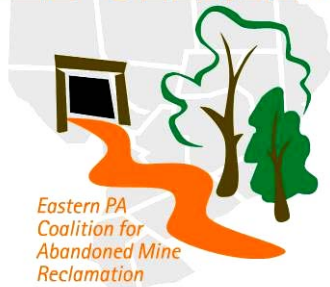


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call, an Anthracite Region CDWS Meeting at the Pottsville DMO, and hosted the EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting
- Provided information to DEP 319 Program for the federal EPA NPS Program Report
- Updated 1 EPCAMR computer to run more efficiently and tested a new “e-mail campaign” app
- Sampled 1 treatment system in the Wyoming Valley, downloaded transducer data for the OFB discharge, researched background WQ for the Lewis AMD Treatment System, Sullivan Co. and visited the Silver Creek AMD Treatment System in Schuylkill Co.
- Finished a 3D Mine Pool Model for the Upper Lackawanna Valley and started digitizing cross-sections for the Lower Lackawanna Valley (Aka. SMMP).
- Updated www.huberbreaker.org, www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com . Administered the www.schuylkillheadwaters.org, www.freindsofthescopock.org, EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Compiled EPCAMR staff monthly board reports and quarterly highlights into a format to deliver to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Non Point Source (NPS) program staff in Harrisburg. This information provided by EPCAMR serves as a basis for our yearly annual report, while the 319 program staff write a yearly progress report for statewide NPS programs and submit it to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- After dealing with a glitch in the Cincopa media server plug-in for WordPress, I searched for another similar program for the EPCAMR website. It seems there are many other piece-meal options available, but not an all-in-one service. Currently switching over to another service would be more trouble (and more costly in regards to the time) than dealing with the glitch that Cincopa Support refuses to acknowledge. EPCAMR is currently paying \$80 a year for the Cincopa service.
- Found a neat little plug-in for web browsers called Webutation.net. The app scans a website and shows a shield with a percent score based on how trustworthiness of the site. It pulls this judgment from several antivirus programs like Norton, McAfee and other anti-phishing sites.
- Attended a meeting of Conservation District Watershed Specialists (CDWS) in the Anthracite Region to discuss regional topics and issues CDWS face. Being a coal mining region, I was able to answer many questions on remediation and reclamation as well as some grant funding questions that came up. Also shared the Datashed.org training notice and had each attendee fill out a survey to gauge interest and use in Datashed.org. A visit to the Silver Creek AMD Passive Treatment System was scheduled for the afternoon.
- Compiled the Datashed.org Survey results and shared it with Cliff Denholm at Stream Restoration Inc. [SRI].

