



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2022 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Swyersville Harry E. Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project

- Received Invoice 15 ACH payment from the PA DEP and paid out the Invoice from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management; Coordinated a tour with PA DEP BAMR officials, Congressmen Cartwright's Office, Senator Casey's Office, Shantha Alonso from USDOJ, and the US DOI *Secretary Deb Haaland* and OSMRE officials that was moved around a few days and landed on 1-24-22 at 9AM; Checked on the status of some previously submitted invoices for the project with *Gerard Schmidt*, Project Advisor-PA DEP BAMR; Completed a February 2020 Invoice that had gotten got in a SPAM filter and wasn't received by EPCAMR and submitted it along to *Gerard Schmidt*, Project Advisor-PA DEP BAMR

Healing the Scars: Reclaiming Northeastern PA! with ISI

- Conference call with ISI to finish up yearly reporting and final budget that will be submitted to the Mental Insight Foundation for Year; Completed the Year 1 Final Budget Report and In-Kind Report and submitted it to *Claudia Meglin* at ISI; Began developing budget plans for Year 2 of the project and the second film with *Laura* and *Claudia*; Introduced *Joe Simons*, EPCAMR President to *Claudia Meglin*, ISI, virtually to discuss the video project with the trout puppets and the Forever WILD grant; Reviewed documents in Dropbox folder sent to *Laura* from *Claudia*; Received the invoice from ISI for the Forever WILD grant postproduction costs that will be covered by the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU; EPCAMR submitted our 4th Quarter 2022 Invoice to ISI; Reviewed sketches of Brookie and Rainbow for the film video transitions, slides, and curriculum development

Mine Subsidence Mine Mapping Project

- Coordinated with the EPCAMR Staff on monthly work progress on scanning, digitizing, georeferencing, cataloguing, and mosaicking of mine maps for December 2021; Scanning of the Girard Estate private collection is completed and the maps will be returned in early Spring 2022 after coordinating with Bobby Burns from Keystone Anthracite

Mill Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Assessment Project

- *Kathleen Lavelle*, TU informed EPCAMR that she would be sending us the final Mill Creek Fishery Survey after putting in some last-minute details; Steve Cornia, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist provided the Executive Director with the last series of maps needed for the final CHP document, an updated recommendations map, the culvert map and numbers, and the historic stream flow map

Luzerne/Lackawanna County Action Plan with Larson Design Group

- *Josh Glace*-LDG informed EPCAMR that the PA DEP only allows them to invoice quarterly, so their Invoice was submitted earlier in the month for the 4th Quarter 2021, which included EPCAMR's invoice for our data collection work for them at a number of AMD discharges in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, and other watershed locations in Southern Luzerne County, with a nearly 3-month turnaround

Bear Creek AMD Treatment Survey, Design, O & M Plan and Permitting Package Project

- Communicated with *Robert Frank*-Watershed Specialist- Dauphin County Conservation District to provide him with an update on the status of the project; He was going to provide an update to the County Commissioners and would gather up any existing water quality data he has or that has been sampled to provide to EPCAMR as background data; Worked on drafting the subcontract agreement with the SRBC for signatures and review by SRBC and EPCAMR President; Sent a copy along to *Mike* to forward to *Joe Simons*-President for signature electronically and then had it forwarded to SRBC for review, comments, and signature; Worked on completing quarterly reimbursements and Progress Reports for the project through December 31, 2021; Submitted the reimbursements and reports to *Trish Attardo*-PA DEP 319 Project Manager and then again to *Scott Heidel* when *Trish* was out of the office; Created a Log Sheet Template suggested by *Trish Attardo* to submit along with the future Request for Reimbursements; Copied *Dan Koury*, PA DEP Pottsville DMO on the progress reports and reimbursements

Just Transition Fund Cycle 2 Planning Grant for Capacity Building Expansion of EPCAMR GIS Solar Site Selection Tool

