



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Talked to *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds PA AML Campaign to find out if we can get an updated determination of the “cost/acre of reclamation” estimate that has been often used by EPCAMR and the PA AML Campaign since we’re updating the PA Congressional Maps and new districts with new PA AML Statistics; It was suggested that we reach out to PA DEP BAMR
- *Jen Orr*, Director of Compacts & Commissions Office of the PA DEP, informed EPCAMR that she had a contact with a rail company in Williamsport, PA that might be interested in donating towards the Lokie Restoration Fundraiser being conducted by the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS); Forwarded the information on to *Don Kane, Jr.* with the HBPS; Followed up with *Niel Vierson*, President of Vierson Boiler & Repair Company in Grand Rapids, MI about their Vulcan Steam Locomotive that the HBPS is looking to purchase and restore and verified that the requests for a quote of the purchase price was legitimate and necessary for a Local Service grant being proposed by the HBPS; Received the proposal and sale price and forwarded it to *Don Kane Jr.* to forward to *Ray Clarke*
- Participated in the RECLAIM Working Group conference call; Provided *Lyndsay Taurus*, Alliance for Appalachia, and a lead on the National RECLAIM Working Group with an example of EPCAMR’s RAMLIS Tool Statistics that we are working on to create maps and information graphics on each of the new PA Congressional and Legislative Districts as they relate to the PA AML features contained within their boundaries; Signed on to the National Black Lung and RECLAIM Support Letter; Provided *Dave Hess* with an update on RECLAIM and SMCRA Reauthorization issues
- Attended a PA DEP EE Webinar presentation at the Stettler Learning Center, Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, PA with *Laura Rinehimer*, Watershed EE Specialist; Met with several professors interested in partnering on a mini-EE grant with EPCAMR
- Talked with *Rebecca Newberry*, Executive Director, [Clean Air](http://CleanAir.org), Western NY, about the TESLA/Solar City Project in Buffalo, NY; Coal Communities from across the country have signed on to a letter support a just transition for jobs in the region that are environmental justice communities; Signed EPCAMR on to the letter and provided examples of how solar panel manufacturing can lead to workforce development and jobs on abandoned mine lands as alternative energy projects throughout Appalachia

- *Andrea Nerozzi*, Chair of the Science Department at Wyoming Seminary and artist, had her students experiment with EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment and they created a water-color based paint medium that they are going to be using on a Hexagon Project with EPCAMR
- Provided Laura Rinehimer, EPCAMR Watershed EE Specialist, with some content for the December EPCAMR monthly newsletter
- *Dr. Bill Bolan*, King's College-Director of the Shoal Center, has a Spring 2019 class with 5 media students ("Radio and Audio Production") who were looking for a nonprofit to partner with to produce a radio PSA; He asked EPCAMR if we would consider being a partner once again on another project with King's College; EPCAMR Staff would just tell them what message we'd like to get out, and then see if we liked what they made; If EPCAMR approves any spots Professor *Cathy Donnelly*, would distribute it to local radio stations; EPCAMR Executive Director agreed to allow EPCAMR to become a partner in the Spring 2019 to assist with our outreach efforts

Technical Assistance

- Reviewed the final NFWF Green Infrastructure Conceptual Plan Report and recommendations for the City of Wilkes-Barre completed by Clauser Environmental, LLC and EPCAMR prior to making copies for the City Council Meeting December 6th presentation; 9 public parks and mining impacted watershed areas were included in the report; Provided electronic copies of the report to *Joyce Morrash Zaykowski* and *Butch Frati*, Wilkes-Barre City Officials
- Worked on preparing the *Huntsville Creek Coldwater Heritage Plan* (CHP) grant for **\$5000** and requesting Letters of Support from numerous partners in the Back Mountain that are located within the Toby Creek watershed in the Wyoming Valley; *Tom Mayka*, Stormwater Coordinator for the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA); Jackson Twp., Lehman Twp., Dallas Borough, Dallas Twp., PSU Wilkes-Barre, PEC, Representative Karen Boback, Representative Aaron Kaufer, Senator Yudichak, Senator Lisa Baker, North Branch Land Trust, The Luzerne Conservation District, The Lands at Hillside Farm, all provided letters of support; Waiting on one letter from the Stanley Cooper Chapter of TU; Prepared the budget and application and submitted to Ashley Wilmot-PA Trout CHP Program Manager
- Provided *Mariah Davis*, Field Manager for the Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) with permission to use an EPCAMR photo and provided her with a description of the AMD image that the CCWC would like to use in an educational briefing booklet to legislators
- Provided *David Kinney*, Eastern National TU Policy Director, with substantial comments related to AMD and abandoned mine issues, at his request on their first PA Legislative Briefing being put together by TU
- Met with *Guy Sheets*, [AMO Environmental Decisions](#), to reconnect after many years and to allow for him to inform EPCAMR of his current company's portfolio and to catch him up on EPCAMR projects in the region; *Guy* was an initial attendee at many of our charter EPCAMR meetings over 20 years ago; Forwarded information on some potential future work in Dauphin County in the Wiconisco Creek Watershed on AMD
- Provided a Letter of Support to Mansfield University, at the request of *Jen Demchak*, to go into some of the schools near Williamsport in Lycoming County, PA to talk about STEM Careers in the field of abandoned mine reclamation and any work that we have completed or are doing in NC PA

