



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2024 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI MMG** program. Continue QA/QC of **HU's** Southern Anthracite Mosaic work.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, **POWR CWO** calls; hosted an EPCAMR Board Meeting; continued to register attendees for the NTTTP training and AMR Conference.
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; 3 AMD TS, upstream, downstream in **Loyalsock Creek Watershed** for **LCWA & SCD**; sampled sites in the Wyoming Valley with **Columbia U**
- Updated www.TreatMineWater.com and www.EPCAMR.org; administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Received a series of PDFs and RTF (MS Word 95) documents from the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College via Andy which were supposed to represent our 2 draft contracts for our AMR Conference in October and the NTTTP AMD PTS training in September. Sorted out the documents into those 2 events and crossed out conference rooms not needed and verified the number of overnight rooms we estimate will be needed for each. Worked with Anne and Bobby to select food for the NTTTP AMD PTS training in September now that registration ended for that event. Andy forwarded the choices to the Ramada along with the corrected contracts.
- Participated in POWR CWO survey call and worked on the data section of the report. Discovered that making charts and graphs in Microsoft 365 online version of Excel is very limited. You can technically open a spreadsheet on SharePoint in the desktop version of Excel, but the spreadsheet is on SRI's SharePoint and I was stuck in a never-ending Microsoft password sign-on loop. Downloaded the spreadsheet to my desktop to open it in the desktop version of Excel.
- Followed up on the two \$10 donations I made to EPCAMR and Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) via Zeffy. I made them to make sure things were working before going live with the donation portals on the respective websites. Chatted with Zeffy support to find out that they hold donations gathered in a week till the end of the week and then transfer them to the connected bank account. Spoke with Cheryl Brobst to confirm that my \$10 Zeffy donation came through on May 20th. Got an email from Zeffy on the 3rd that said the transfer should show up in our bank account by the 5th. Asked our bookkeeper to keep an eye out for the transaction.
- After 6 months of back and forth with Ooma about a \$2.11 PA Gross Receipts Tax on our monthly phone bills and a recent response from their legal team that we aren't exempt from this tax, we decided to cut the cord with Ooma and switch our phone carrier to Mint Mobile. EPCAMR was able to prepay for 12 months of service and purchase 2 mobile phones for

~\$400. We were paying ~\$720 a year with Ooma and the call quality was lacking (delayed). Began the process of porting our phones away from Ooma and into Mint Mobile.

- Continued work on the data section of the POWR Community-based Watershed Organization (CWO) draft report. Created an Excel spreadsheet to make charts and graphs for the desktop version of the data section. Used some of the AI-generated and human-checked analysis for discussion of each question. Sent a list of survey questions to Frank that could be turned into word clouds.
- EPCAMR Bookkeeper, Marianne Beane, stopped by to review QuickBooks online (QBO) with us a week before the EPCAMR 3rd Quarter Board Meeting.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in a POWR CWO Call to catch up on each others work.
- Continued work on the data section of the POWR CWO draft report.
- Successfully ported the EPCAMR mainline (570) 371-3522 over to Mint Mobile after a few unsuccessful tries. Still working on porting over Bobby's number (570) 371-3523.
- Created the EPCAMR Treasurer's Report after fixing some numbers on QBO. Sent the report to our EPCAMR Treasurer who inquired if our bookkeeper could attend our board meeting. Communicated the edits to our bookkeeper via email as things came up to document the changes and other changes that will be needed. Stressed our Estimate> Credit Memo> Invoice> Transfer funds from restricted to unrestricted accounts workflow for prepay grants in QuickBooks desktop (QBDT) and now in QBO. The process for reimbursement grants is similar but simpler. This level of tracking is needed to help us match expenses to reimbursements. Our bookkeeper started expensing certain receipts to restricted accounts, but it really just confuses the reimbursement process. In the workflow, all expenses should be taken from the unrestricted account and reimbursed with the workflows mentioned above. She agreed to revert to this workflow. We may benefit from QB envelopes as well. But it will take further research.
- Completed work on the data section of the POWR CWO draft report. Added charts, graphs, and discussion to the desktop version of the data section.
- Revised our 319 final reimbursement with suggested match and deduction amounts from Trish
- EPCAMR Management staff hosted the 3rd Quarter (Annual) EPCAMR Board Meeting. Our bookkeeper was able to attend from 11 - 11:30 but the board was not able to get to her within that timeframe.
- Successfully ported Bobby's number to Mint Mobile. Called and canceled the Ooma service as soon as we were notified the port-out was successful, but not before Ooma charged us another month. It is a small price to pay to be rid of Ooma service.
- Discussion about estimated staff time overages in the CWO draft report and new statistics desired from POWR. Estimated time for the new statistics and will wait on their response before spending more time on this unanticipated task.
- Notification from Ooma that the VoIP phones were rentals and needed to be returned or they would charge us the full MSRP for the phones. I am sure we were given the phones as there were no rental fees on our monthly bills, but packed up and took Ooma VoIP phones to the post office to send off with a signature request.
- Caught up on timesheets and counted up actual hours for the POWR CWO project. Invoiced the lead organization, Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) for tasks 1-3 with time spent up to May 31st totaling \$4,999.98 with \$11,016.02 in in-kind match for tasks 1-3 of the project.
- Split Bobby's original draft National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) Southern Wyoming Valley report into 6 sections and added a Data section as the 7th plus a TOC/Executive Summary, and Appendix. Reorganized them into 1 Overall Context, 2 ABD Habitat Assessment, 3 EBT Habitat Assessment, 4 Water, 5 Data, 6 Recommendations, and 7 References. Took Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist, John Levitsky's, comments from Bobby's original document and incorporating them into the 7 sections of the NFWF report. Wrote a 3-paragraph executive summary for the NFWF report. [NFWF]
- Had a discussion with Earth Conservancy staff about recycling piling up in the storage area again. Shredded office papers and placed in a large leaf collecting bag for the Paper Eaters to take when they empty Earth Conservancy's bin. Took newspapers in paper bags to Plymouth Borough (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Took cardboard to Solomon Container Services. Took

