



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2024 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff 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, participated in **CPB** Clean Water zoom, **POWR** CWO calls, an interview with **Wilkes U** Students.
- Temporarily took on Bookkeeping task and recovered a network drive after a UPS malfunction.
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; 3 AMD TS, upstream, downstream in **Loyalsock Creek Watershed** for **LCWA & SCD**; sampled 22 discharge and instream sites in **Shamokin Cr.** for **SCRA**; Evaluated 3 discharges in the **Wyoming Valley** for monitoring with **Columbia U.**
- Updated www.TreatMineWater.com and www.EPCAMR.org; administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Small Group themed Beyond 2025. Interesting call focused on constructing 5 recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the TMDL. Asked about the Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification Process and how we could help support some AMD treatment systems (mainly wetland and oxidizer-based for iron removal) as BMPs for nutrient (especially phosphorous) and sediment loading reductions. Was asked to follow up with the Watershed Technical Group which could get the information to the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Completed November and December Program Manager reports and started January report.
- Updated EPCAMR Board meeting website. Uploaded progress reports and agenda to website. Started minutes from the last quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Had an interesting discussion over email with a professor from Michigan Tech on the concept of Pumped Underground Storage Hydro (PUSH), which like the above-ground version, can have the potential to store electrical energy as kinetic energy and back to electrical energy when needed as a battery of sorts to balance the energy spikes in renewable energy.
- Denise left mid-January without 2 weeks' notice. So I reluctantly picked up billing in January 2024 until we get a new bookkeeper. Bobby entered checks written and bills paid from the statement (date in check register). Reconciled using the reconcile tool in QuickBooks (QB) Home. Denise said she had everything entered till December 2023. Several missing invoices (including one for EC mine mapping). Several mistakes were corrected in early February records. For example, we found a discrepancy in QB where the payment for October Shamokin Sampling was duplicated (same check number, amounts were the same) and paid both October and November Invoices. Unapplied and deleted November duplicate. Checked the bank statement to confirm we were missing November Payment. Re-sent the November invoice to Tetra Tech via Bobby.

- Completed minutes and posted to epcamr.org current year board meeting page. Continued working with Bobby to sort out mistakes and invoices in QB to prepare for the upcoming board meeting treasurer's report.
- Continued to work in QB solo to create invoices on sales orders that needed to be billed down since the last board meeting. Deleted a duplicate payment of ~\$38k for the MSI program. It was easy to spot this duplicate because it was dated 2002.
- Updated the Grant Prospects list and sent to staff for comments. Added this draft Grant Prospects list to the Jobs List in Adobe then added them to the Open Sales Orders and Balance Sheet PDFs from QB to create the Treasurer's Report. Added last quarter's numbers on the balance sheet and sent the draft report to EPCAMR's Treasurer, Cristy Sweeney, for review.
- Completed January board report and uploaded to epcamr.org and started fixing broken links, shown as strike-through text on our website, with the broken link checker. Was able to fix ~600 broken links (679 left).
- Redirected treatminewater.com to 2024.treatminewater.com to show the save-the-date for the upcoming conference in October of this year.
- EPCAMR Staff hosted EPCAMR board meeting. Fixed conduit carrying network cables over safe door with alien tape from Earth Conservancy. The double-sided tape wore out recently and it fell down. Luckily, no one was using the desk at the time.
- Participated in an AML Campaign Call.
- Participated in a call with Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) and WPCAMR to discuss POWR Community Watershed Organizations (CWO) project. Discussed programs available to us to gather and calculate statistics from surveys. Figured out access to SRI SharePoint drive for Bobby through his multiple Microsoft accounts. [POWR]
- Participated in an Interview with Wilkes Students from Dr. Julie McMonagle's class. This is biannual occurrence for many EPCAMR staff as the students learn how we got into our careers.
- Discovered that we don't have to pay TechSoup the \$1/mo/license fee with the help of SRI. Microsoft supplies Microsoft 365 Business Premium licenses for free. Contacted Microsoft support for the confirmation and how to switch over to the free accounts. No services were lost and we were able to cancel the reseller licenses before they charged us again.
- Sent October-December 2023 Progress Report to DEP 319 Program. We are still in the 10% withholding period of the grant. The new grant does not start until July 2024.
- Aided SRI and WPCAMR with questions for POWR CWO survey. Pulled document from SRI's SharePoint for Frank to help him show how FME statistical analysis software could benefit the project. Suggested he get connected to SRI's SharePoint as it will be integral for this fast-paced project. Technical Subcommittee will meet Friday morning to discuss the software we should use to collect and analyze the data. [POWR]
- Participated in a POWR CWO Technical Committee call to decide which software to use for several aspects of the project from the survey to the statistical analysis software.
- Participated in a call with Teichos to discuss a partnership regarding their Audenreid Solar Site and next steps.
- Participated in an AMR Conference Call.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com website with a header photo from Elizabeth Hughes from Earth Conservancy.
- Participated in a Bookkeeping Onboarding with Marianne Beane from Ignite. She was able to help us migrate from QuickBooks Desktop to Quick Books Online. Sales Orders did not transfer, but it seemed like all other records transferred. The new term for Sales Orders is Estimates and Invoices are now Pledges. Will have to manually enter Estimates before the next board meeting. Marianne recommended we add the remainder of multi-year estimates after December 2023.

Technical Assistance:

- Finished recording Shamokin Lab data to SharePoint spreadsheet. Matt Caccese found the missing November Shamokin Lab result. Added it to EPCAMR's SharePoint and notified Katie at Tetra Tech. [SCRA]

- Heard from Victor Cortez at USGS's New Cumberland office who received our CSAW grant request and a call from John Clune who recommended he follow up on regression line equations and setup of gauge stations to equate measured flow to transducer water heights. Victor will follow up via email after a discussion with his colleagues. He is suggesting we meet over MS Teams to talk more and transfer the data for their office to review.
- A battery backup device in the office was sounding when I walked in the office. This usually means there was a power outage. The device protects our Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices which house backups of our files. Managed to shut down one of the NAS drives properly, but it seems the other was shut down improperly and one of the 4TB drives in the unit was not responding. Researched drive repair options. One can buy a printable control board (PCB) for a drive to replace a failed one, but the process also involves clipping off a BIOS chip from the old board and soldering it to the new one. Sent the drive to a repair facility in Ohio that seemed to have a reasonable price for potential repair. If this does not work, the data on the X Drive will once again be lost for the 3rd time. This time, however, most of the data can be replaced. Authenticated our email domain with MailChimp to pass new SPAM protocols for various recipient emails.
- Calculated nutrient loads being captured by the Askam Treatment System. At times there is an increased loading coming out of the system. Pulled out those events and compared them to precipitation events. Sent the information EC for their analysis. They were going to check with WVSA to see if these also correspond to sewer overflow incidents. [EC]
- Bobby and Steve completed Day 1 of Shamokin Sampling. [SCRA]
- The Second day of Shamokin Sampling for Frank and me was postponed to Wednesday because of the impending snowstorm. [SCRA]
- As we were in the field, Bobby called to say the APC Back-Ups was not working. There was no internet. Troubleshooted the situation over the phone to plug the modem, router, and switch into a new power strip. Shut down the M Drive properly and left it unplugged until I could assess the situation in person. Researched and ordered a new battery for the back-up power supply when I got back the office. Discovered the sirens were a warning that the battery was very low or already dead.
- Received the new battery for the APC Back-Ups 450 and plugged the router, modem, and the M Drive (NAS drive) into the battery backup/surge protection outlets. This way when the power is interrupted or a surge is sent to the office, it won't improperly shut down the NAS drive like it did with the X Drive (which fried one of the drives). We will also have uninterrupted internet via WiFi (if the cable wasn't also affected). Unfortunately, the power here at the office goes out more often than one would expect. There is a \$75K replacement warranty for damaged electronics, but I could not find the proof or purchase. So I don't know when it was purchased. Registered the product with an estimation of 02/20/2020 for the purchase date. This may not be worth the hassle since replacement 4TB drives can be purchased for under \$100. Called the drive repair company to find out the status of the drive I sent to them. Unfortunately, the ROM chip was also fried so the drive is unrepairable. The diagnostic was free and I chose for them to dispose of the drive so there was no return shipping cost. They put the drive through military-grade data deletion specifications.
- Copied a surface mosaic from Wilkes-Barre West, and removed all the maps to start adding Southern Field Surface maps. Re-georeferenced WBDO_00E-15-09 Brookside surface. Added that, IUPASG_01022, WBDO_00F-16-02, and 16-03-02 to the surface mosaic. Will need to send RCL map B&MTunnel Surface.tif to be converted to SID or find an equivalent in PHUMMIS. [MSI]
- Sampled several AMD sites in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valley with Columbia University. This time the focus was on acid/aluminum AMD sites for REE evaluation. Grad students found some interesting algae/bacteria and they collected it for evaluation. [COLU]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. Wrote results to Google Spreadsheet and notified EC. [EC]
- Followed up with Columbia University grad students to connect them to Dr. Ken Klemow retired from Wilkes University and Dr. Andrea Nerozzi at Wyoming Seminary. Both are experts in algae and bacteria found in and around AMD.

- 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]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.