



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### December 2023 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. Continue QA/QC of **HU's** Southern Anthracite Mosaic work.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, a meeting at **LRCA** office, and a meeting with **DEP 319 Program** staff. Hosted an **EPCAMR Board** meeting
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; 3 AMD TS, upstream, downstream and several headwater sites in **Loyalsock Creek Watershed** for **LCWA & SCD**, sent '22-'23 sampling report for peer review; sampled 22 discharge and instream sites in **Shamokin Cr.** for **SCRA**.
- Updated [www.PaSolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PaSolarMinedLands.org), [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com) and [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in weekly AML Campaign Calls to learn about legislation moving through the U.S. Congress. Askam data to google sheets and notified EC.
- Clipped and uploaded remaining videos to YouTube and displayed them on [treatminewater.com](http://treatminewater.com) presentations page. Found videos for National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) Conference sessions on NASLR's YouTube and linked those as well. Organized presentations in chronological order and by tracks. Watched several to ensure quality. Sent notes to Anne for next year if we are asked to record presentations again.
- Continued to work on the EPCAMR 2024 draft budget spreadsheet.
- Finished the EPCAMR 2024 draft budget and sent to Bobby for review. Ordered Bitdefender from TechSoup for the Intern computer to scan the network drives. Still check the network drives periodically to make sure that portal to the internet is closed. This is where a hacker was able to come in and unleash ransomware.
- Management staff attended a meeting hosted by the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) to regroup and tackle eventual treatment of the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach. The landowner, Kleinfelder, and DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) were also represented. Worked out that we would like to see a goal of 1.5 mg/L iron concentration at the railroad bridge over the Lackawanna River just before the confluence with the Susquehanna River. Todd Wood from BAMR explained that the Duryea Breach was on BAMR's list of treatment systems because it was thought prior to this meeting that the Old Forge Borehole was going to be treated privately with funds generated by a hydropower plant. I also mentioned that Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) staff were asking EPCAMR for maps and GIS data related to the Duryea and Old Forge mine pools. Todd shared they had met at the site a few times with BAMR recently, but BAMR was unaware they were actively working on mapping. The ad-hoc group devised a plan to have 2 grants working simultaneously: one submitted by EPCAMR to get continuous mine pool levels and flow data to

better learn the separations of the pools and the second to allow the landowner to prep the proposed treatment site (reclaim and compact) to place buildings and tanks.

