



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

**Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director***

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: [rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)

Website: [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

### February 2019 Progress Report

#### **Project Coordination**

##### ***Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project***

- EPCAMR received the first payment for the project, deposited the check for a **\$154,950** into our account, had the EPCAMR President co-sign on the check to be cut to Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management for the initial mobilization work on the site that was invoiced and approved by the PA DEP BAMR for **\$150,000** and put it in the mail; Informed Gerard Schmidt-PA DEP BAMR Project Officer that the check was received; Communicated with Matt Cochran-Keystone Reclamation on the project and set up a field visit with Hank Zielinski-Northampton Energy Services, on-site on March 1<sup>st</sup> to walk the site and see how the design and construction of the erosion and sedimentation controls are going as well as to talk about the setting up of an on-site mobile trailer unit with power for the duration of the project; Received a Mining Activity Inspection Report from the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office and reviewed it before putting with the project file

##### ***Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project***

- Entered the Total Ferrous and Total Organic Carbon readings from the lab results that were provided to EPCAMR from Mahaffey Labs, into the Water Quality Database from the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Sampling event at the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel discharge; Sampled Mocanaqua on 2-28 for the month; Reviewed Hawk Basin Mine Pool Modeling with Mike; Scheduled a meeting for March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3pm at SRBC to go over work on the mapping, modeling, and water monitoring data that has been collected to date to see where we are heading over the next few months of the project

##### ***Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards in the Coalfields***

- Laura continued to finalize the EPCAMR Reclaiming Our Backyards Education Curriculum and began ordering the necessary supplies for planting the seedlings and seeds in the Spring and educational supplies for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom lessons; Laura and Shawnese have found several additional partners to grow seedlings for EPCAMR for the project

##### ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project***

- EPCAMR Executive Director reached out to Tammy Nichols-PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Center to inquire about a termination letter on the project for our file and any further instructions to close out the grant since all reports and reimbursements have been completed and satisfied

### ***Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project***

- Provided Jessica Britten, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Education Intern with the field reconnaissance notes and photos from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for her to organize and insert into a Powerpoint document as Figures for the draft Upper Toby Creek CHP Report; Planning on scheduling a few more field reconnaissance dates with Tom Maykas-DAMA in the watershed in early March with Jessica

### ***Huntsville Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project***

- EPCAMR was verbally informed that we would be receiving **\$4750** to complete the watershed assessment of the Huntsville Creek tributary of the larger Toby Creek watershed in the Back Mountain of Luzerne County; EPCAMR had made a revision to the grant budget and removed \$250 for a few pair of waders at the request of the grant review team and resubmitted the budget for final approval; An award letter that would be official will be forthcoming this Spring from Ashley Wilmot-Program Director at PA Council of Trout Unlimited

### **Technical Assistance**

- Informed Melanie Kessler, PA DCED Project Manager that the HBPS would be meeting during the month of February to decide on how they were going to proceed with the remainder of the funds for the project and to apply for an official 1 year extension of the grant; Attended the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's Board Meeting and provided provided Pat Kennedy, HBPS Board Member with several documents for their review during their meeting to develop a response document to PA DCED; Prepared the Extension Letter Request with Ray Clarke, through June 30, 2020 and provided a status update on the project and some future proposed project ideas to utilize the remaining balance in the PA DCED grant and submitted it to Melanie; Forwarded the letter to several HBPS Board members
- Forwarded some thoughts to Mike and Gavin about John Levitsky's idea of coming up with a study or an assessment plan on how can we address losing reaches of headwater tributaries/streams that are actively being lost to the underground mine pool complexes in the region; We may have a better chance at pitching this as a proposal to a foundation than the PA DEP, unless in a future round of Growing Greener, there might be a priority for this type of project in the mining regions that we are serving, possibly even a 319 Grant; This is a discussion worth having with Donna Carnahan, our Project Officer with the PA DEP 319 Program; Dry times, losing reaches of stream; Wet times, gaining reaches of streams and increases or decreases in flows of the AMD discharges targeted are some considerations that he had mentioned; He used Laurel Run in the Wyoming Valley, as an example for such a study; The headwaters are outside of the mining region with little land development and can be used as a control showing water losses and gains attributed to weather in relatively undisturbed forest canopy, forest dormancy/growth comparing evaporation/evapotranspiration; The losses and gains over historical mining areas could then be compared and monitored through strategic mine pool level monitoring; Discussed putting something down on paper and further flushing this idea out with him at some point; Ongoing reclamation, study and proof of the concerns, or tracking which mine pools are affected by what watersheds on the surface or what watersheds are affected by what mine pools are conclusions that we might be able to provide as results; This is something we need to have a follow-up meeting with John on at some point and then see what funding is out there once we have a more concrete plan developed