- Forwarded two articles along to *Heidi Binko*-Just Transition Fund and her Staff on the [News Story](#) created by EPCAMR on the project discussing future development opportunities on reclaimed abandoned mine lands in PA Coalfield Communities; EPCAMR was funded for **\$25,000** for 2022; Forwarded to Staff a link to an Energy Zone Mapping Tool and encouraged them all to sign up for an account through [Energy Zone Mapping Tool](#); Interviewed by *Kathy Cook* with the PA League of Women Voters for an article on Solar on AML and reviewed her rough draft while providing her with additional reference documentation; Talked with *Alex Brush*-General Manager for Ri-Corp Development, Inc., dba as Gilberton Power Company about setting up a Spring Tour visit to sites that are in need of reclamation and could possibly be considered for solar projects; Discussed with *Alex* how the grant funds that the Infrastructure Bill might be considered for future projects should willing landowners consider economic development projects on abandoned mine lands; Looking forward to meeting with *William Rich* from GPC in the Spring; Downloaded a [Solar Power in your Community Guide for Local Governments](#) on how to increase access to and deploy solar PV from the US DOE and upon further review will send it around to the EPCAMR Staff; Requested the *Renee Reber*-PennFuture State Lead for the Choose Clean Water Coalition respectfully push out the media articles on EPCAMR's efforts to advocate for solar on abandoned mine lands through the listserv and the Energy WorkGroup in February 2022; Connected with *John Choma* from [Enerlogics](#) on a lead from *Kathy Cook*, PA League of Women Voters; Reached out to *Forrest Cohn*-President of [Utopian Power](#) to set up a meeting to discuss our work and future; Convened a Microsoft Teams call with *Guy Sheets* and *Tripp Fischer* with BSTI on our solar on abandoned mine lands work

NFWF Southern Wyoming Valley Watershed Assessment of American Black Duck Habitat and Trout Stream Habitat for Aquatic Passage

- Pulled together the HOB0 data logger invoice for future submission of a reimbursement as we plan to place them in the watersheds in the Spring of 2022; Updated NFWF and *Stephanie Heidbreder*, Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Programs on the revisions to EPCAMR's QAPP that *Mike Hewitt*, Program Manager is completing and getting a second pair of eyes to take a look at it from *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist before sending down for final approval

Plainsville AMD Borehole Consumptive Use Mitigation Project (*proposed*)

- Coordinated with *Tom Clark* and *Andrew King*-SRBC about the potential submission of a CU grant to the SRBC that were due on the 28th of January, however, there wasn't enough time to get all the coordination with the landowner, possibly WVSA, and Plains Township in place prior to the submission date; We are still going to focus on moving the project forward with the support of the Luzerne Conservation District that would have several goals in mind and with the influx of the Infrastructure or AMLER funds we may be able to look at it further to investigate the mine pool in greater detail in addition to looking at the treatment options and possible land acquisition; SRBC was able to estimate that there is approximately 19,387,000 gallons of AMD above the deposited sediments in the former topsoil pit at an estimated elevation of 528.75'

Aquatic Informative Ripple Effect Software Water Quality Data Management Project

- Worked with *Randy Romero-Al*, to make sure we had provided him with the most updated database of borehole data; Mike provided him with a copy of the historic data

Technical Assistance

- Reviewed a letter from PA DEP BAMR regarding the South Tamaqua Desilting Dam Removal on the Little Schuylkill from *Jacob Smith*, National Fish Coalition, PA Chapter and Wilkes University Fly Fishing Club President; Once the removal of the dam is completed, recreation of the stream, and creation of on-site wetlands by Land Reclamation Group (LRG) over the next 5 years until completion, the plan is to transfer the property management over to PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, keeping the property open to the citizens of the Commonwealth; Provided *Jacob* some contact information for Northern Swatara Creek Watershed Association, Swatara Creek Watershed Association, and the Pottsville District Mining Office
- Communicated with *Joe Pizarchik* and *Branden Diehl*, Earthwise Consulting, to discuss a few preliminary ideas for Senior Capstone Projects related to micro-turbines and AMD
- Worked with *Mike* to provide *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Maslow STEM School with the miles of creeks impacted by [AMD in Luzerne County](#); A student is trying to correlate AMD with income levels in the County; This is something that *Frank Sindaco* is working on with his Community Data set for EPCAMR; Mike provided her with the information
- Talked with *Paul DiRenzo*-Peak Hour Power, LLC about his pumped storage hydro project proposals and that he was interested in seeking investors and developers for his sites; He asked that EPCAMR share his contact information whenever possible

