



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2019 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Discussed with *Steve Cornia*-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Specialist the need for several GIS Maps to include in the Plan; Steve will create the maps; *Tom Mayka*-DAMA Stormwater Coordinator provided EPCAMR with a list of the MS4 Projects being proposed for the Toby Creek Watershed under their purview and NPDES Permit for inclusion in the plan; Asked Tom if he had created a GIS Map of all the Projects in the Plan and if he could forward it to EPCAMR, if he had done so; Requested a possible date of receipt for the Fishery Study Electroshocking results on Toby Creek from *Kathleen Lavelle*, Trout Unlimited, to see if we can include it as an Appendix in the Plan; Worked with *Steve* to add additional attributes to the GIS layer for the Macroinvertebrate Survey locations in the watershed from the original field data sheets completed by *Lauren Perry* and *Jason Zubris*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Interns; Reached out to Dr. Larry Corpus, Misericordia University to see if EPCAMR could obtain some of his historical data on Trout Brook for the plan since he had done some research on the tributary with his students and presented before the PA Academy of Science in 2014 & 2015; Secured the Dallas Township Municipal Building thanks to *Martin Barry*, Dallas Township Manager, for the presentation of the Final Draft Plan Meeting on 1-16-20 from 6:30-8:30PM; Created an event [page](#) to invite and encourage Back Mountain residents attendance and invited previous attendees from the first public information meeting and partners in EPCAMR's contact list, including the media to attend

Gardner-Mill Creek Watershed Coldwater Conservation Plan Project (proposed)

- Worked with *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist to develop the budget, narrative, preliminary statistics, and maps for the watershed assessment and conservation plan, which includes the Gardner Creek, Lampblack Creek, 3 Spring Brook tributaries, of the larger Mill Creek in Luzerne County, to be submitted for **\$5000** in the latest round of funding consideration through the Coldwater Heritage Partnership; Sought letters of support from partners in the watershed and local government municipalities; Received letters from EC, Plains Township, City of Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, and Wilkes-Barre Area School District

Dominion Energy Watershed AOP Monitoring/Training Workshop for Tioga County Partners (proposed)

- EPCAMR Executive Director proposed a monitoring grant to *Kelly Horrell*, Western PA Conservancy, in the amount of **\$3000** to focus on boosting our partnership with the Tioga County Conservation District, Mansfield University, Environeers, and other watershed and community organizations, including the Tiadaughton Chapter of Trout Unlimited, working on watershed projects throughout Tioga County; EPCAMR proposed to host a Field Culvert Assessment and Water Quality Monitoring Workshop for Tioga County watershed volunteers and students interested in aquatic connectivity and trout stream restoration; *Dr. Jen Demchak*, a Professor at Mansfield University, wrote a support letter as well as well as *Erica Tomlinson*, District Manager for the Tioga County Conservation District, and *Paul Otruba*-Environeers. The funding will be used for the purchase of field testing equipment, a few telescoping stadia rods, several 300' tapes, write in the rain field note books, a few pairs of waders of various sizes, and clip boards for use in the field workshops. We will locate culverts in the County to train the volunteers. EPCAMR is a part of the NAACC and the Executive Director is both a Lead Observer and Lead Coordinator 1 that can add and approve all volunteers interested in becoming certified in [Aquatic Connectivity Organism Passage](#). This training could give the Mansfield University college students some great outdoor field experiences and applied science field work for their respected majors; We are partners with Trout Unlimited and with Patagonia through their World Trout Initiative; Corey Creek is very close by in Richmond Township and has crossing locations to assess; Submitted the application electronically and mailed a hard copy

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards in the Coalfields Project

- Forwarded *Claudia* contact information for *Joe Sapienza* to see if he'd be interested in filming the Apple Tree planting in Centralia; Claudia provided the EPCAMR Executive Director with a summary of actions that ISI, Inc. and EPCAMR will look forward to achieving in the Spring 2020; *Pieter Hoff* would like EPCAMR to post a blog on their Groasis Green Musketeers [webpage](#) and social media page; *Laura* will be working on writing the blog; Worked with *Denise* to create and submit our 4th Quarter Invoice to ISI, Inc. for **\$6250** and submitted it; *Kendra Craig*-Columbia County Conservation District informed EPCAMR that she has a few groups interested in volunteering to plant the apple tree seedlings with us in Centralia in the Spring; Forwarded information on the [Greenhouse Project](#); It's a nonprofit organization growing a sustainable community through education programs, wholesome food priorities and healthy living initiatives and is located in the James Barrett McNulty Greenhouse in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, works to educate children and adults about horticulture, health, preventing disease through diet and active lifestyle, and to support locally-grown food and responsible food policy to *Laura*, *Denise*, and *Shawnese*

Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Consumptive Use Feasibility Report Project

- Received a copy of the Coal Creek Demonstration Project from AES; Requested a quote from Tencate on Geotubes from *Brad Schultz*-OSMRE, and *Mike Jenkins*, Aqua-Fix, for AMD Treatment to incorporate into the alternatives AMD Treatment option section of the report;

Worked with *Denise* to submit the final Phase I & Phase II Request for funds from SRBC and submitted it to *Pierre McCoy*

PA AML Pilot Rare Earth Elements (REE) & Critical Minerals Development Monitoring Project (proposed)

- Created an e-mail blast through MailChimp to our EPCAMR supporters, members, and Conservation Districts, to see if they would write a letter of support for our REE Monitoring Project; WPCAMR offered to do the same and sent out a separate e-mail blast to their constituents and Conservation District members; Provided them with a template letter; Provided *Tom Gray-Tetra Tech* with comments and information for the draft application; Received Letters of Support from ARIPPA, Earth Conservancy, Indiana County Conservation District, and Blacklick Creek Watershed Association

Technical Assistance

- Applied for a **\$5000** RECLAIM Field Fund Mini-Grant through Appalachian Voices to provide additional AML Statistics Maps by Congressional Districts for other States around the country that request assistance from EPCAMR; We're working on Navajo Nation, W. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Ohio at the moment; Completed maps for [Alabama](#) and sent them off to their AML Program and GASP; Awarded **\$4000** from the Blue Green Alliance
- Worked with the Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited to obtain a free year's membership to their Chapter for 3 teachers in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District that are a part of the *Trout in the Classroom* program with EPCAMR; Provided the Joe Gruskiewicz with all the necessary contact information for each of the teachers; They have a pretty amazing [website](#) that tracks the health of their tank and rainbow trout created by *Amanda Schraeder*, 8th grade science teacher
- *Grace Hanoian*, AmeriCorps member, for [Rural Action](#) and the [Middle Tuscarawas River Watershed](#), requested some assistance with identifying what information is available for Ohio, related to AML Statistics; She needed information within a week's turnaround time for a legislative tour she was planning for mid-December; EPCAMR provided her with the information that we had available and offered assistance but informed her that we wouldn't be able to dedicate a large amount of time towards completing the amount of workload that she had requested; She was however, able to get assistance from the Ohio DNR AML Program
- Communicated with *Joe Mills*- Acid Rock Drainage Specialist, Skelly & Loy, Inc. on their intent to submit a Growing Greener grant for a project design and bid package for the Packer 5 AMD discharge in the Mahanoy Creek and were looking for in-kind funds towards the grant; However, for EPCAMR to do any additional considerable amount of work in the Mahanoy Creek on the mine pools, we needed to be incorporated into the grant application for professional services; It was suggested that additional mine pool mapping be completed for the entire drainage for the Packer 5 that builds off of our earlier work in 2012 because we believe that not enough water quality and quantity of the flows have been taken for the

discharge that will lead to a properly sized AMD Treatment system at this time; Provided Joe with some ideas on how to proceed forward, but mentioned that we would need to be written in to the proposal for the additional work

