



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2023 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the **EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting** and participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, **PA AMR Conference Committee** calls, Solar on AML calls with **DEP EPO** and **LaBella**, a Pump Storage Hydropower call from **Massachusetts** and aided **LRCA** with GIS over Zoom; Continued to manage registration and contact venues for the **NTTP AMD Treatment Course** and the **PA AMR Conference**.
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; 3 AMD TS, upstream, & downstream on **Loyalsock Creek** for **LCWA & SCD**; sampled 27 discharge and instream sites in **Shamokin Cr.** for **SCRA**.
- Participated in the **PA American Water Camp** at the Valley Library in **Peckville** and brainstormed a new EE subdomain at education.epcamr.org
- Wrote a PSF proposal to scan, geo, mosaic and digi maps for **Earth Conservancy**.
- Updated www.PaSolarMinedLands.org, www.TreatMineWater.com and www.EPCAMR.org; administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR Staff (Bobby, Frank, Steve and I) participated in the PA American Water Camp at the Valley Library in Peckville. We kicked for macroinvertebrates, explained their function in the stream ecosystem, and made tie dye t shirts with the kids. The newspaper and channel 22 were there to provide some media coverage.
- Updated the PA Solar on Mined Lands website with PowerPoint presentations and a primer on the Assessment report that is being prepared by LaBella Associates. Deleted the survey post and sent an email to 101 attendees of last month's summit to let them know the presentations were posted. [SOLAR]
- Caught up on AMR conference registrations. Started EPCAMR Program Manager report for May 2023.
- Started to write up minutes from the last board meeting and reviewed balance sheet and open sales orders reports from QuickBooks to start the treasurers report for the upcoming 2023 Annual (3rd Quarter) EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Fielded a call from Anna Stork representing a company in Massachusetts interested in exploring AMD sites for Pump Storage Hydropower. She knew about the Old Forge Project. I suggested looking at Jeddo Tunnel and other sites using our RAMLIS online tool. I noticed that AMD sites from PASDA were down. Contacted PASDA to have the dataset restored (hopefully next week).

- Brainstorm subdomain for Environmental Education website with Bobby and Laura. After some time and no response from Laura, I contacted Claudia Meglin from Inquiring Systems Inc. directly. She suggested we stick with something simple, so we chose education.epcamr.org.
- Answered questions about PA AMR Conference sponsorship levels from the committee as RES contemplated sponsoring 25th anniversary beanies for the conference.
- Setup a fall schedule for Shamokin sampling. Notified staff and project partners.
- Participated in weekly AML Campaign Calls to catch up on important legislation and rulemaking related to AML Programs happening at the federal level.
- Finished minutes from last board meeting, May report, and uploaded them to www.epcamr.org. Worked on and sent draft Treasurer's report to Cristy Sweeney. Cristy quickly responded with some questions. Edits were made to QuickBooks the following week.
- Transferred sponsorships received via PayPal for Solar on AML meeting to EPCAMR checking account. [SOLAR]
- Worked with Denise on QuickBooks, reprinted reports, updated treasurers report, and sent to Cristy for approval. Uploaded minutes and agenda to board meeting page on www.epcamr.org. Completed and uploaded June and July Reports.
- I am running on a surplus of 16 flex hours that need to be taken off.
- Looked into the prospect of using Zoom Phone VIOP service which was estimated to cost \$21.50/ month for the same level of service we get with Ooma, but they charge \$58/month. Bobby and I believe we are still in a contract related to the phone equipment, but December will be a year of service with Ooma.
- Wrote up notes regarding description of PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation's (BAMR) Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS), PA DEP's Title V Active Mine Permits, United States Geological Survey's (USGS) National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) and the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) data used in the Solar on AML siting tool for the final report being compiled by LaBella for DEP EPO.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the 3rd Quarter (Annual) EPCAMR Board meeting.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a Solar on AML check-in call.
- Worked with WPCAMR to start selecting a menu and supply a list of comped rooms to Jen West at the Ramada in State College for the AMD Training next month.
- Caught up with Shawnese in the office as she was georeferencing KAGE maps. She said she had to re-georeference some that were not done well. Will see what she means when she submits her work next month. I counted 322 SIDs in the main folder (mostly WBDO), 505 in BLUE, 974 in BMSA, 275 in KAGE, and 47 in a Mike folder (ones previous staff couldn't figure out) that potentially need to be georeferenced. There could be more that may not be on the server anymore, but can be downloaded from the Mine Map Atlas. Asked Patrick if there was an easy way to search for these in PHUMMIS. [MSI]
- Wrote a proposal to scan, georeference, mosaic and digitize property maps for Earth Conservancy (EC). These are maps that the MSI program would not want to scan, but would be helpful in creating a property database for EC. The work is similar to what we did for the Luzerne County Rail Authority back in 2018.
- Responded to Talli MacAurthur and Patrick Starr of Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) who are developing a request for proposals (RFP) to produce a white paper on watershed groups and the new federal funding for AMD treatment. Some questions were posed like why aren't groups applying, and what may be the hurdles. I responded with several case studies of individual groups in our area that remain from the Growing Greener era of the early 2000s and how they managed to remain active and/or treating discharges as funding to build new AMD treatment systems was reduced over the years. Suggested some consultants that may take on the task.
- Responded to an email from NASLR representatives regarding selection of speakers for their tracks in the PA AMR Conference. They were given the opportunity to select the opener and closer for Wednesday plenaries along with their 6 concurrent sessions. Updated registration list with attendees that signed up within the last week. Updated the sponsors page on treatminewater.com with the Robindale Energy logo.

- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in an AMR Conference call to aide in conference coordination.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in a NASLR and AMR Conference call to coordinate efforts between the two groups.
- Conducted a Zoom call with Tara at Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) to help her with some GIS questions.
- Scheduled AMR conference presentations with Anne and Bobby. The idea was to help Anne determine which presentations may be more popular since we had to watch how many attendees are in some of the smaller rooms at the Altoona Grand Hotel. Updated AMR Registrations in database.
- Pulled together bylaws, minutes and employee policy documents for the auditors who are reviewing our books regarding the Swoyersville AMLER project.
- Called Jen at the Ramada State College to select the menu for the National Technical Training Program (NTTP) Training in September.
- Called Shaina at the Altoona Grand Hotel to inquire about blocked rooms. We only had 50 for that Monday night and they were filling up at the Altoona Grand Hotel. In the contract, there were 60 rooms blocked for Tuesday and Wednesday night. Two AMR Conference committee members notified us of the restriction as they were booking their rooms. We asked Shaina to up all nights to 70 blocked rooms and said if we go above that they have poolside rooms she could give us for \$90 per night. Sent an update to the conference committee.
- Submitted Status Reports to the 319 program for April to June, but discovered we can't submit reimbursement paperwork since we are in the 10% withholding period until the end of the grant in June 2024.
- Registered a few more for the conference. One wanted 2 exhibit tables. Responded that we reserve the right to refund one exhibit space due to space concerns at the venue. Checked back thru exhibits to make sure which ones needed electricity. Requested a floor plan from Shaina at the Altoona Grand Hotel.
- Alerted WPCAMR staff of an email sent to NTTP training attendees by the Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement (OSMRE) saying they will not be covered for travel, lodging and meal expenses. Helped Anne craft a response email to say they are covered by WPCAMR through a grant from Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW). Sorted out what exactly was covered with Andy. Adapted a travel reimbursement form from the AMR Conference for the NTTP training to have attendees report their mileage for reimbursement.
- Registered several more people for the AMR conference: 91 attendees and 26 for the tour. Added more logos to the Sponsors page. Sponsor count was 12. The conference is still just short of 2 months away.

Technical Assistance:

- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the SCD & Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Printed lab samples paperwork and labels for sampling bottles for Shamokin Sampling next week. Steve came in and prepare the bottles with nitric and hydrochloric acid. [SCRA]
- Spent some time strategizing over email with Shawnese on work to be done in the new MSI grant. She sent several mosaic geodatabases for Carbondale and Waymart quadrangles. Deleted older databases and To-Be-Geo map scans from the X Drive and uploaded new files in preparation for Shawnese to pick them up and begin digitizing again. [MSI]
- First day of Shamokin Sampling I stayed back to complete office work. Updated photobook and sent to Katie Wood from Tetra Tech and Matt Caccese from DEP. Bobby and Steve sampled 5 Shamokin Watershed AMD discharges from Richard's Shaft to Corbin Mine Drift with upstream and downstream (16 sites). [SCRA]
- Sampled 4 Shamokin Watershed AMD discharges from Big Mountain to the Cameron Discharges with upstream and downstream (11 sites) on the second day. Filled out the DEP lab sampling datasheets for both days. Met Brenna Schneider from Northumberland County

Conservation District in Paxinos by 3PM to drop off the coolers. She kept them on ice and called the DEP lab courier to pick up the samples the following day. [SCRA]