- Provided *Tracy Tobergte*, OSMRE National TIPS Training and Technology Program Lead and Instructional Designer, Technology Management Division with EPCAMR Staff contact information for TIPS Classes
- Provided *April Niver*, Economic Development Specialist with Congressman Cartwright's Office with a link to coal power stations in PA, co-gen plants that process waste culm, historic coal productions of Anthracite and PA DEP Bureau of Mining Operation Reports to active mining sites
- *Janet Sweeney*, PEC NE Office President reached out and asked for our support as part of a joint application by Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA), the Center for Watershed Protection, and PEC to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) – Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grant.; A key component of the grant application was formation of the Wyoming Valley Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to help engage a more diverse constituency, broaden stakeholder involvement, and build community support for regional multi-municipal stormwater management projects; PEC's proposal ***Accelerating Green Infrastructure Implementation in PA's Wyoming Valley*** was selected for funding; EPCAMR was asked to serve on the Committee to provide advice on new programs and projects and inform communication strategies and messaging for WVSA stormwater program division; The first meeting won't be until April 2022
- Provided *Jason Tarnowski*, Earth Conservancy, with some study guide materials that EPCAMR had on the FAA 107 Test related to the exam to pass to utilize drones commercially
- *Guy Sheetz*, [BSTI](#), forwarded an article on in-situ treatment and stabilization of coal ash pond closures and wondered if EPCAMR had been involved in any of those activities in the past; EPCAMR has not, but was interested in reading the technical article to see how it is completed; Guy introduced EPCAMR to Jull Hall, who recently joined BSTI after 20 years with the DNREC
- Communicated with *Lori Maloney*, Coordinator- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, who is making a list of projects and a funding table to understand how we can help get good projects funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding (BIF); We don't have projects specifically in the Upper Schuylkill watershed, but we directed her to the Conservation District in Schuylkill County and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association since they are looking at the Delaware River Basin that is multi-state and based on building climate resilience and community engagement with a different funding source; Informed her of our recommendations that are in the completed Coldwater Conservation Plans that EPCAMR authored for the PA TU and the CHP and our current work with NFWF on the American Black Duck habitat assessment and brook trout assessment/culvert assessment work in the Southern Wyoming Valley
- Provided EPCAMR comments to *Rebecca Shelton*, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, for the Recommendations List that will be forwarded to OSMRE in a few weeks related to the expenditure of Federal funds on abandoned mine land reclamation, infrastructure, and AMD

- Connected *Bruce H. Spare*, owner of [Gray Market Power Equipment](#) to ARIPPA and Olympus Power contacts to look at his GMPE presentation file since they have various brand equipment that is natural gas fired and can be used in a Co-Gen configuration to help burn off waste culm material
- Followed up with *George Lehman*-President, Huber Breaker Preservation Society to assist him with developing an extension letter to provide to the PA DCED on a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation grant for the Huber Miners Memorial Park in Ashley, PA

Datashed Technical Assistance

- Membership requests began coming in from volunteers interested in entering data into Datashed for administrative approval

ARIPPA Mini-Grant Awards for 2022

- Foundation for PA Watersheds has an anonymous funder who will be adding **\$2000** in addition to the ARIPPA donation of **\$2500** to each Coalition this June 2022; Both Coalitions will be able to receive **\$200** in Administrative funds to disperse and administer the grant; EPCAMR and WPCAMR will be working on updating the grant application and getting it on the website and converting it into a fillable PDF document