co-mingled recycling to Wilkes-Barre City garage as directed by Solomon Container Services staff. I was told to make sure my vehicle was placarded with our non-profit logo. I slapped our EPCAMR magnet on my truck, but a staffer at the garage noticed our address in Ashley and said "it's ok this time, but if my boss saw you are bringing recyclables from Ashley, he would stop you." I explained the authorization from Solomon Container Services and he said "that doesn't matter." I was told to go to Ashley Borough to find a solution. Ashley Borough offered to sell us a co-mingled recycling container to put out at the curb and they would pick up 2 Wednesdays a month. This has proven inefficient because of the amount of materials EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy produce monthly. Also, high winds blow down Main Street and topple these containers to make a mess. EPCAMR staff are mandated to recycle in our bylaws, but since Mascaro's drop-off stopped in Nanticoke a few years ago, it has become increasingly difficult to do so. Luzerne County Recycling Office needs to be more proactive in not only promotion but working to secure drop-off locations for residents and non-profits. They pass-the-buck to municipalities. It should not be this difficult to recycle.

- Updated schedule of breaks/lunches, AV equipment and other logistics on the Ramada contract for the NTTTP training for Andy.
- Sorted out logistical details with the AMR Conference Tour with Kelly Williams, Clearfield Conservation District Watershed Specialist and Anne at WPCAMR. Worried that a bus will not make it to some of the sites. Expressed my concerns to the AMR Conference Committee.
- Sent Nanticoke Creek stream loss map snapshots in PowerPoint to and Bureau of Mines 518 report Joe Sapienza, Centone Pictures, for the mine mapping video he is preparing for EPCAMR.
- Recorded references for the NFWF report and created a table of 9 aquatic organism passage (AOP) barriers for the Recommendations section.
- Approved the 3rd iteration of the PA AMR Conference logo to get quotes for embroidered trucker hats swag for attendees and polo shirts for the committee.

Technical Assistance:

- Added georeferenced maps for 2nd quarter 2024 to the Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS). Reported PHUMMIS External search errors that staff were encountering. [MSI]
- Ordered a 4TB external Solid-State Drive (SSD) for Shawnese (the same one we got for Steve last month). Her new 2TB traditional hard drive that she bought without permission from Walmart failed as well (hopefully she can replace it with the warranty). Bad luck on drives lately. These SSD drives are more expensive but because there are no moving parts (spinning plates and read/write arm). Because of this feature they are more durable, drop damage resistant, and have faster data speeds. We have had success with internal SSDs that run Windows. Though they are smaller capacity, the computers start up faster and seem to perform faster. It acts as a speed upgrade sometimes more than a new memory or CPU chip. SSD technology has grown by leaps and bounds the past few years. We got the green light to reimburse the expense to the MSI program. [MSI]
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift) with Steve and Frank. [LCWA]
- Received communication with Shawnese regarding her new Windows 11 computer which she thinks is corrupting drives. She explained how she was running a file recovery program, but needed another 2TB drive to recover the data. I told her to bring it in so I could look at it. I could reset the computer and send the drive to a data recovery service. She asked for her old computer back and the 4TB SSD to continue digitizing.
- Ordered Sulphate and Iron HR reagent for our YSI photometer.
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. [EC]
- Hadn't heard from MSI program about the PHUMMIS External search errors, completed the Workforce Violence training and reminded them we are still having issues with PHUMMIS since last week.

- Sampled with Columbia University professor and students again. This time we were looking for samples we could collect from deep in the mine pool. Spend the day opening boreholes that we could access and send the Kemmerer Bottle down to grab a sample. Unfortunately, this method was not “clean” enough for CU methods and they plan to get single use depth sampling equipment to factor out the potential for contamination. Took some field parameters on the depth sampled water. Also took a sample and a blank (distilled water swished in the Kemmerer after it was rinsed) to the lab for analysis.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.