

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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December 2024 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Swoyersville Harry E. AML Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project

- Prepared and submitted a letter to PA DEP BAMR on the Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC) expansion of the footprint of the project and plans for completing the project that has the 7.5 acres of land fully reclaimed and seeded through the late Fall and is awaiting vegetation to take hold; Provided *Gerard Schmidt*-Project Officer and *TJ Matinas*,-PA DEP BAMR, an explanation of the reconciliation and adjustments for the payments to Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management for hauling and excavation of the waste culm

Shickshinny Creek/Paddy/Rocky Run Assessment-PA American Water Charitable Foundation

- *Keith George*, Luzerne Conservation District, sent EPCAMR some additional photos of abandoned mine openings that were up along the ridge between the Paddy Run and Rocky Run watersheds above the bat caves that lie to the south of the ridge; Forwarded the photos to *Mike* for inclusion in our photo-inventory of the watersheds; Provided *Morgan* with photos from our bridge assessments that we had started working on along the main stem of Shickshinny Creek and a culvert on SGL 260, in the Paddy Run watershed

Shickshinny Creek/Paddy/Rocky Run Assessment-PA TU Coldwater Conservation Plan (proposed)

- EPCAMR completed and submitted a **\$10,000** watershed assessment grant to the PA TU Coldwater Conservation Planning Grant Program and followed up with *Eric Null*- PA TU Executive Director to confirm its receipt along with our BCO filing, and to inform him that an incorrect email address of his is on the application that may need to be updated for others to submit their grants appropriately and on time; Compiled all the Letters of Support that were sought and obtained for the grant submission after reaching out to our new and old partnerships in the Shickshinny area including Northwest Area School District, Columbia County Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Historical & Preservation Society of the Greater Shickshinny Area, Luzerne Conservation District, Columbia County Conservation District, PA Game Commission NE Region, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Five Mountain Outfitters Co., Briar Creek Township, Briar Creek Watershed Association, Commonwealth University of PA, Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council, WILD TROUTMAN, American Water Charitable Foundation (provided matching funds to assist with the entire watershed assessment in the amount of **\$18,000**), Trout Unlimited, and *Lance & Sandy Kittleson* (private landowners along Shickshinny Creek); Copied several partners on the submitted grant application, including *John Levitsky*, Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District who was tremendously helpful in providing us with additional resources for the completion and submission of the grant

EPCAMR/WPCAMR/SRI Survey of Community Watershed Organizations on AMD/AML

- Participated in a Zoom call with *Tali MacArthur*-POWR to discuss the next strategic steps that both the Coalitions, SRI, PEC, and POWR will take now that the survey is complete

Sugar Notch Run Watershed Streamside and Tire Pile Cleanup Project

- Followed up with WVSA and PEC to determine when the final payments will be made to The Tire Guys that hauled, transported, and had the 1910 tires picked up from the cleanup location on November 17th; Requested a W-9 from The Tire Guys to provide to WVSA and PEC; Talked to *Rachel Stark*-PEC about getting together after the New Year to talk about the WVSA Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC); WVSA was covering **\$4800** of the costs; PEC was covering **\$1400** and EPCAMR covered **\$1650**; EPCAMR sent the revised invoice from The Tire Guys to each of the partners after stopping down his shop in Hanover Township, Luzerne County

Good Spring Southeast and West Problem Area AML and Mine Pool Project with Cedarville (proposed)

- Talked with Cedarville Engineering about a proposal to PA DEP BAMR for work to be completed in the Problems Areas (PAs) of Good Spring Southeast and West, Schuylkill County; *Mike Hewitt*-Program Manager and the Executive Director drafted up a proposal and narrative to assist in providing some technical services to them for specific work that they requested; Our initial assessment of looking at some of the Problem Area features indicate that underground mines could be draining to the Tracy Air Shaft, the Porter Tunnel or Keifer's Tunnel along State Route 209; There is some interesting reverse faulting in the geology of the area and the Big Lick Mountain Anticlinal Ridge is present along with water-filled pits that are different colors on the aerial maps which could indicate surface AMD flows

US DOE Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets at the Frackville Morea AML Complex for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential

- Added *Fabiola Gomez*, National Wildlife Federation ([NWF](#))-Senior Environmental Justice Coordinator and *Jessica Arriens*-NWF -Senior Program Manager for Climate and Energy Policy, for the US EPA Region 3 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) to our growing stakeholder database for the project; Added *John Quigley*, U. of Penn Kleinman Energy Policy Center Senior Fellow, to the stakeholder database; Requested that *Frank Sindaco*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist continue to assist with project management tasks and assistance with reporting; Sorted the Stakeholder List into various categories and still needs some gaps in the database to be filled in with missing names, emails, phone numbers; Collaborated with *Mark E. Jones*, AmeriCorps on narrowing down suitable venues (capacity of ~50-75 people) for the informational meeting in Frackville or Morea; Reached out to Frackville Borough, however, the space might be too small, so we opted to look into the Schuylkill Technology Center up the road in Frackville, just off I-81; EPCAMR will be developing a comprehensive agenda for the informational meeting and selecting a date for it to be held in February 2025; EPCAMR is integrating the US DOE's emphasis on workforce development and job training by identifying and inviting relevant regional partners to present their programs and opportunities; EPCAMR plans to delivering a presentation on the project's progress, potential redevelopment options (geothermal, solar, data centers), and the role of workforce development.; EPCAMR plans on running the Site Suitability Model for Solar on AML for the entire parcel layer, once it is obtained from *Pagnotti*; EPCAMR will continue to coordinate with *Anne Reiner* on the video production process and a separate trip will be made to get drone footage of the property and the AML and reclaimed lands to include in the video; Added *Kristin Mielcarek*, Program Manager with the [Environmental Finance Center](#) at the University of Maryland, who is a service provider for the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center

(TCTAC) who provided EPCAMR with a one-page fact sheet on the services that they can provide to communities; Participated in the Cohort 2 Update meeting on Teams with US DOE and EnergyWerx and the other projects from across the country to give an update on the progress made to date; Uploaded all information to the shared OneDrive and to sent them along to PSU, *Morgan*, *Steve Cornia*, and *Mark*; Continuing to work on the draft subcontract agreement with *Melissa Brannen* from PSU after following up with EnergyWerx and US DOE and a follow up call to Grow Rural PA; Informed *James Pagnotti* that we will soon be looking to access the site to take some drone footage for our video; EPCAMR visited the Gilberton Co-Gen Plant; *Anne Reiner*, -RPRO, took video footage of the inside workings of the Plant and conducted an interview with *Alex Brush*- General Operations Manager who allowed us rooftop footage and access, although it was a very foggy day on December 10th in Schuylkill County

ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR AMD/AML Mini-Grant

- *Cristy Sweeney*-ARIPPA, went ahead and updated the ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-grant instructions and past recipients list for the 2025 grant round; An April 15th deadline to submit is tentatively on the new mini-grant application; EPCAMR and WPCAMR will post it after the New Year to our website and put out a call to our community watershed partners in the region; **\$6000** allocated from the ARIPPA 2025 Budget; **\$3000** each to Coalition

Rare Earth Elements Collaboration with the University of Penn (*proposed*)

- *John Quigley*, Senior Fellow, at the University of Penn's Kleinman Energy Policy Center suggested that the Coalitions discuss with the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) to seek funding in the Spring 2025 to be more involved in the proposed project to cover additional costs; Provided *Deb Nardone*, FPW, with a copy of our Letter of Support that was provided to University of Penn

Schuylkill Conservation District Pine Knot/Repelleir/Oak Hill AMD Mine Pool Feasibility Study

- *Wayne Lehman*, Watershed Specialist for the Schuylkill Conservation District informed EPCAMR that they were awarded a [grant](#) for the Pine Knot/Repelleir/Oak Hill Mine Pool Feasibility Study

3D Printer and Education Program through The Luzerne Foundation Youth Allocation Committee (YAC)

- Prepared a 5-minute presentation with two slides to give before the Youth Allocation Committee (YAC) from the Luzerne Foundation to make a pitch for a 3D-Printer and supplies to create underground mines visually and mining artifacts and macroinvertebrates to identify stream ecology for students; Only 8 projects out of 20 were selected for funding and regrettably EPCAMR was not one of them this time around

Technical Assistance

- Executive Director and *Morgan Romanowski*, AmeriCorps volunteer, assisted *Don Kane Jr.*- President- Huber Breaker Preservation Society with creating a PowerPoint presentation of historic photos and a video of the #5 Slope for an update to the public on January 10th at the EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy co-hosted Anthracite History Month Event

