



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2018 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 44 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 77 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. QA/QC checked work.
- Worked on building vein nomenclature lists with EPCAMR volunteer for MSI program.
- Continued scanning and georeferencing maps for the **Luzerne County Rail Corporation**.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AML call, and a public meeting coordinated by **DEP** related to the Harry E. Breaker Culm removal in **Swoyersville**
- Raised **TIC** trout and aided in forum for **PA FB&C**; livestreamed tank at www.dailymotion.com
- EPCAMR staff sampled minepool monitoring stations near **Mocanaqua** for the **SRBC** and 2 AMD treatment systems along the **Loyalsock Creek** for the **Sullivan Conservation District**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAMLPA as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstations.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR staff participated in a second public meeting coordinated by DEP and Keystone Reclamation related to the Harry E. Culm Pile Reclamation Project in Swoyersville. The meeting was moderated by PA DEP outreach staff and questions that residents raised last meeting were answered. Residents were also confronted with issues regarding the continued existence of the pile such as mine fires, coal silt blowing through town, continued clogging of streams and falling accidents. Penn DOT was in attendance and updated residents on road improvements that will be made and alternate routes that were approved. Keystone Reclamation promised to be a good neighbor by working with local police to make sure their trucks will travel at safe speeds and explained that residents should call DEP to report any damages. The project will start soon with road construction.
- Worked on vein nomenclature index tables per colliery related to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Mine Map Folios with EPCAMR Volunteer, Conal Heron. Some of the folios have an index file, but when those are absent they need to be created by looking at the maps and cross sections. This work will help the mosaic process for the MSI program.
- Participated in Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Facebook forum. As teachers were coming back from holiday break they were experiencing issues with their tanks. Many of the tanks had not yet developed a good bacteria community to cycle nitrogen. I had problems the first year with this and helped answer a few questions.
- Participated in an AML Campaign Call to hear about the “goings on” in Washington DC related to abandoned mine lands (AML) legislation.
- Spoke with a colleague Rebecca Newbery who works for the Clean Air Coalition of Western NY who was looking for signatures on a letter of support related to a “just transition” issue. While

Buffalo isn't in our region, they have many of the same issues related to decline of industry that our area faces. It is related to coal, as their power plants used to run on coal. This letter was regarding support for a plant that would manufacture solar panels however the wages were under living wage at \$13/hour. There was government funding involved and the promise from the governor and manufacturer, Tesla, was that the jobs would be much higher. This seems to be a common thread through "sacrifice areas" in the US rust belt.

- Added iron oxide drip ornaments to EPCAMR online store. Updated FAQ page on the EPCAMR store.
- Meeting with EPCAMR board president to discuss items in my annual evaluation.
- EPCAMR Watershed GIS Specialist, Rachael Grube, announced her 2 weeks' notice of leaving for another job. Worked with her to transfer duties to other staff. Began looking into hiring another person who will spend a majority of their time on the mine map processing grant.
- Continued to monitor chemistry in the TIC tank a few times a week. Nitrate levels began to rise as is typical with the trout eating and growing. Collected spring water from a local artesian well and changed out water in the TIC tank.
- Ordered QuickBooks 2019, acid free tape for the MSI program and YSI photometer test tubes to replace ones that were broken.
- Attempted to cancel www.orangewaternetwork.org through our domain name server, GoDaddy. Unfortunately, the website is slightly confusing when trying to cancel a website (probably on purpose) and it renewed automatically.

Technical Assistance:

- Mosaic editing for Abbott and numbered veins in the Wilkes-Barre West Topoquad. Searched PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS) and the X drive for more numbered vein maps. Started searching uncategorized maps by literally looking at every map in a specific colliery and cataloged them in a google sheet. This spreadsheet will be shared with DEP staff to aide in updating PHUMMIS, but it is time prohibitive to change the entries in PHUMMIS as you go and we cannot change information for maps we did not scan. [MSI]
- Communicated with MSI project manager, Patrick Jaquay, to relay information above and corrected georeferenced maps missing control points. [MSI]
- Batch process 39 Luzerne County Rail Corporation (LCRC) maps from TIFF to compressed JPEG format. Georeferenced several difficult railroad maps as well. [LuzRR]
- Digitized the 1:400 scale maps showing Glen Alden / Blue Coal Company grids in an effort to find additional maps for mosaics. The grids represent 1:100 scale maps and are used in the file names. Examples were BLUE_KIN-MS-01-10 representing the middle section and BLUE_KIN-SS-01-02 representing the southern section of the Kingston colliery. Discovered in the process that an entire desk of Huber and Inman Colliery maps were not scanned. Notified staff to start scanning them so we can them processed as soon as possible. [MSI]
- Aided staff with mine map mosaics. Suggested looking at the BLUE Coal grids, OSMRE Mine Map Folio cross sections and index files to aide in name correlations for veins with splits. [MSI]
- Field sampled flow and chemistry at 2 sites along the Black Creek for the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. Collected water samples at the tunnel discharge and sent them to Hawk Mountain Labs for analysis. Took water levels and transducer readings at 3 strip pits, and 4 boreholes and 3 water quality monitoring sites. Recorded results in a google spreadsheet shared with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. [SRBC]
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (WALA Connel B and C Tunnel AMD treatment systems), upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek to judge the effectiveness of the upgrades to the Connel B Tunnel AMD treatment system. [LCWA]
- Denise's computer and the scanning computer started acting up and would not connect to the network. Updated drivers, software and rebooted. Then did some general cleaning of files and they reconnected.
- Batch process another 33 railroad map scans from TIFF to JPEG. QA/QC scanned and georeferenced railroad maps for the Luzerne County Rail Corporation. [LuzRR]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.