- PA DCED provided EPCAMR with permission to place cameras in Centralia in partnership with the Keep PA Beautiful Program after providing EPCAMR with a Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification document that needs to be signed; Had KPB review the document and it met their needs; EPCAMR Executive Director will bring it up for review and eventual signature at the 1st Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting; *Rob Dubas*, Keep PA Beautiful is our Coordinator for the Camera Loaner Surveillance Program
- *Michelle Schasberger*, YMCA, is considering putting a PA DEP EE application in for an afterschool program Summer Camp Program she runs built around a butterfly garden construction, however, there needs to be a connection to abandoned mine lands and funds available for Staff time and travel to participate; Followed up with a phone call to her to see if she is going to fully develop a proposal before the January 11th deadline; Provided her with a copy of our Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices Recommendations Report to the City of Wilkes-Barre for her review

Project Coordination

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Requested that *Mike Menghini*, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office send us his revised Powerpoint Presentation from the second informational meeting before posting it on the EPCAMR website; *Tiffany Folk*, Geologist Specialist-PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, sent it to EPCAMR with the revisions and Mike posted it online; Requested that Gerard Schmidt, Project Officer for PA DEP-BAMR provide EPCAMR with the Application for Reimbursement forms; Sent *Matt Cochran*, two attachments about the language that is specific to the agreement, in terms of the format of the reimbursement requests and what is needed before EPCAMR can submit it to the PA DEP BAMR for review, approval, and eventual payment; Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management, LLC provided EPCAMR and the PA DEP with an Inquiry Hotline Phone Number for residents-(570-550-0080) for the website; Received the copy of the Application for Reimbursement Form from Gerard and forwarded a copy of it to *Matt Cochran* for him to see what the format looks like; Matt had submitted an Invoice that needed corrections and had no receipts and was directed to resubmit it on Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management, LLC Letterhead or their own standard invoice.

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards

- Participated in conference call with *Claudia Meglin*, ISI Inc.; Provided Claudia with a listing of the Wyoming Valley Schools that we will focus on reaching in 2019 (Heights Elementary-Wilkes-Barre Area, Hanover Area, and Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary Center; Provided *Claudia* with a listing of the watershed partners in the Coal Region that are located within the expansion area where our efforts to the Western Middle Coalfields around Mt. Carmel and Shamokin could head; Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association; [Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance](#); [Northumberland County Conservation District](#); [Columbia County Conservation District](#); [Schuylkill County Conservation District](#); PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR) [Weiser State Forest District](#); [Mahanoy Area School District](#); [Mt. Carmel Area School District](#); and [Shamokin Area School District](#); Provided *Bode Murin* with information on the filming status for the project and our future visits to Eckley and let him know that *John Welsh* and *Claudia Meglin*, ISI Inc. will be getting in touch with him; Worked with Laura and Denise to pull together another Invoice in the amount of **\$3417.50** for the end of the year on time spent on the filming aspects since mid-November through the end of December 2018

Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project

- Received the November 29th lab sampling data results from Hawk Mountain Labs from the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel and input the data into the Water Quality database; Provided SRBC with the most updated Water Quality database of our continuous monitoring efforts; Contacted Aaron Bierly-PA DCNR Senior Geologic Scientist and asked if he would assist with identifying rock lithology from within the Black Creek watershed that was buried several dozen feet below the surface at the location of BH3 near Stump's Lake; EPCAMR will send down a box of the rocks just after the New Year to be identified; EPCAMR will forward Aaron the Black Creek Geologic Report from the USGS

Rausch Creek SRBC Mine Pool Mapping Evaluation and Discharge Transport Project

- *Tom Clark*-SRBC requested that EPCAMR send down the Final Report that was submitted in a Word document in addition to the PDF file that was submitted; Mike forwarded the Word document