- Fixed issue with MailChimp Board Meeting listserv. It was corrupted somehow and I had to reconstruct it from the query of 300+ individuals in the EPCAMR main contact list. Sent off the meeting reminder that Bobby wrote up to board members.
- Uploaded georeferenced maps from April, May, and June to MMG SharePoint drive and added these records to PHUMMIS. Answered questions on the review of the 3rd quarter MSI reimbursement mainly related to maps that were rescanned from the KAGE collection. Responded to earlier emails from the week prior regarding the 2nd quarter work and adding records to PHUMMIS that were missing. Also transferred some AUX files to Mara for her to complete the review of a mosaic. Apologized for getting to these late, but there were a lot of questions that required some real time to answer and recording in PHUMMIS. PHUMMIS was really unusable for the month of July into early August and by that time I was really dealing with a triage situation with emails. I recently was able to get a few good days in the office before the board meeting to take care of some outstanding work that piling up due to so much fieldwork and conference/summit coordination this summer. [MSI]
- Noticed that PASDA restored our Anthracite AMD discharge and small watershed boundary map layers. Fixed the RAMLIS online tool to re-add those Anthracite AMD Discharges as orange triangles of varying sizes based on flow. Also added the 2022 Reclaimed AML Polygon Features that identify P1, P2 and Reclaimed features to EPCAMR's ArcGIS Online portal then updated the AML Point Features to 2022. Followed up with Anna Stork to let her know those AMD Discharges were restored and suggested looking at the Mocanaqua Tunnel and West End Mine as a potential site for pump storage as suggested by Bernie McGurl at LRCA.
- Started adding July lab sample results and August field sample results from the Shamokin Watershed to excel spreadsheet on EPCAMR SharePoint. [SCRA]
- Found Luzerne County Parcel Database GIS weblayer and sent to EPCAMR GIS Watershed Specialist, Steve Cornia, to start Luzerne County case study of number of suitable sites, number of properties and number of landowners statistics for Solar on AML report. The statistics may have to be manually calculated, unfortunately, since the ArcGIS Online weblayer does not lend itself to querying. [SOLAR]
- Still waiting for the Southern Field Mosaic and maps to be uploaded to the MSI SharePoint, but started looking at the Southern Field Mosaics again as requested by MSI staff. Asked for board member help in finding maps to fill in gaps. Converted some PA Mine Map Atlas maps to work with AutoCAD and researched some gaps in the southern field. The Lucianna Mine exists near Port Carbon but not sure exactly where. Followed up with a discussion at the board meeting to see if this board member could help and maybe had a map source. She said it was closer to Cumbola and referenced an aerial photo from 1938. Ed Wytovich pointed out that Baber Cemetery had York Farm Colliery maps and may we willing to allow them to be scanned. [MSI]
- Finished adding August field sampling results and July lab results to Shamokin Sampling spreadsheet, still waiting on 3 site results from the lab. [SCRA]
- Answered some questions from Arielle Avashai from OSMRE about the Clark Veins in the Old Forge colliery. Looked for a cross-section to explain (which I could not find). Went back to the 2nd Geo Survey and found/sent some maps, cross sections and drill logs of the area. Also sent some maps used in mine map mosaics to research in PHUMMIS and download from the Mine Map Atlas.
- Transferred Nanticoke, Wilkes-Barre East, Wilkes-Barre West and Shickshinny quadrangle Mosaics and SIDs used in them to Earth Conservancy's server as requested to allow them to use the information especially in some mining impaired stream channel reconstruction projects they are designing with engineers. [EC]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. Notified EC that there was a new beaver dam starting upstream of the oxidizers. Added a sign to Truesdale Borehole to encourage passers by to leave the transducer alone. [EC]
- Started to QA/QC Scranton, Olyphant, Carbondale and Waymart mosaics. Started by fixing broken file paths. Reviewed maps in EPCAMR To-Be-Geo folder and found some maps that

could be useful in these quadrangles. Looked at filling in more with NMMR or OSMA folios. [MSI]

- Continued fixing broken file paths in Waymart mosaics and evaluating coverage. Removed BMSA_4624-006 from the Waymart and Carbondale surface mosaics. It was georeferenced improperly by Harrisburg U in Carbondale, but is actually in Scranton. [MSI]
- Organized NMMR maps for Northwest Colliery to figure out which vein was the Mills. It seems to be right above the Top Clark. Added WBDO_012-0G-02 (NW Mills Vn 1:400 scale) to Waymart Skidmore mosaic. Added WBDO_102-18 Powderly Surface map to Waymart Surface Mosaic. Will need to add to Carbondale Mosaic as well.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.