- Reviewed SRBC-Tom Clark's review of the AMD and water quality sampling that was conducted in the Bear Creek tributary watershed of the Wiconisco Creek, Dauphin County; Provided WCRA, DCCD, Doc Fritchey Chapter TU, Kerry Teter, and SRBC with links to most of the historic background reports, plans, and studies that were completed in the Wiconisco Creek Watershed since 1997, when EPCAMR began our involvement in the watershed for historic baseline and background materials; Sent Russ Collins-Doc Fritchey Chapter TU a photo of the concrete fabric emergency spillway channel for him to use on the intake and outfall sluice way in the Rausch Creek where the diversion wells are located
- EPCAMR Staff led the day long Brownfields Training Workshop with the EC on February 1<sup>st</sup> to teach **20** students how to interpret surface and underground mine maps, how to reach topographical maps, how to measure distances, and create simple environmental resource data layers to represent Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that are commonly used in the field; Prepared an Invoice for **\$1300** to submit to PSU Wilkes-Barre to cover the EPCAMR Staff costs and professional services for assisting EC with the Introduction to Brownfields Environmental Workforce Training Workshop and Field Tour
- Set up a meeting for March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the MS4 AMD Appendix section of the WVSA Permit that they would like some technical professional services work completed for them in the coming year; Reviewed and provided formal comments on the Appendix A to John Pietrzyk, Stormwater Division/GIS Manager in advance of the meeting that the EPCAMR Executive Director, Mike, and Gavin will attend; John provided EPCAMR with a GIS Map of their "sewershed" of the participating municipalities
- Reached out to Heather Cisar-US ACE to discuss AMD remediation planning and water pollution control throughout the EPCAMR Region under the Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan; Haven't heard any response for a few weeks and am only able to contact the US ACE through e-mail
- Rob Dubas, Keep PA Beautiful Program Coordinator followed up with EPCAMR to see how things were coming along with the PA DEP/DCED Indemnification & Hold Harmless Agreement; Informed him that our Board would be looking at it and reviewing it for approval for the security camera installations in Centralia; EPCAMR had one of our Board Attorneys, Dan Taroli, Esquire, review it and provide his opinion on the agreement before we supported it and would sign it; The Board requested that EPCAMR just check with our General Liability Insurance Insurer through POWR before signing and then we could submit it to the PA DEP/DCED with a signature to move forward with the Surveillance Camera Loaner Program through Keep PA Beautiful in the late Spring 2019; Sent the Agreement to Tali MacArthur-PEC POWR to review and she informed me that she had forwarded it to Angela Vitkoski-PEC NE Office, who is more familiar with the POWR General Liability Insurance Policies; Informed Rob of the interest of the Bloomsburg U. MPERS Club to conduct a roadside cleanup that EPCAMR suggested for the Spring; Rob also wanted to see if EPCAMR could ask the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance if they were interested in the program as well and taken an active role along Snake Road, where there is also some heavy illegal dumping going on; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with Jim Koharski, with the watershed group in Northumberland County
- Provided Beth Berkhauser-The Hexagon Project with input on her grant submission to the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Partnership for their annual Hexagon Art Exhibition; She will be rolling out and printing copies of EPCAMR's AMD Art Education Curriculum and Dr. Andrea Nerozzi's artwork at Wyoming Seminary and to compare and contrast the water pollution situation from abandoned mines in China; EPCAMR provided a Letter of Support for the proposal

