



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, GISP
Program Manager
101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706
Main Line: (570) 371-3522
E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

February 2021 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced 60, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Worked on proposals to the **Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Susquehanna CPB CAP**
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, a **PA AMR Conference** call, 2 meetings with **Kings College** engineering students, a call with **PA DEP California DMO**, a call with **FPW**, & hosted an **EPCAMR Board** meeting
- Sampled AMD Treatment Systems on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and www.epcamr.org; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Sent a monthly reminder for staff to send MSI work completed for the month. Downloaded the last few months work from the X Drive at the office and uploaded to SIDs folder on the travel drive. [MSI]
- Conversation with Cheryl Nolan regarding the County Action Plans (CAP) that Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Susquehanna County are required to complete. Wanted to view data that these Nutrient Allocations are based on. Discovered that it's based off the USGS SPatially Referenced Regression On Watershed attributes (SPARROW) which is a watershed modeling technique for relating water-quality measurements made at a network of monitoring stations to attributes of the watersheds such as contaminant sources and environmental factors that affect rates of delivery to streams and in-stream processing. The core of the model consists of a nonlinear regression equation describing the non-conservative transport of contaminants from point and non-point (or "diffuse") sources on land to rivers and through the stream and river network. There are something like 15 different datasets that range from land use to water chemistry/flow to geological land forms that is plugged in to help model the sources of nutrient pollution in individual catchments.
- Spoke with Paul Bechtel at LaBella Associates about Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Susquehanna CAP request for proposals (RFP). They would like to include EPCAMR in the mix to monitor AMD for nutrients and help with treatment scenarios.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in weekly PA AMR Campaign calls.
- Called back Vince Guarana from Fox Coal Company with contact information for the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre office as per request. Contacted Bernie Walko to ask about the waterfilled pit near Mount Carmel. Bernie said they were working with him to fill it, but he did not have a plan that would fit within the time constraints of a typical AML reclamation project.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in conference calls with Larson Design Group and HRG to discuss the Luzerne, Lackawanna and Susquehanna CAP RFP. Both groups were

planning to submit and include EPCAMR in the work. Also, filled out a CAP questionnaire for Columbia County.

- Participated in a Zoom call with Kings Professor Alex Szatsmary and his engineering students who chose our proposal to make an automated iron oxide processing machine as their senior project.
- Wrote November and December 2020 EPCAMR Program Manager progress reports then traveled to the office to get draft treasurer's report from Denise, AML maps/statistics of other states for Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) and take photos of iron oxide processing station for Kings engineering students.
- Sent photos to Kings Professor for his engineering students and maps to FPW. Published coal history gathered with Andrea Krupp, Library Company of Philadelphia to the [USA Coal History Wikipedia page](#).
- Organized Zoom recorded videos on my computer and downloaded 2 from the Zoom Cloud. One was of the last board meeting. Listened to the meeting and wrote up the last board meeting minutes and posted on the Board meeting page of the EPCAMR website
- Updated mining bills rubric and communications spreadsheet and sent to PA AML Campaign listserv.
- Caught up on time sheets. Recorded last Askam Sampling in EPCAMR monitoring data spreadsheet and sent to Earth Conservancy (EC).
- Updated Jobs List and Grant Prospects for Treasurer's Report for Board Meeting next week. Sent to Robert and other staff for updates.
- Started the January 2021 EPCAMR Program Manager progress report.
- Went into office to finalize the Treasurer's report in QuickBooks with Denise and get Iron Oxide for meeting with Kings Students tomorrow. Wrote January Report and posted to web.
- Hosted the 2021 EPCAMR 1st Quarterly Board meeting on Zoom.
- Took Iron Oxide to Kings engineering students and has an impromptu socially distanced interview with students who have begun to gather ideas on the Iron Oxide processor. They asked if we knew about a similarly designed automatic flour sifter. They explained the item was available on Amazon and explained how it worked. I reiterated our main goals for the project were to have the process produce consistent pigment product, less dust and have it be semi-mobile so we can show it as an environmental education talking piece.
- Email to catch Ed up on the board meeting as requested.
- Spoke with Patrick and Mara from PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) over Microsoft Teams regarding the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) extension.
- Participated in a zoom call with Joe Pizarchik and FPW regarding eAMLIS issues and using the data for mapping and statistical analysis. Mainly the coordinates for the points are missing decimal places which make the points show up clumped in a mile radius of where they should be. Joe was able to pass this information on to the correct staffer at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).
- Participated in a call with EPCAMR Executive Director to strategize on communication and work delivery issues with particular staff members.
- Worked on numbers for the MSI MMG grant. Needed to transfer money from one account to another for the existing contract and plan for a 2-year extension of the grant.
- Participated in a call to help develop a logo for the PA AML Campaign. Emphasized that it should represent reclamation of land, remediation of water and rebuilding of communities/jobs.
- Traveled to the office to meet up with and reviewed Steve's MMG mosaic progress. Transferred files to X drive.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in a PA AMR Conference call. Followed up with Whova support to find out why access to the 2020 AMR Conference was not available. They said it was because we went over our cloud video storage limits. They charged \$80 for additional video storage space, but I was able to download them, remove them and cancelled the upgrade. Access was restored to mobile app, but not web app. Support said this was because web app access only lasts 3 months after the conference, while mobile access lasts 6

