



## 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](mailto:hardcoal@epcamr.org)

### February 2023 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, **SCRA / Tetra Tech** call, **CCWC** call, and hosted an EE Video Premiere and Fundraiser at **Daminti's in Hazleton**
- Updated [www.PaSolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PaSolarMinedLands.org), [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com) and [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); administered G Suite for Nonprofits and social media sites; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Signed up for a professional license (500 emails/month) of MailParser to process the 770+ backlog of daily Agribile weather data for several locations in the Anthracite Region. Processed 465 records and left the rest of the 500 to allow for collection of daily data. Will need to pay for a \$39.95/month subscription next month as well to process the remaining ~300 backlog but then can cancel it and just have the free account which will process ~30 per month. Currently have localized daily precipitation and temperature data back to 9/13/2021 for several sites in the Northern Anthracite (Old Forge Borehole, Earth Conservancy Office, Bliss Banks), Western Middle Anthracite (Ranshaw), and North Central Semi-anthracite (White Ash Land Association) fields. This data will aide in precipitation comparison to mine pools level data. The data comes from weather data models and compares well with measured rain gauge data.
- Contacted Ooma office to remove taxes from bill. Sent the tax-exempt paperwork to them on December 16th, but they say they never received it. Sent it again.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly PA AML Campaign call. Frank Sindaco, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, also participated and we discussed his involvement in the calls. Also asked Frank to start producing quarterly Active and Future BAMR Project List in the EPCAMR Region for board meetings. It's something I used to do, but other responsibilities overshadowed these reports. It did and will help with education of representatives and public engagement in AML projects.
- Started a [www.PaSolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PaSolarMinedLands.org) website. Added info from the PA DEP Energy Office grant application and from LaBella documents. Also gave Frank a user account to help with the website. [Solar]
- Communication with Pat Web about renewal of the 2019 NAAMLIP website. He decided to let it expire stating that PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) has archived resources they need from the website for the conference.

- Discussed the need with EPCAMR Executive Director for a 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 EPCAMR Board Meeting this month. There was no new business so he was going to confer with EPCAMR President.
- Created a proposal for sampling 55 treatment systems monthly in Kiski-Conemaugh Watershed for Foundation for Pa Watersheds. This involved using a routing tool in ArcGIS Pro to get the best routes for sampling the discharges.
- Helped Laura Rinehimer, EPCAMR Watershed Education and Outreach Specialist, get organized and baked iron oxide for the Brookie Video Fundraiser at the end of the month.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in another PA AML Campaign call and spoke with Frank afterward on how all the funding and stakeholders fit together.
- Worked on the new PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) application to continue work for another 3 years (expandable to 5 years).
- Participated in an interview by Wilkes University Students for their Environmental Science class.
- Created an invite to EPCAMR's Environmental Education (EE) Video Premiere and Fundraiser later this month. Sent to EPCAMR Board, Volunteers and pinned to our Facebook. Posted Brookie the trout videos on EPCAMR's YouTube channel as private for now.
- Learned of a mine fire east of Centralia and researched it. WFMZ an independent news station in Allentown, was running a 4-part series on the mine fire. Printed some OSM Folios for the Centralia / Girardville Area where the mine fire is located and learned more about how to print to our new HP Plotter. Updated our [Pennsylvania Mine Fires: Uncontrolled Fossil Fuel Emissions](#) ArcGIS Online (AGOL) interactive map with a list and map of 39 mine fires from PA DEP website. Used google to search for relevant photos of the mine fires and used a creative commons stock photo image where photos could not be found.
- Participated in 3 hours of security trainings on President's Day to keep PHUMMIS access on the DEP Intranet.
- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Day prep conference call with Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) for our trip to Washington DC later this month.
- Created a Google "Find Time" form and posted it to [www.PASolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PASolarMinedLands.org) to help schedule stakeholders to go to one of the 3 roundtable Solar on AML meetings around the state. The roundtables are invite only while the summit in the summer will be open to the public.
- Participated in a call to talk about Shamokin Creek Watershed Assessment. The plan for the \$200K grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is to create a whole watershed conceptual plan then create individual conceptual design projects for 2 subwatersheds (TBD) which can be designed and built with AML grants in future applications.
- Started MSI MMG 4th Quarter 2022 reimbursement.
- Helped EPCAMR Executive Director start writing the National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) Southern Wyoming Valley (SWV) Black Duck and Brook Trout Habitat report. Researched how to import bibliography citations into Microsoft Word. It's not easy. Found a program called JabRef to store and sort bibliography citations. You would then copy them directly into MS Word as you manually build a bibliography. Imported Bibliography from Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Field Mine Pool Mapping Report into JabRef. Also discovered how to save the Current List from a report into the Master List in Word 365. This was a much easier way which allows you to automatically

generate a bibliography and in-text citations from the Master List stored in XML format somewhere on your computer. [NFWF]

- EPCAMR staff hosted an EE Video Premiere and Fundraiser at Daminti's in Hazleton. About 40 people attended to see the first ever public viewing of Brookie Braves a Storm, Brookie Saves a Stream, and a bloopers reel. Attendees bid on silent auction items provided by local artists and previewed the boxes which will be distributed to schools.
- Released Brookie the trout videos on EPCAMR's YouTube channel.
- EPCAMR Management staff traveled to DC for the Chesapeake Bay Day with CCWC.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Discovered that the Kingston Quadrangle Surface map mosaic contained a Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Office (WBDO) collection map for the Dorrance Colliery georeferenced in 2014 and it was off by 50+ feet in the southern corner. It may have been the basis for the offset in the Kingston Quadrangle Lower Red Ash map since the surface maps were used to georeference vein maps. The mismatch was less (only ~30 feet off) in the Upper Red Ash mosaic. Adjusted the footprints around geor\_WBDO\_118-22-13 and the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) maps to make the mismatch less noticeable. Found better Woodward maps (BLUE\_KIN-0A-13-02 and BLUE\_KIN-0A-13-03) from Wilkes-Barre West Quadrangle Up Red Ash mosaic. Added those and removed geor\_BMSA\_3856-002 from the Kingston Quadrangle Up Red Ash mosaic. Adjusted geor\_BMSA\_3856-001 in the Kingston Lower Red Ash mine map mosaic footprint down to the southern corner. [MSI]
- Removed WBDO\_022-09-01 from Kingston Lo Ross and add to Up Red Ash mosaic. The map is labeled Ross for the Black Diamond Colliery, but matches with neighboring Upper Red Ash elevations. Georeferenced and added EPCAMR\_012706-00 to Up Red Ash mosaic to show Harry E not mined. Also added BLUE\_NOT-03-13 to show Gaylord Upper and Lower Red Ash was mined together.[MSI]
- Met with Jason Tarnowski at Earth Conservancy (EC) to review maps in their vault. Took Loree North and South packs to see if they were already scanned. Also looked for Surface maps that had been scanned and converted to JPEG many years ago.
- Moved our new HP DesignJet T790 Plotter gifted by EC in and pushed the old trusty 20-year-old HP DesignJet 800 Plotter to the scanning room. Discovered Twin Vein maps, a missing vein in the Glen Alden Correlation Charts, for Loree Colliery. Georeferenced BLUE\_HCC-0D-09-04 and BLUE\_HCC-0D-09-05 then added them to the Kingston Lo Skidmore mosaic. [MSI]
- Continued reviewing Steve Cornia, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist's, work from the "pandemic". Discovered 3 new Geos in 86\_Nov\_2020 folder. Removed geor\_BMSA\_6208 (geoed in 2014) and replaced with BMSA\_6208 (geoed by Steve in 11/2020) in Pittston Lo Red Ash mosaic. Also noticed Conlon Up Red Ash map WBDO\_092-10-05 (geoed by Steve in 11/2020), but there is no Pittston Up Red Ash mosaic. May have to create one if more maps are found for this vein. [MSI]
- Finished sorting thru Steve's work from the pandemic. Found several new georeferenced maps in Nov, Dec, 2020 and January 2021 to send to DEP. Asked if I should count them in the next reimbursement, waited to add to the PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS) catalog till I get an answer back. Researched the Payne Colliery in Luzerne County listed on the Glen Alden Vein Correlation Chart. Discovered that it was an old name for East Boston Colliery which was missing from the chart. Found East Boston 11 Foot maps in the NMMR collection (EPCAMR\_012327-01 and EPCAMR\_012327-02), georeferenced, and added them to the Kingston Lo Skidmore Mosaic. [MSI]

- Georeferenced WBDO\_WAR-23-17-01 Upper Red Ash marked Dorrance in PHUMMIS but it is Hollenback and Baltimore collieries in the Pittston Quad. This is the second UP Red Ash map found but no mosaic to put it in. Asked Steve and Shawnese Taylor, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, if there was an Up Red Ash or Up Ross mosaic they could send along. Monthly CSV mosaic snapshots suggested staff were working on these mosaics. They responded they would check. Added BLUE\_KIN-0A-10-04 Woodward because it overlapped from Wilkes-Barre West to Kingston Ross Mosaic. Added EPCAMR\_012374-02 map labeled Dorrance Top Ross & Conyngham Ross vein to Pittston Low Ross. It looks like Kingston Up Ross Mosaic is equal to Pittston Lo Ross on the other side of the river. [MSI]

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.