- Picked up surveillance cameras from Centralia for Winter Maintenance and picked up one of the cameras that had been cut the cable from a tree but not stolen; EPCAMR will be reviewing the footage on the SD cards over the Holidays to see if anyone can be seen on the camera since they just seemed to vandalize the case but couldn't get the camera out or decided not to take it with them; Reported the incident to *Rob Dubas*, Keep PA Beautiful
- Discussed with *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager about looking into a telemetry device used for continuous water monitoring through In-Situ's [VuLink](#), a cellular and satellite telemetry device; It's designed to fit and mount in a two-inch/50mm tube and work anywhere in the world; With one button press, it is instantly set up and ready to use; Icons indicate instrument status, battery life and connectivity, so you know it's working; Costs look reasonable; Mike requested a quote and will follow up with Bernie and Mike Korb about future consideration for Old Forge or other areas of concern; It works with the LevelTroll 500 (which is installed at Old Forge) and runs on three D size batteries; The process to link the logger to the telemetry unit is much easier than hooking it up to the old baud unit
- Provided a letter of support to Stream Restoration Inc, (SRI) who is putting in a proposal to the Growing Greener grant program to upgrade and update the Datashed website and also to perform AMD Treatment Sampling Snapshots across PA; EPCAMR was written in for **\$5000** to provide support and monitoring for SRI and *Cliff Denholm*
- Provided *Laura Rinehimer*-EPCAMR Environmental Education Coordinator and *Shawnese Taylor*-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist two research papers on the use of freshwater mussels to clean up polluted water for their review
- Provided mine maps to *Steve Konrad*-Plymouth Historical Society on the Nottingham Mine Disaster of 1947; Worked with *Steve Cornia*-EPCAMR to look through our maps of the Top Ross vein in Nottingham Colliery and identified the location of the 1947 explosion based off the location description in the explosion report; Although we could not find any indication of a No. 15 Shaft anywhere on the maps, we were able to find the No. 2 slope extension, No. 9 East, No. 16 Tunnel, which can be found on map (BLUE_NOT-11-10); None of the maps show any sort of indication of an explosion even though there are survey dates written before and after the event and even some in that area as soon after as 3/12/47. so we assumed this is one of the maps they were using at the time; The other location mentioned, No. 10 Slope, No. 10 Tunnel were identified on maps (BLUE_NOT-09-10) and (BLUE_NOT-08-10-01); Based off of the report, we believe this to be the source of the gas build up from the abandoned mine workings that lead to the explosion in the No. 2 slope, but we could be wrong; From these maps it is hard to see how these two slopes are connected; We referred

him to map (BLUE_NOT-00-10-01) which is a 1:400 scale map that shows both locations and also shows the connection between No.2 Slope and No.10 Slope.

- Provided *Dr. Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Upper School with photos before and after construction of the Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Habitat Improvement Project in Ashley Borough for inclusion in one of her class projects following the AMD Tour that was provided to her students
- *Kristina Lammi Thompson*, Cultural Resources Specialist-District 5-0 & Above-Ground Cultural Resources Supervisor-PA DOT provided EPCAMR with information on a Road Bridge Project near Loomis Park, Hanover Township, due to our work with the EC on the Askam AMD Treatment system along Nanticoke Creek, our knowledge of the local railroads and right of ways, and our culvert assessment work in the region; PA DOT asked if we'd like to be a consulting party under the Section 106 portion of the National Historic Preservation Act that related to Federal Projects to provide future input; EPCAMR agreed because our input will be considered in the design process and may affect how they treat historic properties (in this case, the *Loomis Park Historic District*) on the project; Signed up through the PA DOT PATH [site](#)

Education & Outreach

- [Article](#) on Reauthorization and redevelopment of abandoned mine lands appeared in the Citizens Voice quoting Congressman Cartwright, the EPCAMR Executive Director and President, *Bernie McGurl*
- Forwarded some correspondence from *Chelsea Blink*, Fellow for Congressman Cartwright, on his thoughts on bringing a Coal Package of bills to the floor that was sent around to Congressional Leadership to the PA AML Campaign for their thoughts
- *Molly Moore*, Editor of The Appalachian Voice, for Appalachian Voices, created several pull quote graphics for EPCAMR based on the Executive Director's testimony in November before the House Natural Resources Committee
- Participated in a conference call with the [PA DEP Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Program](#) led by *Allison Acevdeo*, Esq., Director and some state-wide non-profits on the call who are working in EJ communities to plan the framework for ongoing EJ calls that will bring organizations together across the State to discuss EJ in PA; *Justin Dula*, AICP-NE Regional Coordinator for the EJ Program met with the EPCAMR Executive Director on 12-10-19, who provided him and *Rob Sax*, NE Regional Government Liaison with an overview of our organization and the public services and other technical professional services that we offer in the region and our thoughts on elevating the EJ efforts, presence, and priorities in the region; Offered to take *Justin* and *Rob* on an AMD Tour in the Spring 2020