- Reviewed new improvements that have been made to the [NAACC Data Center](#) where EPCAMR puts in information on culverts and bridges once field assessments are completed on them for a number of our watershed assessments throughout the year; Due to problems encountered by observers and coordinators associated with checking and approving records and new crossings, they have modified the permission system to provide more flexibility in who can perform these functions; EPCAMR will need to update our Offline Database Modules (ODMs) to version 19
- *Mark Grochocki*, Staff person for *Senator Lisa Baker's* Office requested that EPCAMR participate in a future Back Mountain Flooding meeting to provide some insight and background into the previously completed Coldwater Conservation Plan done by EPCAMR a few years ago to review some of the recommendations that were in the report that municipalities might want to seek future implementation funding for with the support of EPCAMR; Several years ago, many noticeable issues within the streams and tributaries to Toby Creek were listed and in need of attention, including downed trees blocking culverts and bridges and other undersized culverts that could cause flooding issues; Provided *Mark* with *Joe Simons* information for Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a contact since he was looking for someone to reach out to within the Chapter
- Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by [RES](#) to get an overview of the services that they are looking to provide to community groups, municipalities, and Conservation Districts on abandoned mine land reclamation and AMD projects; EPCAMR provided the RES Team with some insight as to why many groups at the moment are not applying for the federal funding that has a large degree of fiduciary responsibility that some groups currently don't have the capacity to undertake and apply for; *Josh Matthews*, Land Manager for RES followed up with EPCAMR and provided us with a recorded webinar to share with our EPCAMR Board; The informational overview discussed the environmental and public health risks associated with abandoned mine lands, the causes and consequences of AMD, and funding and partnership opportunities for nonprofits engaged in reclamation and remediation projects
- Followed up with *Mark Roland*, -USGS to plan for a conference call in the Spring of 2025 to talk about the USGS C-SAW Technical Assistance that they will provide to EPCAMR on flow monitoring; EPCAMR picked up a used Aqua Calc flow meter for cheap and only had to buy two small components for it
- Participated in a Zoom meeting of the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited and made a co-presentation with *John Levitsky*-Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District on our experience with acid deposition and AMD projects that involve limestone and limestone sand for long-term treatment; Researched and provided documentation on episodic acidification and treatment of acid water to the members of the Chapter to help them decide on the best route for the Bowman Creek Watershed that is experiencing some acidified tributaries; Assisted the Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited with their Coldwater Conservation Planning watershed assessment grant over several days for the Bowmans Creek Watershed before its submission; Provided *Angie Tuttle*, Senior Environmental Scientist for [Whipperhill Compliance, LLC](#), who assisted with preparing the grant application with a draft Excel budget to utilize; Provided *Angie* with a copy of a very preliminary watershed assessment completed by EPCAMR and Mackin Engineering back in 2000-2002 for reference; Provided them with an EPCAMR Letter of Support for technical assistance and reviewed their final draft before submission and made a few final comments to enhance their proposal and suggested that they look into purchasing Bluetooth wireless HOB0 pH/Temperature probes

- Provided Mosquito Creek Sportsman's Association a Letter of Support for their Mosquito Creek Coldwater Conservation Planning grant for **\$10,000** to PA TU to monitor the entire Mosquito Creek watershed to determine the most severe tributaries and segments that are impaired by acid deposition; Data collection in the watershed would allow for the Association to best use any future grant funds in the most efficient way possible
- *Nick Zmijewski*, Industrial Archives & Museum Library asked us to rescan the Map #42 file for the Lattimer Mines in the southern Luzerne County that must have become corrupt during a file transfer that Morgan Romanowski, AmeriCorps volunteer completed last month
- Provided *Mark E. Jones* and *Morgan Romanowski*, EPCAMR's AmeriCorps volunteers with a copy of our **\$5000** 3D Printer grant application, narrative, and budget, which was unfortunately not funded by The Luzerne Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)
- Provided *Deb Nardone*, Foundation for PA Watersheds with some statistics for the number of stream miles impacted in the Chesapeake Bay watershed from AMD and the total number of Passive (360) AMD and Active PA DEP BAMR owned and operated Treatment Systems within the Bay watershed; Based on 2021 data, there were an estimated 1,900 AML Problem Areas, 10,400 unreclaimed features totaling 73,080 acres and 2,290 reclaimed AML features totaling 13,140 acres; An estimated 1,305 stream miles impacted by AMD are in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; There are 147 AMD Passive Treatment Systems (44% of the 333 AMD Treatment Systems State-wide) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed treating 49 Billion gallons of polluted AMD treated (58% of the 85 Billion gallons treated State-wide) and removing 5 Million pounds of metal sediments are removed every year (iron [68%], aluminum [22%], and manganese [10%]); The Susquehanna River Basin Commission has documented 489 untreated AMD discharges in the Susquehanna River Basin alone; These untreated discharges send 73.6 Million pounds of acid and 31.5 Million pounds of metal sediments (iron [89%], aluminum [11%]) downstream to the Chesapeake Bay annually; More than 200 of the 360 passive treatment systems were originally constructed at least 20 years ago, if not more; Another 90 some are between 15 and 20 years old