- Provided Carol Paranzer, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper and Fairfax Hutter with some information following a conference call that EPCAMR had provided on the docket as an intervener for the [Penn-East Pipeline Project](#) that is proposed to be drilled under the Susquehanna River beneath some of the mining impacted areas within the Wyoming Valley; Forwarded information and Penn-East updates on the project and the proposed trenching across the Susquehanna River to place the 36” gas transmission pipe just a few feet below the alluvial bed of the river to all EPCAMR Staff to inform them of where the project is at in the planning stages and approval process with the FERC; See [shallow burial depth and Vortex-induced Vibration of an Exposed Pipeline](#) for an interesting read; Forwarded to the EPCAMR Staff previous presentations made by the EPCAMR Executive Director in 2015 to the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition (GDAC) in the Back Mountain on the cross sections of the Wyoming Valley in the area of the crossing and the underground mining impacts within that region
- Spoke to Joe Mills-Skelly & Loy, Inc. about the *Packer 5 AMD Design Project*, in the Mahanoy Creek watershed, that ended up not being funded under the most recent round of Growing Greener; Talked to Joe about expanded the scope of the project in the next round to include some professional technical assistance in the mine mapping area from EPCAMR to enhance the proposal

## Education & Outreach

- Officially received word from the Appalachian Voices that EPCAMR will be receiving a **\$2000** RECLAIM Field Fund mini-grant written and submitted by the EPCAMR Executive Director to continue to work on the further development of the RECLAIM Act in the new Congress; Filled out a survey from with RECLAIM Fund deliverables and submitted it to Eric Dixon, Appalachian Law Center; Eric provided EPCAMR with a copy of the short narrative that was submitted online for our records

Donna Morelli-Bay Journal Freelance Writer forwarded EPCAMR a copy of Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee February newsletter that contained the Reclaiming Appalachian Coalition’s report on abandoned mines entitled, [Many Voices, Many Solutions-Innovative Mine Reclamation in Central Appalachia](#) that she thought would be in EPCAMR’s interest

- Met with Tali MacArthur-PEC/POWR Program Manager to gain input and advice as to how POWR can assist its membership better and what services need to be provided; Provided her with information on MS4 at her request
- Allison Petryk, [NEPA Green Fair](#) reached out to EPCAMR to see if we would be able to table and exhibit at the event on April 27 at Nay Aug Park, Scranton, PA; Provided her with permission to use any photos from our site or social media outlets to promote the event and our involvement; Allison would like to introduce some of our EPCAMR Staff to Jane Risse-Co-Founder and Director of The Greenhouse Project in Scranton who she thought would be very interested in our Reclaiming Our Backyard Growboxx Project; Provided Jane with a follow up e-mail and [link](#) to our Reclaiming Our Backyard Growboxx Project
- Eric Cavazza, PA DEP BAMR provided EPCAMR with a copy of the HJ Resolution 31, that contained the PA AML Pilot language that the House and Senate were going to be voting on during Valentine’s Day as a bipartisan spending package; Provided the information to the EPCAMR Board the following week at our Quarterly Board Meeting