- EPCAMR is 1/11 Finalists for potential funding from [The Luzerne Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee](#) and will be scheduling a visit between January and March 2020 to meet with the Staff and discuss our project proposal further
- Forwarded the [Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini Pre-K-12 Environmental Education Grant Program](#) announcement around to the EPCAMR Staff to consider applying for a grant in 2020
- Provided input to members of the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited Board on HR 4735 on behalf of ARIPPA to help them determine if they were going to support the bill
- Reached out to *Chandler Mason*, Legislative Director for *Congressman Evans* Congressional District to provide him and *Colleen Carlos, Koh Chiba, and Landers Mayer*, Staffers with *Congresswoman Dean's* Congressional District, with information on regions to the north in the Upper Schuylkill Watershed on the relationship to AMD and mining impacted areas to see if they would co-sponsor the *Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2019 (HR4248)* being led by *Congressman Matt Cartwright* who is looking for additional bi-partisan support; Informed the PA AML Campaign that EPCAMR had reached out to these respective offices; Congresswoman Dean became a co-sponsor within a few days; Reached out to *Congressman Scott Perry's* Office in Dauphin County through his Chief of Staff, *Jay Ostrich*, to set up a meeting with him to review the AML impacts to his District to see if he would also co-sponsor the bill; Met with *Jay* on 12-18-19 with *Mike Hewitt* and *Eric Naguski*-Dauphin County Conservation District Manager and EPCAMR Board Member
- Followed up with *Jocelyn Pickens, Kristen Magnotta, Livia Shmavonian, and Alyssa Charney* Staff person in Senator Casey's Office to see if he would support a companion bill to HR 4735 in the Senate and informed ARIPPA of the contact that was made by EPCAMR; Provided them with EPCAMR's Letter of Support; *Congressman Meuser's* bill was not included in the Tax Extender bill that was passed recently; Unfortunately, the delay is likely to lead to additional ARIPPA plant closures in the Spring of 2020
- Created a Patagonia Action Works Reauthorization Campaign landing [page](#) to encourage groups to create their own letters of support and or resolutions in support of the Reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund
- Posted information on Anthracite Heritage Month for January 2020 on EPCAMR's social media pages

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Greg Griffin*, Wilkes-Barre, PA signed up as an individual member of EPCAMR; Discussed installing NO DUMPING signs in many of the locations that were cleaned up recently and asked *Palmira Miller*-Program Coordinator for PEC to provide us with additional signs
- Spoked to *Marissa Stuart*-Field Experience Counselor II, Grand Canyon University in regard to *Kayla Pilecki's* potential internship with EPCAMR should our site qualify for her degree program; The Lead Faculty agreed that our location was an acceptable place for her

internship; Signed and submitted an EPCAMR MOU to Grand Canyon University; *Marissa* followed up with *Kayla* directly

- EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed the PhD Agreement document from Marywood University for *Frank Dombrowski*; Followed up with a *Dr. Dawoody* at Marywood University, to see what information is necessary for *Frank* to complete an internship in 2020 and requested information on how many hours, credits, and time that *Frank* needs to put into his program and what it entails exactly in terms of meeting his educational requirements for the PhD Program
- Signed *Jolie Coates*, King's College student from Dr. Jayne Klenner's GIS Class up to take the online portion of the Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Training for Culvert Assessments
- [Max Bard](#), an artist based out of Massachusetts creates works of art out of a combination of objects he finds littered throughout the landscape, and wood which he sources and process himself; Recently, he received a large grant [award](#) to travel the country and make sculptures at various ecologically repressed areas; The objective is to make work that can call attention to ecological issues and the communities that suffering from them, as well as provide something exciting and beautiful to the land and the people that live there; He was planning to spend a significant amount of time and energy cleaning up Centralia and came across EPCAMR and our work and he wants to contribute in 2020; EPCAMR Executive followed up with a phone call to *Max* and discussed options for the 2020 Fall Cleanup in Centralia

Conferences, Training, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

- Assisted Earth Conservancy in pushing out their brochure and announcement of the remaining informational sessions to learn about the [Environmental Workforce Development Training Program](#) they are offering that EPCAMR assists with starting in February 2020; The Brownfields Training and AMD/AML Tour will be on 2-2-2020 with a snow date of 2-6-2020
- Received the January 2020 Calendar of Events from *Bob Wolensky* for Anthracite History Month; EPCAMR will be presenting at two of the events and are a co-sponsor of all of them through the promotion of each of the events through our social media outlets
- *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR*, sent around the bus quotes to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee again, since *Janie French* and *Amy Berrios* were recently added to the Committee for the **22nd Annual PA AMR Conference**; *Anne* provided some context language for the Economic Development Panel on AML to provided to prospective speakers that will be invited to participate; We are interested to learn how many people they employ in the AML reclamation sector, the portion of their business that is reclamation, how many projects they do each year, what types of projects they do, what it would mean to them if funding were to go away, and other information they feel important to the discussion on the economic benefits of AML reclamation as we look forward to the need for reauthorization of the collection fees supporting the AML Fund; EPCAMR asked Liz Hughes from [Earth Conservancy](#) (EC) and or