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Communicated with *Alex Smulowitz*, Eagle Scout with Troop 281, from Dallas, that EPCAMR would assist him in the Spring 2022 in taking a look at a few places for a volunteer stream cleanup in the Spring in the Toby Creek Watershed so that he can organize some of his troop members to participate to help him earn his Eagle Scout badge; We'll be looking at Snake Creek, along Carverton Road and Toby Creek, along S. Main Street, off State Route 309 near the Fire & Ice Restaurant in the Back Mountain; Kingston Township Planning Commission is supportive of his efforts; Some landowner outreach will be necessary

Education & Outreach

- Reviewed information on the Huling Branch Project from PA DEP BAMR, provided by *Patrick Webb*
- EPCAMR's Executive Director was featured as a Climate Storyteller in an online 30 second video clip that shows the cost of climate inaction that is related to abandoned mines and flooding for the Climate Action Campaign to encourage area legislators to fight for climate action; The video was shot just a few days after Hurricane Ida made it's way through Northeastern PA and dropped several inches of rainfall in the region that caused major flooding and had direct connections to the underground mines; [Act on Climate YouTube Video featuring EPCAMR](#); Forwarded the video to the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Sent *John Dawes*-Foundation for PA Watersheds a few AMD photos that he had requested of Solomon Creek AMD Boreholes and the Askam AMD Borehole

- Worked with *Frank Sindaco*, GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist with EPCAMR to map out a route of a few AMD/AML Sites to get some b-roll footage to add to the recorded media event with Congressman Cartwright and others at Old Forge to highlight potential AMD and economic development projects in the region; We plan to drive around in February and get those shots for inclusion in some outreach material for EPCAMR; Provided *Frank* with some links of some AMD/AML Analysis for a Story Map he's creating from our [PA AML Campaign page](#)
- *Kevin Sickle*, Heights-Murray Elementary School teacher and colleague forwarded to EPCAMR a grant [RFP](#) for anti-littering curriculum development from Keep PA Beautiful; Suggested that *Laura Rinehimer*, Environmental Education Coordinator take a look at it before the February 15th deadline for submission
- EPCAMR was informed by the PA Fish & Boat Commission and PA TU that the rainbow trout eggs for the Trout in the Classroom Tanks delivery will be delayed until early February
- Interviewed by *Ad Crable*-Staff Writer with the Chesapeake Bay Journal-Outdoor Columnist on AMD/AML and the Infrastructure bill funding that will be forthcoming
- Reached out to *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds to see if it was possible to put in for a small convening grant towards an iron oxide video usage by EPCAMR with regional artists and to discuss markets for the iron oxide
- EPCAMR was informed that the PA DEP OEJ has included several GIS data layers that we've been advocating for to be included along with the other EJ layers for the public to view and utilize for both planning and justifying future grant project proposals, environmental justice, poverty levels, and needs across PA; [PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice Viewer](#) ;EPCAMR and others are working on other metrics to determine standards to measure success of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act to suggest to OSMRE and USDOJ
- Informed *John Zaktansky*, of the [Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper](#) and partners in the Catawissa Creek watershed of EPCAMR's continued outreach efforts and media outreach across the region to encourage our followers to vote on considering the Catawissa Creek as River of the Year for 2022 with only a few days left to vote
- EPCAMR sent a [link](#) around to the PA AML Campaign partners of the USDOJ Release on the Extension of the AML Program through 2034; It was included in the Federal Register for public comment through 2-14-22 through an interim final rule that will provide for continued funding to states and Tribes for reclaiming hazardous abandoned mines, replacing polluted water supplies, and reducing legacy pollution in coalfield communities.
- Communicated with *Eric Conrad* to discuss the Co-Gen industry and alternative energy project ideas related to abandoned mines and AMD
- *Anthony D'Andrea*, Group Sales Executive for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Baseball team asked if EPCAMR would like to be a Community Organization of the Game on August 6th, 2022 to draw attention to our work in the region; EPCAMR has participated in this event before and decided it would do it again and hope to sell some discounted tickets to see the game
- Worked with *Dana Kuhnline*-RECLAIM Campaign Coordinator, on a Dear Colleague letter to send to Senator Casey's Office on a request for additional AMLER funding for FY22