- EPCAMR Executive Director and Mike had a conference call with Patrick Rooney-Legislative Director for Congressman Dan Meuser's Office to discuss our support of the current Coal Refuse and Reclamation Tax Credit bill and language proposed and to educate him on EPCAMR's work in the region as well as on SMCRA Law, the AML Fund, RECLAIM, and the PA AML Pilot Program; Provided Patrick with some contacts such as Jaret Gibbons-ARIPPA to follow up with on the issue; Provided him with a link to ARIPPA's [Economic Impact Analysis Study](#); Provided him with the EPCAMR RAMLIS Inventory and statistics for the new 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; Reviewed a draft of the Coal Refuse Reclamation Act and confirmed EPCAMR's support of it as we had previously in the last Congress
- Liz Masi-Environmental Education Coordinator from The Graham Academy would like for a few of the EPCAMR Staff to conduct an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop with her students for a few hours in March 2019; She'll be coordinating with Laura Rinehimer on a date and materials and supplies; The Graham Academy will be supplying the t-shirts and purchasing the iron oxide from EPCAMR
- Followed up with Frederick Douglas Sr. and Holly Hudson with [Cosmos Technologies, Inc.](#) after a referral from Andy McAllister-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator to give them a call to talk about our work in the eastern part of the State
- Forwarded Laura Rinehimer-EPCAMR Watershed Education Specialist our brochures and posters on making native seed bombs for gardening and using on vacant lands or following cleanups that we conduct throughout the region
- Dan Bochicchio, Staff Environmental Scientist at [GES](#), Exton, PA reached out to EPCAMR to talk about drone technologies and potential for assistance on future projects and working the services into grants down the road; Informed him of the 2019 NAAMLPA/PA AMR/NASLR Joint Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in the Fall and sent him the Call for Papers and the Sponsorship forms
- Leigh Ann T. Henry, EPCAMR Board member forwarded Mike and the Executive Director a link to an iron oxide pigment manufacturer, [Venatorcorp](#); EPCAMR Executive followed up with them to find out more about the company and to see if they are interested in talking to EPCAMR about learning more about our resource recovery efforts in PA
- The Institute released a [Study on the Economic Impacts and Effects of Coal Mining in Northeastern PA](#); The report demonstrates the economic loss that resulted as a result of this declining coal consumption and can be used by organizations applying for ARC POWER funds; Forwarded the Study to the PA AML Campaign and to the EPCAMR Staff
- Forwarded two infographics on AML/AMD and watershed restoration statistics to the RECLAIM Field Strategy listserv members who participate regularly on conference calls to discuss the RECLAIM Act
- EPCAMR signed on to the Appropriations Letters going to the Legislature through the Choose Clean Water Coalition

- Followed with Kurt Bauman's NCAC survey on the development of an Executive Director's Forum and offered to help facilitate it in any way; The survey was placed in their February Newsletter following our discussions at NCAC in late January 2019 after renewing our membership for 2 years
- Informed the EPCAMR Staff that they can access the [Patagonia ActionWorks](#) webpage to create events, campaigns, etc. that they will help to amplify through their social media channels, including Facebook; It really helps us to get some organic reaches and new followers, and potentially funders looking at our work through Patagonia partners; Encouraged them to take a look and create their own events and put them up for some of our projects; Created an amplification event for the April 19 Entrance to Ashley Borough Roadside Cleanup
- Provided Laura with some topics and project updates for the March 2019 EPCAMR Newsletter edition
- Forwarded along an [RFP](#) for an Outdoor Funding Network Learning Opportunity Grant to several of the EPCAMR Staff working on Environmental Education Projects and Programs that is an opportunity for EPCAMR and a local school district; The Initiative will provide training and up to **\$100,000** in direct funding to be distributed over a two-year period for capacity building to establish a local environmental literacy network working to develop an environmental literacy plan and implement a systemic MWEE program; The Chesapeake Bay Trust, in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup, is excited to announce that the Outdoor Learning Network Initiative is now seeking applications; The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative is a funding opportunity for high-need school districts within the Chesapeake Bay region to advance environmental education goals by establishing school district(s) and nonprofit partnerships, receiving capacity building training and ongoing support, and developing and implementing systemic environmental literacy programs using the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model; The MWEE is a flexible framework based in the principles of inquiry and project based learning. In the Chesapeake region, the MWEE is recognized as a comprehensive approach to achieving environmental literacy and supported by state departments of education; The ultimate goal is that the funding, partnership, and training resources offered through this initiative will institute a sustainable district-level team and plan for advancing environmental literacy goals long-term

## **Community Volunteer Coordination**

- Followed up with EPCAMR Volunteer student from Lehigh University, Cody Benkoski, about creating an example StoryMap in ArcGIS for one of our projects and to begin to gather regional rainfall data for around the Wyoming Valley as a sample of data that we can then correlate to the various flows of AMD throughout the Valley to see what the correlation is between rainfall data and flow discharge and loadings of the various AMD sources to help us better understand the mine pool fluctuations, storage potential, flashiness, or stability and capability of holding stormwater runoff; He has been looking at StoryMaps also; He built a small (proof of concept) Python script to detect the characteristic orange discharges and water-filled stripping pits or ponds of AMD; He has been able to get fairly good detection rates from it in certain circumstances; He requested a collection of Google Maps locations of where AMD is partially visible to see if he could train the model to improve its detection of the AMD; Informed him that we had a GIS layer of AMD points and watershed boundaries on PASDA; <http://www.pasda.psu.edu/uci/SearchResults.aspx?originator=Eastern+Pennsylvania+Coalition+for+Abandoned+Mine+Reclamation>