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Thiago Scabbia*, Conshohocken, PA and *Jeremy Heiser* signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer; Followed up with a message to both of them
- Followed up with *Gabby Zawacki*, DHL Supply Chain Logistics, about some upcoming volunteer opportunities after the New Year
- Followed up with *Jennifer Yaskewich*, an EPCAMR Volunteer who is interested in Community Development and doing some research for EPCAMR

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Confirmed the EPCAMR/EC Conference Room for a ***June 18th, 2019 PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Basic Training Workshop*** with *Liz Rosser*, Master Watershed Stewardship Coordinator; EPCAMR to present on our work in the region related to AMD, AML, and Mine Mapping
- Provided a brief bio to *Dr. Jeremy Rich*, Marywood University, for the ***January 18th Anthracite Mining Heritage History Month*** overview presentation on Mapping Surface and Underground Mines and Mine Pools throughout NE PA; Helped to spread the word through EPCAMR's social media outlets
- Secured a **\$750** sponsorship for the ***2019 PA AMR/NAAML/PAASLR Conference*** from Graymont to support scholarships for non-profit representatives and Conservation District Watershed Specialists to attend if they would like to consider attending in the Fall of 2019; Reviewed Anne's blurb for the NAAML Conference website about announcing the scholarship solicitations through social media; Robindale Energy also committed to becoming a sponsor at the **\$3000** level and is corresponding with Anne from WPCAMR and Cristy from ARIPPA; ARIPPA will also become a sponsor; Tetra Tech has also become a sponsor; Andy McAllister-WPCAMR is reaching out to RK Mellon through the Foundation for PA Watersheds for a **\$10,000** grant; Dave Hess has committed to a **\$1000** sponsorship level; EPCAMR Executive Director reached out to over 30 vendors and past sponsors of our PA AMR Conferences personally to seek additional sponsors; Continued to ask for logos from sponsors to send to *Eugene Trio*-PA DEP BAMR to upload eventually to the NAAML Conference website; Encouraged all EPCAMR Staff to apply for scholarships to attend; Anne started a Scholarship Request sheet in Excel for the PA AMR Conference Committee to consider for approval monthly starting in Jan. 2019

- Requested to provide an AMD Tour of the Askam AMD Treatment System and conduct an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop for inner-city youth within the Wyoming Valley by *Vinnie Cotrone*- Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Committee and PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Program as a part of their PA American Water Camp in July 2019

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed the December 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Sent around to the EPCAMR Staff the December edition of the Anthracite Report from the PA Anthracite Council
- Submitted to *Diane Dutko*, at the Luzerne Foundation, a Commitment Form to present to the Youth Allocations Committee for a chance at **\$10,000** grant, along with a 1 page summary narrative and 2 slides; Presented a pitch at the Luzerne Foundation Office on December 9th, at 6:30PM in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Interviewed *Jessica Britten*, King's College, PA for a Winter 2019 Work Study Internship; Began the paperwork process with Kelly Lettieri-King's College for a start date the week of January 14th; She'll be working an average 2 days/week
- Met with *Lisabeth Maletta*, Accu-Audits, Premium Auditor to perform our Worker's Compensation audit for EPCAMR on behalf of SWIF
- *Jessica Barbose*, OneSource, provided EPCAMR with a template for COBRA coverage; Sent information on the mini-COBRA coverage continuation to *Rachael Grube* to consider after receiving an Enrollment/Waiver form from Highmark and creating a cover letter and explanation of the mini-COBRA group offer that could be extended based on our existing small group and size at EPCAMR that only covers Medical coverage
- Forwarded *Kelsey Biondo*, former EPCAMR employee, some prior year paystub records that she had requested from EPCAMR
- *Keara Sullivan*, a Junior at Penn-State University, majoring in Environmental Resource Management, reached out to inquire about a Summer Internship consideration; Provided her with information to follow up with for consideration
- *Nick Price*, a Senior at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA submitting a resume for consideration for an internship for the Winter 2019 (Spring Semester); Informed him of what needed to be submitted and let him know that I would review his cover letter and resume and get back to him after the New Year
- Responded to *Joshua Powell*, www.Viable.io, who helps watershed and conservation groups share and visualize their water quality monitoring and project data, collect pollution reports from citizens, and increase the health of their data to build confidence as a professional service; EPCAMR Executive Director responded that we already submit our data to [Datashed](#), [PASDA](#), and SRBC's [Mine Drainage Portal](#)