



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2021 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, attended **EDA** webinar, a call with **PA DEP Alternative Energy** staff, a call with **PA DEP BAMR** staff, a call for the **Luzerne CAP** program, & a tour of **Gladden AMD Active Treatment System**
- Sampled AMD Treatment System on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, 3 on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** & 8 different AMD discharge locations in the **Lower Lackawanna** for the **CAP** project
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and www.epcamr.org; administered G Suite for Nonprofits; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server; Setup PA AMR virtual Conf. on Whova

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Finished up and submitted a final report for 319 Program grant. Made a map of the underground coal mine extents, mine pools and mine drainage impaired streams in the Northern Anthracite Coal Field as a deliverable.
- Took a half day for a doctor's appointment to treat a spider bite but listened in on an Economic Development Administration (EDA) webinar to find out about \$300M Coal Communities Commitment in funding. Updated Whova and treatminewater.com with a new theme that will show the Whova widgets on the Exhibitors, Program, Speakers, and Sponsors pages. Registered a few more conference attendees on Whova, setup a virtual exhibit for Trout Unlimited (TU) and sponsor listing for PA Environmental Digest.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a zoom call with PA DEP Alternative Energy staff out of the Williamsport Office to present the Solar on AML tool. They offered to connect us to a solar developers trade association.
- EPCAMR management staff traveled to the Pittsburgh area to attend a tour of the newest PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Gladden AMD Active Treatment System hosted by Susquehanna River Basin Commission Staff Tom Clark and Andrew King and Anne Daymut from WPCAMR. DEP, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), AMD Industries, and Tetra Tech staff involved in the construction and operation were in attendance to answer questions about the hydrogen peroxide plant. Wrote up notes from visit and emailed to John Levitsky as this is a technology that could be broadly applied to net alkaline iron discharges especially in Luzerne County, copied Tom Clark and EPCAMR Executive Director for comments.
- Reviewed 2 CFR 200 documents from Pat Webb, PA DEP BAMR. The documents refer to how state agencies are to contract with entities to complete construction work.

DEP staff were directed to change the legal contractor relationship for AMR Pilot Projects now called AMLER. EPCAMR was able to secure funding for the Swoyersville Waste Coal Pile Removal in 2017, but now because of this directive it has been decided by DEP lawyers that non-profits are no longer eligible for the funding after 2019. We discovered this after trying to submit another AML Pilot Project. This was definitely not the intention of the representatives that fought for this funding in Congress when it was proposed as a pilot to the RECLAIM Act. It was assumed that nonprofits would be eligible to help the state in their AML reclamation efforts. EPCAMR management staff participated with DEP staff regarding 2 CFR 200 issue related to AMLER grants. DEP staff assure us they are working internally with OSMRE to resolve the issue.

- Prepared for our Annual (3rd quarter) EPCAMR Board Meeting by preparing the agenda and last meeting minutes to web. Started working on the Treasurer's report with Denise and other staff.
- Wrote the EPCAMR Program Manager Progress Report for the month of July and posted it to www.epcamr.org.
- Received word from Christine Haldeman that one of the Solar on AML sites near Tremont was sold by Tremont FT, LLC and is being developed into an industrial park. Updated the Solar on AML Southern Field sites document.
- Reviewed AMLIS and Mine Pool elevations for Red Lake, Settling Ponds A-C, EC Compost and "Kapik" Ponds that were evaluated for Black Duck habitat. [NFWF]
- Hosted Annual (3rd quarter) EPCAMR Board Meeting virtually over Zoom and took notes to help prepare the minutes.
- Updated photo galleries on www.epcamr.org with photonic plugin which allows showing google photo albums. Hopefully this photo gallery plugin works longer than the others.
- Helped with filming of the environmental education video in the afternoon by picking up lunch. It was a very hot day and I was able to keep the AC running in my truck for the kids especially to stay cool and happy.
- Researched AMD site access in Lower Lackawanna in preparation for the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) program sampling. [CAP]
- Processed several AMR Conference Registrations. Started delaying processing until Friday afternoons to collect several for the week as they began to trickle in. Added a 3rd day to Whova Agenda for Datashed 3.0 Workshop with the help of Whova Technical Support staff.
- Had a potential COVID exposure, isolated at home and waited 4 days to get a COVID test. It was negative but took several hours out of my work day to wait at a walk-in clinic. Followed up as much as I could on emails through my smartphone.
- Updated treatminewater.com with the additional day added to the PA AMR Conference. Removed the tour page, replaced with Datashed 3.0 workshop and made some edits to wording throughout. Also updated EPCAMR store to reflect changes. Updated WooCommerce plugin.
- EPCAMR management staff participated on Luzerne County CAP Watershed Health Committee Call to update them on the AMD sampling we were completing in the county and initial nutrient findings. Mentioned research findings on co-treatment of AMD and Nutrients. [LDG]
- Updated EPCAMR Board Memberships spreadsheet.
- Registered AMR Conference attendees and discovered that some registration emails were not getting to registrants. Troubleshoot the issue with several to find that the emails were going to their SPAM folders. Went back into G Suite to check settings were set up legitimize emails sent from our domain.