Datashed Technical Assistance to SRI

- Communicated with *Cliff Denholm*-SRI about getting on a Zoom call after the New Year to discuss ways to improve Datashed and a possible migration over from Mapbox to the ArcGIS platform

Education & Outreach

- Participated in the weekly PA AML Campaign calls
- The Times-Leader newspaper picked up the [article](#) on *Mark E. Jones* volunteer work with EPCAMR for the next year as an AmeriCorps VISTA Community Development Coordinator; The National AmeriCorps Program also put out a press [release](#) right after the cohorts training in Washington DC during the 1st week of December 2024
- EPCAMR posted a call for end-of-the-year contributions or donations to our [2024 WISH Book Campaign](#) through the Luzerne Foundation to our social media account with a post created by *Mark E. Jones*, AmeriCorps

- Reached out to *Connor Rose* in *Congressman GT Thompson's* Office to let him know that EPCAMR supports the bipartisan US DOE Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land, [H.R. 10229](#); *Connor* reached out to AppVoices to have further discussions on the legislation; EPCAMR has had *Tiffany Mayville* recently at our 26th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in State College give her [presentation](#) on the Program
- EPCAMR has revised an older brochure and updated it with the help of *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps Watershed Outreach Specialist and had 100 color copies printed by Center City Print and will use the image files to include them online in a social media post and will update the new brochure to the EPCAMR website
- The House of Representatives passed S. 4367, the [Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024](#) (WRDA 2024), under suspension of the rules with a vote of 398 in favor, 18 against, and 15 members not voting; Following the House vote, the Senate is expected to consider the bill; A section-by-section is available [here](#); Senate Environment and Public Works minority one-pager on WRDA 2024 can be found [here](#); *Sec. 1345: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia - Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Pilot Program*; This section establishes a pilot program providing federal funding for the design and construction of publicly owned water treatment facilities to address AMD in Ohio, PA, and West Virginia; The program targets polluted discharges from former mining sites, including those with forfeited reclamation bonds, focusing on improving water quality and restoring ecosystems; Federal assistance covers 75% of project costs, while non-federal partners manage permitting, design, maintenance, and remaining expenses; Priority is given to projects that reduce pollution from multiple sources or stream miles; \$50 million is authorized for this initiative, which excludes sites already covered by other federal environmental cleanup laws
- Provided *Lauren Ober*, a journalist, [OberandOut Podcast](#), from Washington DC area, information on Centralia; The Census data shows that 5 families still remain; We don't know if anyone has passed away in the last few years; Harold Mervine is a friend of the Executive Director, however, he keeps to himself and the families that remain don't do a lot of interviews anymore; In April of 2021, EPCAMR had the 5 families show up and participate in our apple tree planting that we did during COVID-19; Links are below; <https://epcamr.org/home/appalachian-tree-planting-project/>; <https://tenmilliontrees.org/story/appalachian-tree-planting-project/>; <https://www.pennlive.com/life/2021/04/apple-tree-planting-in-centralia-is-part-of-larger-environmental-effort.html>; EPCAMR hasn't been down there in a few years since our last cleanup to get the town clean before the Graffiti Highway was backfilled during COVID-19 due to the large number of people that were on the private property; Provided her with a link to the documentary produced by a board member of ours, *Joe Sapienza*, called [America's Lost Town](#); EPCAMR is featured in it; EPCAMR suggested she try joining two Facebook Groups if she wants to get to former or current residents if she is looking for an interview; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26566838175>; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51520974658>
- Suggested that *Mark E. Jones*, AmeriCorps Community Development Coordinator volunteer add the [Environmental Protection Network](#) & [The Just Transition Fund](#) to his EPCAMR Resource Database
- Followed up with *Angeline Abraham*, Director of the Upward Bounds Program at Wilkes U. to set up a meeting with her and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, EPCAMR Board Member and Education Co-Chair in February 2025

