins. Also, Whova staff started automatically communicating with committee members and created a lot of confusion.
- Asked Kyle to add the data in the 2018 Loyalsock Treatment System Monitoring PDF report to the Loyalsock tab on our EPCAMR sampling database. This will help us compare the current monitoring results with the old ones in this report.
- YSI/Royce notified us via email that our return of the TSS probe was accepted and we got a full refund. They did not charge a restocking fee but we had to pay the return postage. Lesson learned to triple check the parameter units a device can measure before ordering it online.
- Received a request from one of our AMR Conference sponsors that they did not want to be an exhibitor because they could not dedicate the staff to field questions about their product. This was an interesting request. They still wanted to sponsor the conference, however, and were happy with the logo placement on the Whova app.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Georeferenced NMMR 010740 (Glen Nan) and added that and BLUE Coal maps for Bliss and Wanamie to the Nanticoke Upper Red Ash Mosaic. Looked for missing areas of the Upper Red Ash in Wanamie, but confirmed with Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Mine Map Folios that those areas were not found by OSMRE either. Added WBDO\_138-12 to the Nanticoke Chauncey Mosaic. Gave both to Frank for digitizing and will resubmit. [MSI]
- Received the Royce Model 711 Total Suspended Solids probe in the mail but realized that it measures .01 to 1000 grams/Liter (10 to 10,000 mg/L). We need a meter that measures down to .001 grams/Liter (1 mg/l). Also, the meter actually measures Turbidity and simply calculates the TSS. Contacted the company for their return policy. Mailed out the TSS meter to get a refund, after we confirmed they would waive the restocking fee.
- Contacted Patrick Jacquay, PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO), about map link on PHUMMIS results page (external site) will not automatically bring up the map in the Mine Map Atlas. He referred the issue to PASDA. [MSI]
- Researched possible plugging issue for Connal B Vein limestone bed treatment system in Loyalsock. Spoke with Todd Wood at BAMR who isn't sure what is plugging the system but suggested we get locals involved with grabbing turbidity samples after a rain event. EPCAMR has seen turbidity when there in the past but no photo evidence or mentions in sampling notes.
- Participated in a Zoom call with S3 Stormwater Solutions to learn about Fabco filter cartridges and geotextile socks mainly to understand their ability to potentially stop TSS from entering and plugging the limestone systems in Loyalsock (if that is what is plugging it).
- Prepared an email regarding Turbidity vs. Total Suspended Solids sampling for Earth Conservancy. As per my research, no meters actually measure TSS. Instead, they calculate from Turbidity which is inaccurate, but can suggest a ballpark figure. We already have the ability to measure Turbidity with our YSI Photometer. Figured out methods to gather TSS

sample in the field, dry it and weigh it back at the office. Then those measurements can be related to Turbidity using regression analysis. Studies suggest that this should be done for each stream. EC decided that this level of detail was not needed and were Ok with a calculated ballpark TSS estimate built into the sampling database.

- Tested EPCAMR Magento 2 online store. Successfully made purchases and edited sales emails (kind of... for some reason the custom templates will not show greeting and order details, so I reverted back to default emails). Quickly realized while working with the new platform that many edits had to be done with a command line program as the updater program was decommissioned when Adobe took over.
- Prepared an iron oxide order for pickup. Worked on the EPCAMR Online Store to copy over more items from the Magento 1 to the Magento 2 store. Created items for the AMR conference registration.
- Worked on Robert's computer as it would not automatically update Windows 10 to the most current version. Tried a few tricks like making a new user profile, but nothing was working without a complete reinstall and at that point the computer is the oldest in the office. We instead ordered him a new computer from the Dell Outlet.
- Worked with DEP to reset our VPN access for PHUMMIS. [MSI]
- Working with Steve to figure out the parts needed for the DIY MayFly to get Bluetooth data download working. Also having issues with the CTD probe "talking" to the Mayfly, but Steve continued to tinker with it. Cheryl Nolan, Lackawanna County Watershed Specialist, prepared a "shopping list" for the parts we need at Lowe's in preparation for installation.
- Continued to quality assure and control (QA/QC) mine map mosaics in the Nanticoke quadrangle discovered this would take a lot more time than I could currently dedicate. [MSI]
- Steve got the CTD probe to talk to the Mayfly! It turned out to be a computer program glitch and nothing with the actual hardware. Abandoned the task of getting the Bluetooth to work and planned a day to setup the remote monitoring station on the Upper Lackawanna. EPCAMR will purchase another DIY Mayfly and try to work on the Bluetooth capabilities over the winter or when things slow down.
- Forwarded designs from Fabco for a fabricated TSS pre-filter for the Connell B Vein Tunnel to Todd Wood of BAMR Wilkes-Barre because they will have the say in the retrofit. We are watching the flow through of each cell drop as the months go by and the onus is on us to prove what is plugging up the limestone. We have added Turbidity to the testing regime. The assumption is that it is just the precipitated aluminum. Regardless, it will need to be dug up again to get the limestone drains functioning again. EPCAMR is thinking that spending a little money now on a TSS pre-filter could prevent digging the whole thing up time and time again.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.