- Formatted EPCAMR's 2011 – 2003 Archived News Articles page on www.epcamr.org to take the “jumbled mess” that was exported over from CPG Nuke to the WordPress format. This was a bit of a laborious task to go through over 300 articles, remove extraneous text/numbers from the front of the article, then single out the title, date, and author for each article. The articles are now in a searchable format and every 10 articles are bookmarked to create an index near the top of the page. Articles archived since 2011 are organized by month at the top of the page.
- Updated Menus on www.epcamr.org to reflect some changes to the navigation. Updated Project History Highlights with the 2011 Annual Report. Posted the Growing Greener Award announcement to a news article and Facebook.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference Call in preparation for the 2013 PA AMR Conference which will be hosted by the PA AMR Conference Committee at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College from August 8-10, 2013. Worked on 2013.treatminewater.com to add information to pages based on discussion by the committee.
- Updated the Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Action Plan (LLWRAP) to format it a little better for printing as suggested by Bernie McGurl, LRCA Director. [LRCA]
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous month, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff. EPCAMR Staff prepared monthly reimbursement paperwork to send along as well.
- Updated the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting Agenda and sent it to board members via e-mail 2 days prior to the meeting. Updated the EPCAMR Board Meeting Page on www.epcamr.org with January Board Reports, the draft 1st Quarter 2013 Agenda, PA DEP Bureau of abandoned Mine Reclamation's (BAMR) report to the Mining Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) from October 2012.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the EPCAMR 1st Quarterly Board Meeting at Earth Conservancy's conference room. Compiled the Treasurers Report, Previous Meeting Minutes, an updated Agenda, and paperwork to go along with agenda items. In the middle of preparations, board members were responding having troubles accessing our website and board meeting information. Discovered that some updates that Microsoft made to their newest version of Internet Explorer made our website format obsolete. As a quick fix I sent out an e-mail providing direct links to all the information. Took meeting minutes during the meeting.
- EPCAMR staff met with Tom Clark, SRBC, to show the 3D model of the Upper Lackawanna basin. The mashup was compiled from cross-sections found in the Ashburner Series and OSM Mine Map Folios.
- Sent a Legislative Action Notice and an updated Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Resolution to EPCAMR Board Members as well as County and Watershed Groups to garner support for keeping the AML Trust Fund away from sequestration and other recent ploys to get at the money for federal budget balancing purposes. One ploy by the President, suggested that the AML Trust fund should become a nationally competitive grant, removing primacy from the states and tribes as setup in the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act. The move was seen as an invasion of state's and tribal rights and the AML Trust was taken “off budget” in 2006 with an automatic distribution schedule. The fund is ineligible for sequestration, but has been deemed the “AML Honey-pot” by Washington D.C. insiders, as it has become some sort of trophy to be won and confiscated by legislators that do not care (or do not have constituents that care) about AML Reclamation. Fortunately, in the 2006 Reauthorization, legislators who had a stake in AML Reclamation had enough insight to set up some “legal barriers” to protect the fund in until at least 2022. This does not mean it is untouchable. The fund needs continual support from the coal region's delegates and their constituents to keep it safe.

Technical Assistance:

- Evaluated the initial 3D model for the Jermyn Mine Pool created from the Ashburner Cross-sections to see if they were compatible with the raw data from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Mine Map Folios. Turns out that the Ashburner Cross-sections were processed in an incorrect projection a year ago. This means that about half of the raw data processing had to be re-done in a NAD 83 UTM Zone 18 projection from the basemap to fit the newly processed data. Some of the elevations were off by 500 or 1,000 feet as compared to the original cross-sections and had to be adjusted in OpenOffice Calc. Also the vein nomenclature was very different and we had to match up the veins based on their relative elevation in the stratigraphic sequence. For example, in the Ashburner series the lowest seam was sometimes called the Bottom Red Ash, but in the Folios it was called the Dunmore #3, but this was inconsistent from colliery to colliery. [SRBC]
- Created a “mash-up” 3D model of the Jermyn Mine Pool after pre-processing the raw data, but the model had several areas that were shaped incorrectly and realized that the model would be much more perfect if all the Upper Lackawanna data was processed into one model. The more raw data available, the better the resulting model. [SRBC]
- Called Kim Snyder from PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office, then Dan Koury and Davey Williams from PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO) to get a little insight on the Mine Mapping Grant that’s being administrated by the DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) program. Also called OSM’s National Mine Map Repository (NMMR). EPCAMR plans on submitting a grant to scan, georeference, and digitize mine maps, especially for the Anthracite Region.
- Continued to research information related to building a proposal for the Mine Mapping Grant. Spoke with Mike Dziak from the Earth Conservancy to see about using their map scanner for the grant, but unfortunately he saw it as a conflict of interest. EPCAMR will purchase a scanner in the grant.
- Re-processed the Ashburner Cross-sections for Forest City in the same fashion as for the Jermyn Mine Pool, mentioned previously. Created a mash-up of the OSM Folio and Ashburner Cross-section data for Jermyn and Forest City, called the Upper Lackawanna Mine Pool Model. [SRBC]
- Attempted to research how to route Facebook events to WordPress for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) on www.huberbreaker.org. Members are familiar with Facebook and post notifications of meetings there, but the calendar on their homepage remains empty because it is difficult to use, however, a new volunteer has taken some administrative management of the site.
- Traveled to the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) office to have EPCAMR President sign checks 2x during the month. “Played techie” to attempt to move an ArcGIS software license from one computer to an newer computer. Downloaded the Old Forge Borehole (OFB) transducer data on the way back each time and changed the desiccant to keep the data cable dry. [LRCA]
- Handed over the borehole monitoring “reins” and specialized equipment to Shawn Jones, Intern with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). He was to continue monitoring the boreholes for the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, but shortly after he submitted his notice to move on to another job. [SRBC]
- Tried out a new list-serve e-mail program called MailChimp to start reminding the EPCAMR Board of all of the meetings. The Google App built into our e-mail program really formats “e-mail campaigns” in a very professional and easy to read manner. The members can opt-in or out of the messages and can update their contact information as it changes. This will also be sued in future e-mail blasts to watershed groups and reclamation partners. EPCAMR staff also have the ability to track the message views, reads and actions (downloading content) in an attempt to more effectively communicate with our constituents.