- EPCAMR Executive Director and member of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) suggested dividing up the remaining funds among the other eligible G2G funded groups; Those groups have already been vetted to receive funds, so it makes it easy for them to move forward
- The Environmental Good Samaritan Act was first proposed by EPCAMR and WPCAMR in 1998 and passed at the State level; Now the Federal government has passed the [Good Samaritan Act](#) to help protect those working on abandoned mines nationally; There is a clause in 2CFR200 that is related to federal interests on real property; The states are currently having a hard time with it and discussing it in NAAML and IMCC meetings; The ramifications are related to the improvement of real property; If there is a sale after the property is reclaimed, there could be a lien assigned payable to the federal government for the difference in assessed value before vs after; The debate is if the clause applies only to BIL and AMLER (which is taxpayer money from the treasury) or the traditional AML Trust Funds (from the fee on coal sales) as well

Trout in the Classroom

- Informed the EPCAMR Staff that the rainbow trout eggs will be shipping on January 13th and heading our way as we begin our next year of raising rainbow trout eggs to fingerlings before releasing them in the Summer of 2025; EPCAMR provides an online streaming "live stream" camera for any schools or interested viewers to see the growth and process of how we raise the trout for future release with student groups in partnership with the Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited, PA Fish & Boat Commission (PA F& BC), and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited; EPCAMR began to clean and prep the tank by adjusting the water temperature and picking up spring water from a spring along Corby Road in Larksville, Luzerne County that we use every year for water replacement in the tank; Reviewed the trout care instructions that we received from the PA F& BC; Received the approved trout waters document from the PA F& BC; Talked with *Missy Reckner* about an idea that the TIC Program is discussing about having eggs shipped to a partner in each region, which may follow PFBC's regions or, more likely, PATU will look at a map and see what schools are clustered where and have eggs shipped to multiple pickup locations in PFBC's defined regions; It could cut down on shipment costs to each of the schools if they can be picked up at a central location where partnering schools and non-profits can get to and just pick them up; EPCAMR has some space we can store them for a central pickup

Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

27th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2025

Reached out to *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* to see if she wanted to initiate an e-mail to *Ivie Foster*, Centre County Conservation District Watershed Specialist & Environmental Educator, to see if she would be interested in joining the PA AMR Conference Committee for 2025; Provided *Andy McAllister-WPCAMR* Regional Coordinator with some answers to his questions that were being asked of him by *Garret Geidroc*, Sales & Marketing Manager from the Blair County Convention Center to obtain a quote for the use of the facility as another proposal to have in hand to consider, in addition to the Penn-Stater, Bucknell U., and Toftrees; Sent a template of "MUST HAVES" to contacts at Bucknell U. and Toftrees Resort; Bucknell U.'s *Ben Hayes* will confirm availability after January 8th 2025, since their Susquehanna River Symposium is in November 2025; *Andy* requested the template to share with his contacts; *Cristy*- ARIPPA edited and revised the PA AMR Conference RFP for the new year; *Mark E. Jones*, AmeriCorps VISTA provided the Committee with alternative site locations in the State College, Bellefonte, and Selinsgrove areas for consideration, if necessary; *Andy McAllister-WPCAMR* was paying the remaining balance on the Fullington Bus rental for the 26th annual PA AMR Conference

Anthracite History Month Program hosted by EPCAMR, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, and Earth Conservancy

- Provided *Bob Wolensky*, Anthracite Heritage Foundation with our final program of speakers and their presentation titles for the January 10th evening event at the EPCAMR/EC Conference Room from 6-9 PM; Continued to coordinate with invited speakers and received some support for sponsorship of pizzas, cookies, and refreshments for the attendees from several of the partners who are presenting; Requested that each presenter send one image that is representative of their presentation so that it could be used for social media and the creation of an EPCAMR event page

2025 NE Region Contractor's Workshop at Keystone College, LaPlume Co-Hosted by the Wyoming County and Lackawanna County Conservation District on March 9, 2025

- Received a Save the Date outline of the Workshop from the Wyoming County Conservation District