- Provided *Rebecca Shelton*, Director of Policy & Organizing for the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center with insights from PA on the impact of having waste culm classified as a renewable energy source and how groups might have react; Provided her with our history and support of the ARIPPA Co-Gen Industry, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Encouraged her to reach out to *Jaret Gibbons*, ARIPPA Executive Director for more background on the tax credits applied for where waste culm is being utilized for reclamation
- *Jacob Smith*, [Native Fish Coalition](#) (NFC), will be sending EPCAMR some brochures on his organization related to native trout populations and would like to be a partner with EPCAMR; The NFC also submitted a letter of support to the PA AML Campaign in support of Reauthorization prepared by *Philip Light*, Chairman of the [NE Chapter](#) of the NFC; They are working to get *Dr. Matt Finkenbinder* on their Advisory Council, who is a Professor of Geology at Wilkes University
- Reviewed a new [report](#) out by the PA DEP that shows that AMD is now at **7,356** miles of impaired streams across the Commonwealth, up from the **5,550** miles in 2020
- EPCAMR was informed that *Allison Acevedo*, Director for the Office of Environmental Justice will be leaving her position and moving on to a new job with the National Board of Medical Examiners as a Philanthropy Director; *Justin Dula*, will serve as Acting Director until someone is chosen permanently for the position; EPCAMR Executive Director thanked her for personally getting to know EPCAMR and working with us to include EPCAMR's AMD and AML issues to be a part of the larger EJ discussion and decision making process when it comes to funding and prioritization of projects; EPCAMR submitted EJ Criteria to *Justin Dula* and scheduled a conference call with him and *Tom McKeon*, from Temple University on the various data layers and GIS information that we've compiled for consideration by the EJAB and Office of EJ
- Participated in the PA AML Campaign call to highlight the visit EPCAMR had with the US DOI *Secretary Haaland* on 1-24-22
- Relayed to *Andy McAllister*-WPCAMR, EPCAMR's support of comments on the manganese open comment period that were submitted by a number of conservation groups, after reviewing some thorough research that former Fish & Boat Commission Director *John Arway* had presented and pulled together for the submission to the EQB in 2020; EPCAMR sat in on the PA DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) meeting a week ago and a presentation was provided on the topic; [9 PA Sportsmen's, Watershed, Environmental, Mine Reclamation, Conservation Groups Strongly Support Protective Water Quality Standard For Manganese](#); **950 comments** were submitted; Spoke to *Rachel Gleason*, Executive Director of the PA Coal Association about the PA DEP proposed final manganese regulation
- Reviewed the draft 3 signs (AMD, Pollinator Garden, Riparian Forest Buffers) for Claude Kehler Community Park in Shamokin, PA that were sent around by *Ben Paul*-Watershed Specialist with the Northumberland County Conservation District; EPCAMR assisted in providing language and descriptions for the signs that were utilized and our logo will be on the signs
- Reviewed and commented on Maslow STEM School's Associate Director for Wyoming Seminary Upper School-*Dr. Andrea Nerozzi's* AMD Education Program Lesson Plan and Activities Template; This template can be utilized by EPCAMR as educational materials as an exercise that can be completed with a number of classes in schools or shared with teachers who might be interested in supplementing their curriculum materials

- Provided *Angela Meck-Tetra* Tech with some contacts in the Schuylkill County area to have them connect up with a few high school teachers from the Blue Mountain School District who have students that would like to be involved in some hands-on watershed projects; Blue Mountain School District has a long history of partnering with the Schuylkill Conservation District and the PA Envirothon Program; They have also worked with the Schuylkill Action Network and Schuylkill Headwaters Association prior to the pandemic hitting the State
- EPCAMR was invited to participate in PennFuture's Common Agenda, being developed through an environmental justice lens to add to the conversation to develop a range of ideas and recommendations to be announced by organizations to educate and raise awareness of environmental issues facing PA

Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

- Coordinated a planning call with Tammy and *Dr. Rob Shannon* from Penn-State University's [Environmental Resource Management Program](#) to schedule the April 9th, 2022 AMD/AML Tour with faculty and students to highlight some of EPCAMR's work in the Northeast Region; Convened a Zoom meeting with Tammy Shannon-Coordinator of Academic Advising and Course Instructor for PSU's ERM Program with her, *Emma Steely* and *Tyler John Motichka*-students in the program
- Forwarded contact information for *Matt Miller*- from PACD to the PA AMR Conference Planning members to understand how they are going about their hybrid conference in 2022; Matt provided *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR and *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR lots of great advice and insight; Zoom call with Joel Watkins and Jennifer VonGunden-WPSU and to obtain a quote on AV services for the PA AMR Conference should we consider live streaming and hybrid mode
- Provided *Chari Towne*-Delaware Riverkeeper Network with a presenter time log for the Executive Director's participation in the 2021 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress as a an Intergeneration Panel Speaker representing GenX to talk about experience growing up in the coalfields of Northeastern PA and how it led to my career with EPCAMR
- Attended the [RelImagine Appalachia Campaign's Virtual Strategy Summit](#) on January 11th-12th and participated very actively; Did some outreach about our Just Transition Fund Outreach grant on promoting solar on formerly reclaimed abandoned mine lands and abandoned mine lands across PA; Forwarded information to *Frank Sindaco* on Staff to digest
- *Vincent Carbone*, from the PA Consortium of Professional Geologist (PCPG) has been collaborating with several of the smaller Geoscience Universities – Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) <https://www.passhe.edu/Pages/default.aspx>; They recently were provided a grant to assist both college geoscience students and K-12 students in diverse communities to gain knowledge of the Geosciences and advance their academic or Professional careers in the Geosciences; In short they have asked PCPG to participate in rolling field exercises across the state or in obtaining schools or entities that may help to facilitate the education; EPCAMR offered to provide some tours and reach out to the Wilkes-Barre Area STEM School once they have the details worked out

- Coordinated a tour with PA DEP BAMR officials, Congressmen Cartwright's Office, Senator Casey's Office, *Shantha Alonso* from USDOJ, and the US DOI *Secretary Deb Haaland* and OSMRE officials that was moved around a few days and landed on 1-24-22 at 9AM; Provided documentation and credentials on the EPCAMR Board members and Staff present on the tour for security clearance reasons; President *Dr. Joseph Simons III*, *Bernie McGurl*, *Dr. Ken Klemow*, *Mike Hewitt*, and the Executive Director all had the opportunity to speak to Secretary Haaland personally and her Staff on the tour; Earth Conservancy's CEO, *Terry Ostrowski*, and *Dr. Elizabeth Hughes*, who runs the Environmental Workforce Training Program also was a part of the tour on their project locations that EPCAMR included as a part of the tour for the entire morning through the early afternoon; USDOJ [Press Release](#); Interviewed for a number of follow-up news articles following the tour and fielded questions from *Nicholas Anuzis*, Congressman *Cartwright's* Office and provided him with contact information for *Brian Bradley*, PA DEP BAMR Bureau Director; Requested that *Ross Whitley*, Social Media Specialist and Photographer for OSMRE in their Office of Communications, provide EPCAMR with any photos that they would be able to release to EPCAMR of the tour; Provided a quote at the request of the Congressman's Office to *April Niver* and *Mia Robertson*; Thanked EC Staff for their participation following the tour and the great discussion and talking points that were driven home with the US DOI *Secretary Haaland*; Additional press links-
<https://twitter.com/SecDebHaaland/status/1485683435897499651>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjYI70eeG4k>;
<https://twitter.com/wbrewyou/status/1485688890749067268>;
https://twitter.com/AndyWBRE_WYOU/status/1485723991574822914; [PA DEP News Release on Sec. Haaland's Visit to Northeastern PA](#); <https://www.timesleader.com/news/1536329/cartwright-casey-haaland-cite-funding-to-clean-up-abandoned-mine-lands>; <https://fox56.com/news/local/sec-haaland-visits-abandoned-mine-land-with-casey-cartwright>; <https://www.pahomepage.com/news/reclaiming-abandoned-coal-mining-lands-in-luzerne-county/>; <https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/luzerne-county/coal-cleanup-costs-covered-by-infrastructure-bill-swoyersville-culm-banks-federal-money/523-223a6008-5f71-413d-ac53-2f01cf6019f5>
- Registered for a Northeast PA [Remake Learning](#) for Interested Hosts Webinar through the Luzerne Intermediate Unit; The gist is they have a website to enter programs that they will use to advertise to local families throughout NEPA; This year's theme is "Wonder" and they are specifically looking for programs during May 12-22 2022, although you can put in programs after that timeframe; There are boxes to check that include "Outdoor Learners" and STEM and ART; They have a little grant funding mostly for groups that partner up together to offer something; Forwarded the information to *Laura* to see if she was interested in registering and attending on 2-4-22
- Relayed a quote from WPSU Creative Services for pre-production, live streaming, post-production costs should the PA AMR Conference Committee consider a live stream event in June for the Annual Conference; Submitted a request to have US DOI *Sec. Haaland* provide a pre-recorded video presentation for the PA AMR Conference in June; Submitted a copy of the Ramada Inn Covid-19 Policy for masking indoors that is based on an ordinance from State College Borough; Reached out to *Cindy Adams Dunn*, PA DCNR to see if she would be able to be a speaker at the PA AMR Conference and received a Speaker Request Form to fill out to submit to her scheduler once the Committee decides the time slot for her talk; Participated in a PA AMR Conference Planning call