- Followed up with Lauren Perry-student at SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry, NY about coming into the Office on March 11<sup>th</sup> for an interview for a Summer 2019 internship with EPCAMR after having read her cover letter and resume
- Cody Benkoski-Lehigh University student and EPCAMR volunteer provided the EPCAMR Executive Director with rainfall totals from a [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) endpoint that supplied 24hr totals of rain gauges throughout the Eastern US; He provided two PHP scripts that access and aggregate the data as well as provide a visual way to view the data on Google Maps; He also took a look through the EPCAMR WordPress site and noticed it doesn't seem to be indexed by Google all that well; He suggested looking into getting a WordPress SEO plugin and tag some of the pages/posts; In addition, he thought Host Gator provides free SSL certificates, which will also help our SEO, since SSL is rapidly becoming a necessity on the web; Informed him that EPCAMR would discuss his suggestions over with Mike to see if we can some of those suggested changes
- Martina Bennick-President of the MPERS Club at Bloomsburg U. inquired about a potential Spring Cleanup in Centralia this year; EPCAMR informed her that we didn't plan on a Spring Cleanup due to not having the funds to coordinate the effort and remove the trash twice a year; EPCAMR suggested that they do a roadside cleanup and allow PA DOT to pickup the trash that they might be able to collect along the roads throughout the Borough and sign up through Keep PA Beautiful
- Jennifer Deterick, EPCAMR Community Development Coordinator volunteer, provided EPCAMR with a list of contacts of corporations within the Hazleton Industrial Park to make inquiries to find out if they have any corporate philanthropy we might be able to apply to for funding; EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed the list and found some additional contact information necessary to make follow up phone calls in the coming weeks ahead
- Followed up with Bill Dructor, BENCO Dental employee, who is interested in becoming an EPCAMR volunteer and assisting us with some of our stream and culvert assessments over the late Spring and early Summer 2019
- Registered EPCAMR's Keep PA Beautiful Cleanup (ID #13408) for the Entrance to Ashley, along S. Main Street community cleanup event for April 19<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with BENCO Dental and DHL Supply Chain Logistics; It's a 5000' length of road that is from our EPCAMR Office down to the entrance to the Borough of Ashley at the light near the Park n Ride and the off-ramp to Ashley from State Route 29; Created an [EPCAMR Facebook Event](#) page; Forwarded the details to Alyssa Beasley at BENCO Dental and to Gabby Zawacki at DHL Supply Chain Logistics; Reached out to Megan Eckert-PA DOT KPB Coordinator to request some free supplies

## **Conferences, Training, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops**

- EPCAMR Executive Director was featured as a Panel Speaker talking about EPCAMR work in the region and our mine pool mapping and other technical mapping services being provided in the region for Anthracite History Month while at Marywood University which was recorded by [PCN Live](#) to be aired on February 9 at 2PM and 7PM