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for December 2024 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent; Made quarterly payments into IRA Accounts for Staff at First National Bank in Tunkhannock; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB; Deposited into EPCAMR PA Invest Account for the Catawissa Creek Fishing Access Program after picking up the check from *Cheryl Brobst*, - Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) Treasurer, in Berwick, a **\$3000** donation from CCRA received from Schuylkill County; Made reconciliations with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services; Went online to our FNB Account to acknowledge some updates to the account
- *Lori Maloney*, *Gertrud Gerlach*, and *Bette Conway* made end-of-the-year donations to EPCAMR and the Executive Director followed up with them personally to thank them all for their contributions to support our organization; The PayPal Giving Fund made a donation to EPCAMR
- Received word from *Jill Whitcomb*, PA DEP Acting Deputy Secretary, that the Governor had appointed the Executive Director to the [Stakeholders Citizens' Advisory Committee](#) to the Chesapeake Executive Council; Provided *Aaron Danks*, External Affairs Office of the Governor with the Executive Director's home address and phone number to receive his official swearing in the documentation for the appointment; Had the oath notarized from *Governor Josh Shapiro's* Office by a notary at the First National Bank in Tunkhannock for the recent appointment as a representative from PA; Participated in a Zoom Stakeholders Advisory Committee meeting on December 12-13th as an observer
- Followed up with *Robert Ashbrook*, from the Ashbrook Family Foundation to give him an update on EPCAMR's work throughout the year and to see if there was a future round of funding that may open in the Spring of 2025 that we might be able to consider applying for
- EPCAMR was invited to submit an end-of-the-year grant application to Stork Impact Partners; EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager worked on the application and completed it for matching funds for organizational capacity to be used towards our 319 grant and for equipment, travel, and some supplies; Initially applied for **\$75,000** and was eventually awarded **\$50,000**

- To prepare for the possibility of a lapse in funding without a Continuing Resolution from the Federal government, EPCAMR instituted and signed a telework plan for our AmeriCorps position from December 21, 2024, through January 10, 2025, and had *Morgan Romanowski* sign and review it, then forwarded the signed Telecommuting Document Plan back to *Amberly Borday*, -Program Manager for the Stewards Individual Placement Program (SIPP)
- Reviewed the Conservation Legacy Supervisor's Training from *Shelby Street*, Stewards Individual Placement Program (SIPP) on how to access the Community Portal to approve the AmeriCorps timesheets; EPCAMR has utilized the portal previously and is very familiar with how to access the account and approve the timesheets
- Provided *Mark E. Jones*, AmeriCorps VISTA with a copy of our final report for the PA DEP 319 grant through June 30, 2024, to see if he can help break down the partnerships by watershed and counties, both across the EPCAMR Region and or state-wide; Provided *Mark* and *Morgan* with the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) List of Foundations from 2023 and a PA Grant and Resource Directory for their review; Provided them with the Independent Sector Pennsylvania (PA) Value of a Volunteer (2009-2023) reference document for future grants
- Reviewed amendments to the PayPal Giving Fund Non-Profit User Agreement
- EPCAMR inquired about the status of the completion of the Single Audit for 2023 from Kohanski & Co.; EPCAMR signed for the completion of the filed 990 for 2023 and sent it to Kohanski & Co.
- Requested that *Emma Humm*, Shickshinny, submit her resume to be considered for a 2025 Summer Internship; She was highly recommended and referred to EPCAMR by *Heath Hines*, a colleague of EPCAMR's and long-time partner and Environmental Science teacher for Northwest Area School District
- *Rachel Love*, student at Kutztown University, who is a member of the Field Geology class that recently was on tour with EPCAMR to AMD and abandoned mine land and stream restoration sites in the Wyoming Valley is interested in becoming a volunteer and or intern with EPCAMR; She filled out our online volunteer form; EPCAMR suggested that she send along her resume
- *Mike Hewitt*-Program Manager sent out to WPCAMR and the Foundation for PA Watersheds our Visioning Notes draft compilation of facilitated discussions that were on notepads and notes from EPCAMR and WPCAMR for an initial review; The notes will then be forwarded to all EPCAMR/WPCAMR Board members in attendance and those who could not make it before our next Board meeting in February 2025
- EPCAMR was awarded a [One by One](#) grant from 4Imprint worth \$500 of merchandise to support our outreach efforts that could be printed with our EPCAMR logo; Sent 4Imprint EPCAMR's Sales Tax Exemption Certificate to reduce some tax on the items (notepads and drawstring backpacks) being purchased through a grant we were awarded from 4Imprint
- Completed a UC SIDES separation for *Frank Sindaco*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist