



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2019 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 170 mine maps into TIFF images, 12 georeferenced & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, a **PA AMR Conference Committee** call and met with **DCCD** and **PA Congressional District 10** local office staff.
- Aided **EC**, **LCWA** and **SCCD** with grant proposals and delivered maps/data to **RALC**.
- Continued the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Mitigation report for **SRBC**
- Maintained TIC tank for **EPCAMR**. Provided technical assistance to **GNASD**, **SHASD** and several more through a Facebook forum. Live streamed tank on www.dailymotion.com/epcamr
- Updated www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAML as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Continued to write the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report. Researched sediment filter socks and GeoTube technology to see if it would be a good fit for the project. Contacted Terry Schmidt and Brad Schultz who both used to work for Skelly and Loy on AMD projects for advice. Reached out to Tencate, distributors of GeoTubes in the USA, to submit a treatment system proposal. [SRBC]
- Wrote the EPCAMR Program Manager reports for July and August. Posted the reports to www.epcamr.org and submitted reimbursement paperwork to the DEP 319 program.
- Field investigation of Black Creek flow loss points with photos and GPS locations for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. The locations matched up to tunnels leading to underground mine workings and coal outcrop strip mines. [SRBC]
- Spoke with project managers from SRBC about treatment options including in situ alkaline addition to add to the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report. [SRBC]
- Got a call that rainbow trout fingerlings were dying in one of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District (GNASD) Trout in the Classroom (TIC) tanks. Went to the school to assess the problem. The water was cloudy and there were several dead or dying fish stuck to the intake filter. Began testing the water and when I touched the water it was warm. Immediately looked at the chiller which said 65 degrees. Took the air filters off the chiller which were completely plugged with dust. Washed them and dried them. The temperature already started to drop, but over 100 fish died in one day. Advised the teacher to keep an eye on the temperature and if it went above 58 degrees again, to check the air filters.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Campaign Call weekly.

- Copied all Blue Coal Corporation mine map collection scanned SID images to a drive for EC. New staff at EC remarked on how it would be much easier to find maps and use them in projects especially since they were cataloged, and many were already georeferenced. [MSI]
- Created another working draft of the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report now that more information was researched regarding treatment options. Asked colleagues working on the project for help in calculating costs and other comments. Incorporated comments into the draft. [SRBC]
- Took recyclables to Mascaros as it is an EPCAMR policy that we recycle in the office. Also took rechargeable batteries to Best Buy for proper disposal and took ink cartridges to Office Max for store credit.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call. Added the request for proposals (RFP) to the www.treatminewater.com website. Added two new conference committee members to the pyritbad list serve. Sent to 2018 budget excel spreadsheet to Andy McAllister as the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) was dealing with the budget for the 2020 conference.
- Prepared invoices to split the costs for our Loyalsock Creek Treatment System Sampling proposal between the Sullivan County Conservation District (SCCD) and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA) as requested by Corey Richmond, Sullivan County Watershed Specialist.
- Spoke with PA Fish and Boat Commission staff regarding the loss of all fish at Schuylkill Haven Area School District (SHASD) TIC tank. Now that she had to start over it was suggested that she try to get the nitrogen cycle going by adding the remaining portion of her smallest size food to the tank. After a few days that created a putrid smell that perforated the halls of the school over the weekend. After being reprimanded by her vice principal, she drained the tank again and refilled with bottled spring water. I researched “fishless nitrogen cycling” and found that if you feed the bacteria with pure ammonia, they will metabolize it as they do fish waste. Aside from the ammonia you can purchase at a pharmacy and the grocery store there is a relatively inexpensive commercial product sold at some pet stores that has directions on specifically how to cycle a tank without fish. This could become the norm for the TIC program and teachers that want to cycle their tanks before they get their fish.
- Continued to edit the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report including maps and data from field investigation of the Black Creek flow loss points. [SRBC]
- EPCAMR staff with Jay Ostrich, Legislative Director of Congressman Perry’s Harrisburg Office and Dauphin County Conservation District Manager, Eric Naguski, to talk about AML issues in Pennsylvania’s 10th district. Jay was not aware of the AML problems in Dauphin County and those that made their way down from Schuylkill County and requested a site visit for the congressman and staff in the spring.
- Delivered railroad maps and data to the Redevelopment Authority of Luzerne County (RALC) now that they obtained an ArcGIS Pro license from the county. Gave a quick introduction to the use of the data and ArcGIS Pro with the invitation to come back and/or answer questions over the phone. [RALC]
- Took advantage of a little down time between the holidays to learn about how ArcGIS online (AGOL) works. Began and finished up some Story Maps: Created a 2020 Mining History Month events map. Updated the draft of the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS), After Anthracite, and Pennsylvania Mine Fires and posted them for public viewing at <https://epcamr.maps.arcgis.com>.

Technical Assistance:

- Reviewed Glen Lyon and Wanamie Colliery maps in the NMMR collection for potential Mosaic Use. Glen Lyon maps are missing in state collection. Vein nomenclature is off from neighboring collieries: The Ross veins in Glen Lyon are Red Ash veins in Wanamie Colliery, while the Twin veins in Glen Lyon are the Ross veins in Wanamie. Passed this information on to staff as they work on the Nanticoke Quad. [MSI]

- Prepared Askam, Espy, and Buttonwood AMD discharge data for the Earth Conservancy (EC) as they were working on an idea for a grant application. Included Operation SCARLIFT data and data from a USGS report on the Nanticoke Creek in the late 1990's.
- Looking for a particular presentation related to treatment of a discharge from construction of I-99 near State College where they used geotubes to drop out mine drainage (AMD) sediment. Went back through past Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) conference materials and discovered it was in 2005. The 2005 Mine Water Treatment Conference website was deleted a few years ago but found it on archive.com (aka the Wayback Machine). Downloaded the presentation and the rest of the 2005 Mine Water Treatment Conference website because there were a lot of good presentations related to mine water treatment. Reconstructed the site at <http://2005.treatminewater.com>.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.