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for December 2021 and January 2022 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register; Made deposits to FNB for incoming reimbursements, checks, and accounts receivables
- Prepared a 2022 EPCAMR Renewal Letter highlighting accomplishments for 2021 amidst the pandemic and our path forward in 2022 to send out our mailing to members for EPCAMR membership; Sent a copy to *Denise Hernandez*, Bookkeeper to print and mail hard copy to our membership and affiliate organizations
- Completed the January 2022 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for the Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike*
- EPCAMR Executive Director was selected and appointed to the PA Office of Environmental Justice Environmental Advisory Board by the PA DEP Secretary *Patrick McDonnell* to represent the interests of coalfield communities that are also Environmental Justice communities
- *Mike* and the EPCAMR Executive Director researched 3 season jackets with the EPCAMR Logo embroidered from Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops and took everyone's order for the Staff and are awaiting new jackets for the Spring 2022 Field work
- EPCAMR Staff will look to find a proper address for the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association for their membership renewal; *Peter Oswald* received a membership application from EPCAMR that was inadvertently addressed to MCWA, however, he was a volunteer with EPCAMR at one of the Centralia cleanups and ended up becoming a lifetime member in 2022
- Communicated with *Roslyn Walker-OneSource* about the payroll increases for 2022 starting in January 2022 to take effect with the first payroll of the year
- Provided *Denise Hernandez-Bookkeeper*, with Health Care Premium and Dental/Vision Premium Statements and Payroll Detail Reports for Mike and the Executive Director for the last two quarters of 2021 for reimbursement for the PA DEP 319 Program; Provided Mike with a copy of the 319 FY21-23 Grant Agreement for the X Drive
- Discussed with *Janice Perry-First National Bank* what the 2022 upper limits were on the Simple IRAs to inform the Staff in case they wanted to make their own employee contributions and to inform *Roslyn Walker-OneSource* who administers our payroll services
- Mailed W-2s to all Staff after receiving copies of them in the mail from OneSource
- Cancelled our Vehicle Insurance with Progressive for the Suburban that we had to scrap due to costly repairs that would have been needed to keep the 1998 vehicle running
- Discussed with *Mary Newsome-First National Bank* if there would be any new rounds of PPP Loans or Lines of Credit Available to Small Businesses in 2022; Provided her with additional information that she requested on EPCAMR
- EPCAMR was approved to become a PayPal confirmed charity organization and will benefit from a discounted processing rate as well as is eligible to benefit from the PayPal Giving Fund