- In an effort to be more transparent for our board, we have made some changes to the www.epcamr.org website to make it easier to access paperwork for the board meetings and on the organization in general. This means... less clicks to get to the information. Here's the direct link: <http://epcamr.org/home/board/> ... but it's location on our website is what is important. The "Board" page can now be accessed by a link just above our logo on the homepage (between "Staff" and "Contact Us"). Removed the "About Us" page and replace it with "Board" page. Transferred all the information from the "Organizational Information" page to the "Board" page as well. The info on the "About Us" page was brought to the homepage. Yes, lots of juggling around, but hopefully it is more straight forward.
- Researched a fix for Microsoft Internet Explorer's attack on our www.epcamr.org website. Found that users can select compatibility mode in their browser in order to make the page display properly, but a more permanent fix was to place scripting in the header in the homepage to tell the browser that it is compatible with Internet Explorer 8. The browser will read it and automatically adjust to compatibility mode. Microsoft knows best! If all else fails, we have a great Search Tool and a Site Map built into the website.
- Sampled the Espy Run Treatment System in several locations to determine the effectiveness of the system for Earth Conservancy (EC). Samples were taken in 7 places in, out, and between components to determine a load reduction of Iron and Acidity to Espy Run. Cleaned out the half pipe distribution to the new ponds, which was completely plugging the system only a month after the previous cleaning. Prepared a spreadsheet of the sampling data. [EC]
- Began digitizing the cross-sections from the OSM Mine Map Folios for the Lower Lackawanna Valley with EPCAMR Intern, Justyna. [SRBC]
- Continued to adjust the Upper Lackawanna 3D Mine Pool model to perfect the model. Ashburner cross-section "K" through Forest City was not lining up with the other cross sections and it was more than just a simple offset. Deleted this cross section since many OSM Mine Map Folio cross-sections existed for that area and provided sufficient coverage. Created tops and bottoms of veins not present in the raw data from average thickness calculations from surrounding cross-sections to make sure the model acted properly and did not pinch out areas that were missing data. [SRBC]
- Updated the EPCAMR 2013 Billable Rate sheets with better projections for 2014 and 2015 so we can incorporate these rates into future grants. Also consolidated the For Profit rate information on the Non Profit Rate sheet to clarify the justification of the different rates.
- Switched the AntiVirus software on EPCAMR Executive Director's computer to remove Symantec and add AVG Free software. An inquiry to AVG AntiVirus support confirmed that it was fine to use the free home edition for a non-profit business. As the laptop is getting older and filling up, it is slowing down and the switch to this less memory intensive scanner will help extend the life of the computer. AVG Free AntiVirus and Iobit's Advanced System Care is a free antivirus/antimalware combination that is now used on all EPCAMR computers and has been functioning very well to protect them for several years now.
- Researched Lewis Mine AMD water quality results on the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) GIS Tool. Found several sampling stations in both the AMLIS inventory and SRBC's West Branch Water Quality Database. PA DEP Moshannon DMO also has data that they plan to forward to us. [GG]
- Webhosting invoices sent to EPCAMR members that take advantage of the service: Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA) for www.schuylkillheadwaters.org and Friends of the Nescopeck (FON) for www.friendsofthenescopeck.org.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.