- Added Budget numbers to QuickBooks from the Excel Spreadsheet that Bobby and I were collaborating on. Printed the 2024 Draft Budget from QuickBooks for Bobby to review before sending it to the EPCAMR treasurer.
- Worked on 319 SFY 2024-2026 grant budget now that we were asked to cut the hours to what the funding covers of our salaries and benefits as opposed to the full costs. This means that we cut the hours down to ~53% and removed a few deliverables from the scope of work. It was all very confusing. According to instructions to fill out the 319 Tasks and Deliverables Budget Worksheet for the SFY 2024-2026 Grant called “A primer for fitting charges within budget categories” there is no match requirement for the 319 grant, yet we are being asked to provide match before the contract can be executed. This Excel Spreadsheet supplied by DEP was difficult to work with because it incorrectly calculated totals, oddly formatted text boxes, and could not be changed because it was password protected.
- Updated EPCAMR Board Members list Excel Spreadsheet and on MailChimp.
- Response from 319 program staff on the SFY 2024-2026 grant budget with 4 bullet points to change in the spreadsheet. Some could not be changed because of the automatic formatting. Suggested 2 options for compromise.
- Sent the 2024 Draft Budget and 4th Quarter Treasurers report draft to our EPCAMR Treasurer. After answering a few questions they were approved.
- Went shopping with Denise for the board meeting lunch at Sam's Club. Instead of ordering pizza and subs, we decided save a little and provide soup, salad, and bread.
- Continued writing Loyalsock 2022-2023 Sampling Report.
- Continued to discuss match for 319 program grant SFY 2024-2026 with 319 Program Staff.
- Continued to work on the 319 Tasks and Deliverables Budget Worksheet for the SFY 2024-2026 Grant. Calculated a match from our volunteer board (time and mileage), our rent and utilities, and equipment expenses. Added this to the worksheet and resubmitted as we were working on getting a conference call with DEP staff to discuss.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the EPCAMR 4th Quarter Board Meeting. Notified the board of the situation with the 319 Program Grant and that they will be held accountable for providing match though it was not required in the past and paperwork on the grant also states it is not required. This did not sit well with many of them, though they expressed they are still committed to supporting the staff. I was asked to document the discussions here in my board report.
- EPCAMR Management Staff met with DEP 319 program staff Trish Attardo and Shane Kleiner who helped us to understand they are now requiring match to be shown in the contract budget and in reimbursement paperwork in addition to the end of the grant. They assured us that we will not be held to match in the contract budget (which is only a forecast) and the reimbursement paperwork if it turns out it is more or less than what is reported at the end of the grant. This was a contradiction to the instructions which focused on guaranteed match funds (preferably cash, but in-kind was acceptable). This is why we were adding our volunteer board (time and mileage), our rent and utilities, and equipment expenses as anticipated match initially. We decided to show the remainder of our salaries and benefits (47%) that match the grant and the rent/utilities (considered administration in this grant). The grant budget was accepted and forwarded on to the DEP grant center. The grant center required a match letter from the EPCAMR board. As the matching partner, it's understood that the EPCAMR board is to help staff find matching funding as they have in the past.
- Completed Loyalsock 2022-2023 Sampling Report and sent to colleagues for a peer review before sending to LCWA and SCD. [LCWA]
- Gathered timesheets in preparation for the Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) reimbursement. [MSI]
- Prepared MMG reimbursement for July-Sept 2023. Uploaded georeferenced files to MMG SharePoint. Asked Steve for a snapshot of his Kingston Digi database and uploaded it as well. Digitizing of that quad is not completed, but will serve as a pause point when staff were asked to concentrate on quality control and quality assurance (QA/QC) check of Harrisburg University's Southern Anthracite Field Mosaics. [MSI]

- Called Ooma Office to have a \$2.11 "Pa Gross Receipts Tax" removed from our monthly bill. They have had our tax-exempt paperwork for a year. Representative sent it again to the tax department to request removal of the tax going forward and hopefully be credited for the past year.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Installed Bitdefender on Intern computer and my computer so that I can scan the network drive from either computer.
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the SCD & Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Helped Steve prep sample bottles and printed paperwork for Shamokin Sampling. [SCRA]
- Second day Shamokin Sampling: Big Mountain discharge to one Cameron discharge sites with Frank and Brenna from the Northumberland County Conservation District (NCCD). Bobby and Steve sampled first day Shamokin sites. Skipped the first 3 and last 2 sites due to access concerns in winter months. [SCRA]
- Started to update/add the August 2023 georeferenced SID map records to the PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS). QA/QC checked georeferenced maps in ArcGIS pro. Found several from Cameron Colliery which is timely since we found 2 more discharges (maybe Scarlift #50s?) upstream of CMD51A Shamokin Sampling point. [MSI]
- Reviewed the database Anne completed of the AMR Conference surveys. Removed zeros and added some comments in preparation for the next committee call.
- Added/updated September 2023 georeferenced map records to PHUMMIS and sent MMG reimbursement to DEP. [MSI]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. [EC]
- Completed PHUMMIS records the August 2023 georeferenced maps. QA/QC checking georeferenced maps in ArcGIS pro. Rejected 3 maps in the process that were actually georeferenced better by Harrisburg University. Added Southern Anthracite Mosaics to ArcGIS Pro, repaired dataset paths, and began to review. Downloaded Mammoth Bottom Split and Primrose maps again from MMG SharePoint as they were corrupted. Edited Faust mosaic footprint to show workings in Salem Hill and not Sherman Colliery in the geor\_IUPASG\_04440 map. Edited Lykens Valley 6 and 7 vein mosaics to separate blueprint and mimeograph maps with multiple veins (were probably multiple colors on the original linen maps). Added the geor\_MSHA\_0264-001 map to LV6 mosaic.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.