- Discussed having an earthVision Training for the EPCAMR Staff at the EPCAMR Office sometime in 2019, possibly in mid-April; The training is in discussion with OSMRE TIPS, Mike Dunn, and Dawn Pacula-OSMRE; Several EPCAMR Staff are interested in the 3 day training; Developed specific topics for the training related to the Anthracite Region and EPCAMR's work specifically that could end up taken place at the EPCAMR Conference Room at the Earth Conservancy; Suggested following up with Brent Means to get an updated version of AMDTreat; Informed Mike of the minimum specifications that we needed on our laptops for the training to have him verify and send Mike Dunn the necessary information
- EPCAMR Executive Director was informed by the Deputy Director of The Deming Institute, Dr. Bill Bellows that a Dorothy Deming full scholarship (**\$1800**) has been approved to attend a 2.5 training in Ohio, PA in April on The Deming Way to help improve EPCAMR's overall management system and operations as a regional environmental non-profit; Followed up with Bill on the phone on several occasions to fill him in on EPCAMR's work in the region on community organizing, AMD remediation, AML reclamation, and environmental education of youth and adults alike in our coalfield communities, as well as our organizational structure and current management system; Provided Bill with links to various resources related to EPCAMR
- Attended a SkillPath Training on Coaching and Teambuilding Skills for Managers and Supervisors in Scranton, PA to learn some new skill sets when bringing on new employees and working collectively on complicated projects with a lot of moving parts
- Participated in a NAAMLPA/PA AMR/NASLP Conference Planning Committee conference call; Updated all partners on fundraising efforts for scholarships; Informed that EPCAMR needs to provide at least 20 additional coupon codes to PA DEP BAMR; Talked with Gregg Davis-PA DEP BAMR, who is on the Transportation Committee about EPCAMR's willingness to allow for the use of our van that we will be renting to come out to the Conference as an overflow vehicle for the Tours on Tuesday; EPCAMR/WPCAMR may put out materials on the ARIPPA Exhibit table, if we're not able to pay for our own tables due to cost constraints; Online registrations are just beginning to slowly trickle in six months in advance of the Conference; Forwarded Andy McAllister-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator the NAAMLPA/PA AMR/NASLP Conference Sponsorship forms
- Sat down with Sean Michael Asher Banul, Penn-State Wilkes-Barre student who was interested in volunteering with EPCAMR for a few months as an externship for experience and not college credit; Sean grew up in the Pittston area and is very familiar with AMD and abandoned mine lands
- Lara Justice, Regional Sales Manager, Ramada Inn-[Jacaruso Enterprises](#) provided EPCAMR with information on various hotels in Western PA, should our state-wide PA AMR Conference committee decide to look at other venues outside of State College for future conferences

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for February 2019 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Worked on the February 2019 EPCAMR Board and 319 Report for the EPCAMR 319 reimbursements and posting to the EPCAMR website and forwarded to Mike once completed
- Entered the EPCAMR bi-weekly payroll into ADP online to release it



- OneSource provided EPCAMR with a copy of the letter submitted to the IRS to inform them of the proper timely payments made on the Quarterly 941 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018 and to request that they remove and waive any proposed penalty amount; OneSource informed EPCAMR that a \$8.80 credit will hit our account due to the change in the unemployment rate from 3.1283% TO 3.0229%; Provided an overpayment letter from the IRS to OneSource to determine where the credit will be applied to
- Provided Shawnese with a copy of a previously submitted Community Aid grant to assist her with developing her budget and outline for a **\$5000** grant that she is preparing with Laura to work with an underserved targeted audience of individuals with intellectual disabilities and adjudicated youth in creating art from AMD; Forwarded her a previous AMD & Art grant proposal along with EPCAMR's Regional Artists database of contacts; Reviewed the final proposal and budget before submission
- Prepared and submitted a Luzerne Foundation **\$5000** grant proposal for unrestricted funds to be able to write grants and develop proposals for EPCAMR; Organizations are able to make 5 minute pitches at the 2019 Non-Profit Forum in Wilkes-Barre on March 20-21<sup>st</sup> to the Foundation to inform the funders of our mission and goals
- Participated in two follow-up conference calls with Dr. Bill Bellows, Ph. D.,-The Deming Institute to provide him with additional background information on EPCAMR in preparation for the April Training; Forwarded Mike information on the Deming Philosophy that the Executive Director has been reading up on and had a conversation with him about making some management changes within EPCAMR over time; We had discussions on what we could do to make some incremental changes over time and how to work the entire Staff into understanding The Deming Method; Sent him a copy of the 14 Points of Transformation of Management; Mike and the Executive Director researched and began evaluating some Project Management apps within Google for the Staff to utilize
- Spoke to Anthony Melf-Instructor and Career Navigator for EDSI, Solutions at PA CareerLink about having Conal B. Herron, our EPCAMR volunteer apply through them for an 8 week paid internship under the State Local Internship Program (SLIP) through the PA Department of Labor and Industry to the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, which is to be used to reimburse wages for high school graduates and college students working as interns at local companies in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties; EPCAMR Executive Director signed our organization up as a participating partner in the program for Conal to be accepted and other possible interns from May 6 thru August 30, 2019
- Provided the EPCAMR Staff with the user name and password to get into GrantStation through the [Society for Non-Profits](#) website, an organization that EPCAMR has become a member of recently to take advantage of grants and other resources for Staff and Management
- Forwarded a copy of the PA Anthracite Council and ARIPPA February 2019 Reports/Newsletters around to the EPCAMR Staff
- Sent around the League of Conservation Voters [Environmental Scorecard](#) of PA Legislators for 2018 to the EPCAMR Staff
- Participated in an online Market Lead webinar for Walmart sponsored by Good 360 to see how EPCAMR can qualify for donations of supplies and goods through our regional Walmart location in Wilkes-Barre Township
- Enrolled in JoAnn Fabric's Teachers Awards Program to obtain discounts on supplies for our Educational Programs

- Completed a mid-term evaluation and assessment for Jessica Britten, our Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern from King's College and submitted it to her Career Placement Office and provided her with a copy and reviewed it with her
- Completed the Financial Management Training Survey Assessment for the Scranton Area Foundation and submitted it to Maggie Martinelli-Director of Administration and Projects
- Met with Joe Simons-EPCAMR Vice President, to provide him with a rundown on projects with EPCAMR to get him up to speed on project management, grant management, funding, and administrative details; Offered to copy Joe on important dates and meetings to see if he may have the time to attend some of them in the future
- Convened and facilitated the 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting; Provided the Board with a copy of the [PA Clean Water Legislative Briefing Guide Booklet](#); EPCAMR Executive Director helped Dave Kinney-TU put together narrative section on page 24 of the booklet pertaining to AMD; The Board approved unanimously sending an [Opposition Letter to the Governor](#) on his proposed budget cuts to the Environmental Stewardship and Keystone Funds and informed him of our support for Restore PA and a severance tax; Provided the letter to ARIPPA at their request; Created a News Release on our Opposition to the proposed budget and sent it out to all EPCAMR Board and affiliate members as well as posted it to our social media site to be shared
- Provided Leigh Ann Henry, EPCAMR Board member, with information on the EPCAMR Strategic Plan Update for her to communicate with other members of the Strategic Planning Committee to begin to update it for the next 5 years; Sent her the WPCAMR Strategic Plan from 2013 as a template
- Reached out to Jaret Gibbons, ARIPPA Executive Director to inform him that EPCAMR would like to develop new projects and partnerships with the CO-Gen Industry Plants that are looking for fuel sources and similar projects to the one that we are managing now at the Swoyersville Refuse Pile Removal PA AML Pilot Project; If other plants are beginning to look at culm, silt, or refuse piles that are slowly becoming further away from their centralized plants, EPCAMR could work with them on pulling together possible proposals to the PA AML Pilot Funding Program or other sources to help to incentive the hauling of the materials back to the plants that could also leverage the private investment that the plants are making; EPCAMR Executive Director and Mike Hewitt met with Jaret and Cristy Sweeney to discuss working with a plant to help to develop a GIS layer of the acreage reclaimed, tons (cubic yards) of waste coal removed, stream miles improved, to show increased benefits to the State and legislators; ARIPPA would like to reach out to the watershed associations and Conservation Districts in the EPCAMR Region as well as the PA Trout Unlimited; EPCAMR Executive Director is going to facilitate a meeting with Greg Malaska-President of PA Trout Unlimited with Jaret Gibbons to gain their support of their work in the watersheds where they are making land and water improvements that are beneficial to the surrounding cold-water fisheries; Provided Jaret with a Chapter Map of the coverage areas by the individual 49 Chapters across PA and a Directory Listing for PA Trout Unlimited
- Contacted 4 of the top candidates chosen for the MSI GIS Technician position that EPCAMR would like to fill; Steve Cornia, Lehman, PA responded and an interview was set up and conducted by Mike and the Executive Director; Steve has a background in AMD work from Lock Haven University and South Dakota School of Mines, along with 4 years of GIS experience in ArcGIS from Slippery Rock University where he earned a Masters in GeoEnvironmental Studies; He has not been able to find a job related to his degree for the last four years and has accepted the position; We're anticipating a March 18<sup>th</sup> start date for Steve