months. The links to our website (speakers, exhibitors, agenda and etc.) are still active. Updated 2020 treatminewater.com with videos on the Presentations page to make an archive.

- Participated in Happening on the Hill virtual presentation by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies regarding an AML Pilot Project including a treatment system, trail and boat launch that was being constructed in Johnstown.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in a PA AML Campaign call. Language was available for AML Reauthorization, RECLAIM and community reclaimers act bills. Work on getting co-sponsors and a House Natural Resources Committee (HNRC) hearing in March.

Technical Assistance:

- Formatted Huntsville Coldwater Heritage Plan (CHP) and posted PDF with working bookmark links to Toby Creek page on EPCAMR website. [CHP]
- Received an email from Branden Diehl related to AML statistics. Sent him to our interactive RAMLIS mapping tool on the EPCAMR website and a link to the eAMLIS database advanced query. Looked into why our ArcGIS Online (AGOL) RAMLIS map was only showing the layers we host (Anthracite AMD and Small Watersheds) and not the services from the PASDA DEP MapServer. Contacted ESRI support and they mentioned it was in the same "hive" and they would submit a support ticket for someone to investigate it for us.
- Georeferenced EPCAMR_010905-09 (Susquehanna Forge), removed geor_WBDO_115-01-04 and WBDO_WAR-02-26 from Wilkes-Barre West Five Foot vein mosaic and replaced with geor_BMSA_0250 and geor_BMSA_0252-002 (Bliss Forge) then EPCAMR_010905-08 and 09 (Susquehanna Forge), BLUE_AVO-05-09-02 and 06-09 (Avondale Bennett), and BLUE_LOO_13-08-02 (Loomis Forge).
- Received correspondence from ESRI technical support that they are still working on PASDA services not showing on AGOL RAMLIS App. Gave ESRI technical support a license on our AGOL so they can test the issue with PASDA server layers showing up on RAMLIS web maps but not web apps.
- Updated several plugins on EPCAMR website and attempt to see why galleries aren't displaying photos. Cincopa no longer supports free accounts? Looked for another gallery plugin.
- ESRI support reported they kind of fixed issue with DEP layers showing on AGOL. RAMLIS app still not fixed, but on a separate app they made on EPCAMR's AGOL account.
- Sampled the Askam Boreholes, treatment system, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek with Steve and Denise including flow at Nanticoke Creek headwaters and Espy Run downstream of Bliss Banks reclamation project. [EC]
- QA/QC georeferencing work submitted by Shawnese for January which were mainly Avondale Colliery maps. Replaced BLUE_AVO-05-11-01 with BLUE_AVO-05-11 in Wilkes-Barre West Lower Ross mosaic because it was georeferenced better. Added BLUE_AVO-06-04-02 to Kidney vein mosaic. [MSI]
- Updated PHP databases for archived treatminewater.com websites from 5.x to 7.4 more secure on WPCAMR's webhost. Setup a 2021 website for the conference and started looking at themes.
- Massive snowstorms late last month and earlier this month did not allow us to sample the Loyalsock Creek Treatment Systems. We will tack missed sampling events on to the end. [LCWA]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.