Technical Assistance:

- Recorded almost 100 wetlands, ponds, and lakes in the southern Wyoming Valley (Black, Newport, Nanticoke, Warrior, Solomon, and Susquehanna) Watersheds from Luzerne County Watershed Specialist, John Levitsky's KML file in Google Sheets. Shared with EPCAMR staff and John to keep track of the sites we have evaluated for black duck habitat. Staff can also record the stream crossings they are evaluating for and brook trout habitat on another tab.
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, and in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the Sullivan Conservation District (SCD) and Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Responded to a student working on a project in connection with the “water center at Penn” that was looking to evaluate the impact that the November 2020 closure of Wheelabrator Frackville Co-Gen facility had on the release of AMD within the Upper Schuylkill River watershed. She was passed my way from Schuylkill Conservation District. She was looking to complete an updated estimate of the Morea mine pool capacity and evaluate the total overflow from the Morea Mine Strip Pool mine. Though EPCAMR has not completed an evaluation of that particular mine pool, I had sent her a map of digitized existing information and the “Biesecker Report” I found during research. I never received follow up communication.
- Prepared travel Drive for previously submitted work related to the Mine Mapping Grant invoices and went into office to download more files from the server. [MSI]
- Recorded Loyalsock Creek monitoring results into the Google spreadsheet and shared the link with the Sullivan County Conservation District. Researched discharge on Gardner Creek to direct staff in the field who found a potential seep in the location. Marked it on Anthracite Discharges shapefile.
- Georeferenced BLUE_HCC-0D-08-02 (Loree Cooper Vein) map and added to the Kingston Quad Upper Pittston Vein mosaic. Also added BLUE_NOT-03-08 (Loree Cooper Vein) map to the mosaic. Downloaded and georeferenced BMSA_1440 (Gaylord Cooper Vein) map and replaced BLUE_KIN-0B-08-01 map in the Kingston Quad Upper Pittston Vein Mosaic. Re-georeference WBDO_WAR-01-13 (Huber Bottom Baltimore) map to fit better with the Franklin Colliery map the Wilkes-Barre West Quad Bottom Baltimore Vein mosaic. [MSI]
- Repair mosaic dataset paths of several Kingston Quad mosaics from Steve. Replaced 1:400 scale maps and geor_BMSA_6493-012 map in Wilkes-Barre West Quad Five Foot Vein mosaic with the BLUE_NOT-06-06 (Lance) map, WBDO_WAR-17-12 (Loree) map, BLUE_KIN-0A-06-37 (Woodward) map, and BLUE_KIN-0A-06-06 (Woodward) map. [MSI]
- Got the MMG travel drive back and prepared it to send April-June 2021 work. [MSI]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek and 2 flow sites in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed. Recorded data into sampling spreadsheet and delivered to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Sampled typical mine drainage and nutrient parameters at 8 different AMD discharge locations in the Lower Lackawanna for the CAP project: Dana Tunnel (Gravity Slope), Mt. Vernon Shaft (Riverside), Gravity Slope, Jerome Shaft (Lackawanna), PA Tunnel (Underwood), Poultry Plant (National) Seep, East Mountain Seep, and Dunmore#1 Res. Seep. [LDG]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.