Terry Ostrowski-CEO, to become a sponsor of the PA AMR Conference in 2020 and to be a panelist on the Economic Development on AML Panel; Requested that *Kurt Bauman*, Vice President of [NEPA Alliance](#), be a presenter on ARC Funding; Provided *Anne* with *Justin Dula's* contact information for the PA DEP Environmental Justice Program invitation to participate in the Conference; Asked *Tim Schaeffer*, Executive Director of the [PA Fish & Boat Commission](#) to speak at the Conference and he agreed; Asked *Amanda J. Pitzer*, Executive Director of [Friends of the Cheat](#) to speak and come up from West Virginia and she has also agreed to present

- Informed that the [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#) Planning Committee decided to have the Friday workshop focus on aquatic organism passage (AOP) since the **February 28-29th 2020** **Keystone Coldwater Conference** focus is on resiliency; The EPCAMR Executive Director was asked to sit on a panel on Friday during the AOP workshop focused on other considerations when planning barrier removal projects; EPCAMR can discuss the fisheries data that we've been collected for the last few years during our CHP plans that we've completed to discuss whether or not to connect certain populations of trout; The KCC Planning Committee felt that the presentation submitted fit well and it is definitely something that PA TU needs to be thinking and talking about; They felt it would open up discussions for some interesting debate rather than a 20 minute presentation
- *Jelle Jacobs*, work for Belgian television production company [deMENSEN](#) based in Brussels; They produce an award-winning international travel documentary series called '[Travels Waes](#)'; In this series their host visits unique destinations/places Belgian tourists rarely visit; The travel series is broadcasted in prime time on Belgian National broadcaster VRT (Eén); The host of the series, *Mr. Tom Waes*, is regarded as the most popular tv-personality in their country; He is a cheery adventurer who is always eager to learn about local culture, to join passionate locals in their daily activities and to never skip a challenge or a laugh; While doing so he explores the potential of the destinations he visits as a tourist; They want to visit Appalachia, since it's a destination most Belgians only know from the John Denver- song "*Take Me Home, Country Roads*"; They want a realist look at the region in their show; They are interested in the sheer beauty, but also in the people, the history, the stories; *Jelle* asked if EPCAMR would participate in the show and see if there are people in Centralia will to be potentially interviewed or were from Centralia, but also we want to explain that its very important that if people visit Centralia, they do it with respect, with dignity and with knowledge of the history of the borough; They are planning a visit in April of 2020; EPCAMR Executive followed up with *Jelle* to discuss hosting them while they are in the region for a few days and showing them around to be a part of the show

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for December 2019 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register; Made a deposit to FNB for incoming reimbursements and accounts receivable and paid our EPCAMR Staff's 4th Quarter IRA deposits to Cetera Investments at FNB after receiving the report from OneSource

- Forwarded the 2020 941 Quarterly Estimated Deposits to *Jessica Barbose*, OneSource received from the IRS
- Submitted on EPCAMR letterhead a statement of who is authorized to invest our PA Invest Account pools to *Denise Nornhold*, PA Invest
- Entered the EPCAMR bi-weekly payroll into ADP online to release it and provide Denise with a link to obtain the health care expenses to be reimbursed through our PA DEP 319 Grant
- Requested that the Staff push out the Patagonia Action Works (PAW) Matching donation [campaign](#) to their social media friends and our partners; Thanked *Amanda Powell*, Digital Advocacy Coordinator for PAW for helping us with the online digital social media amplification events and paid advertising after she sent us some analytics from the previous work we've done together
- Provided *Laura* with our EIN Number for her application to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit to have EPCAMR become an Approved Location for Continuing Education Credits for teachers, both formal and informal when we conduct Environmental Education Programs and or Workshops
- Informed *Jessica Barbose*, OneSource to let ADP know that there will be an EIT Increase from 2% to 2.25% Withholding for 2020 for the employees who are residents of the City of Nanticoke, which includes only the EPCAMR Executive Director
- EPCAMR received the Grant Evaluation Form from *Donna Eiden*, The Luzerne Foundation that has to be completed just before the year is up on the recent *2019 Spring Forum \$10,000* grant that was provided to EPCAMR for Environmental Education and Outreach Program support
- EPCAMR was informed by *Donna Carnahan Wagner* our Project Officer for the PA DEP 319 Growing Greener grant that she is retiring and that *Trish Attardo*, Water Program Specialist, Watershed Support Section, will become our new Project Officer after the New Year
- Completed the December 2019 Board Report