



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, Executive Director

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Main Line: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

January 2023 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Swoyersville Harry E. Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project

- Reviewed the Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management invoice and documentation on the hauling and excavation of waste culm for November 2022; Completed a request for payment from PA DEP BAMR and forwarded along EPCAMR's Invoice and Summary Narrative Progress Report; Corrected some minor edits needed to the Excel Budget file and resubmitted to *Riyad Barkawi* and *TJ Matinas*-PA DEP BAMR, at their request

Bear Creek Mine Pool Study and Conceptual Design Project

- Searched for a copy of the Wiconisco Creek Scarlift Report at the request of *Tom Clark*-SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator; It hasn't been scanned by WPCAMR; EPCAMR checked to see if we had a hard copy in the Office, however, we did not; *Tom* eventually found a copy of it on a SRBC bookshelf library collection; *Tom* provided EPCAMR with a copy of several documents that have been updated including the Historical Flows and Water Quality for the Bear Creek, a Flow Chart Conceptual along with Aeration test data and the map from the Scarlift Report that shows 4 Williamstown drifts; As seen in the field, the most northern is the primary, next south the secondary flow, then the 3rd and 4th look like minor seeps; Another document was the area to look to for pond/wetland designs; There is a study *Tom* was leaning on that 100% saturated alkaline/iron mine drainage needs 10x less area for treatment; The old system design was pushing 30-40 acres, so he's trying to design about 5-acres to give the treatment system a percentage of contingency; We have to remain cognizant of the landowners desire to utilize the most appropriate amount of land; He's looking to keep the ponds to the east of the access road that run through the property

NFWF Small Watershed Grant for the Southern Wyoming Valley

- Followed up with *Arjeta Bajramaj*, Project Officer to let her know that we wouldn't be moving funds to other categories and the funds would remain in the Personnel category since it is less than 10% of the total budget and shift hours away from a two Staff to our intern *Levi-Sunday Leftkowitz* that had been working on the project in the field with other Staff; EPCAMR could now submit additional reimbursements since the amendment to the grant was approved and the US EPA QAPP was also approved; Resubmitted the Annual Report with a corrected number that was approved by *Arjeta*; Placed the draft outline of the NFWF Small Watershed Report on the shared EPCAMR drive for Staff to be able to access it as we begin to add to the document report

Healing the Scars with ISI: Year 2 Iron Oxide Short Educational Outreach Video Production

- *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager uploaded the SD and HD versions of the Brooky Braves a Storm video to EPCAMR's YouTube Channel in preparation for its reveal along with a second video on iron oxide recovery at the end of February; *Annie Reiner*-Reiner Productions, video producer provided EPCAMR with her Gmail address to forward along a link to review the videos; Recorded a voice over to explain the iron oxide processing station with our solar kiln and soil oven for the second video after setting up Audacity and connecting up the mixer and microphone and forwarded it to *Laura* and *Annie Reiner* as a .wav file format; Provided several photos to *Laura* for possible inclusion in the second video; Participated in a conference call with *Claudia Meglin*-ISI and *Pam Campbell*-ISI to update them on our project and the video productions; Reviewed a press release for the event to showcase the release of the two short videos and small fundraiser EPCAMR will hold at the end of February at *Damenti's Restaurant* in Hazleton during their Ice Show special event; Working on publicizing the event in early February on EPCAMR social media

PA American Water Mill Creek/Gardner Creek Cleanups & Monitoring

- Provided some suggestions to *Greg Griffith*, Wilkes-Barre Citizens Blight Committee to relay to the Luzerne County Home Rule Council on ways to improve litter cleanup coordination around the County and in the watersheds and along the roadways that are heavily polluted with trash, debris, tires, household materials and furniture and used the example of the successfully coordinated efforts by EPCAMR and our volunteers in the Mill Creek watershed that flows through the City of Wilkes-Barre; The trash and those who are ignorant people who do litter, don't care about any recognition of the boundaries along the roadsides or waterways that they are dumping off the trash, tires, household waste and furniture. PA DOT is doing their fair share with the Adopt A Highway Program and their partnership with the Keep PA Beautiful; Many municipalities, not all, are doing their best to coordinate the pickup and removal of the smaller piles that are picked up by volunteers throughout the year, however, many don't have large dumpsters that are costly or funds to properly dispose of the tires; One County cleanup a year for tires won't solve the problem; Tires will pile up if they aren't removed as quickly as they are found as we have often seen during our cleanups.

There should be a County coordinated effort and the pursuit of funding to try and secure a large number of dumpsters that could be rented or leased through a bidding process to the lowest bidder that would allow 40 cubic yarders to be placed strategically throughout the County at municipal locations where they can be monitoring and some sort of acknowledgment that a coordinated cleanup effort took place by volunteers or a group is given a number or green light to drop off the trash so that not everyone is just coming to a location and dumping off their own trash; This could be a huge cost savings to the municipalities; Funds could be allocated towards supplies that the municipalities could provide to the volunteer groups to coordinate the cleanups as well; The efforts of the hundreds of volunteers each year that go out and pick up the trash and tires and furniture is woefully underappreciated and underestimated in terms of the cost savings to all levels of government; The enforcement issue might have to be driven locally at a magisterial level based on local ordinances; However, that shouldn't prevent the County from taking action on proposing a resolution to increase fines on those who are caught littering on the county-owned right of ways, lands, stream corridors, etc.

The litter drains to our waterways and so do the non-point source pollution that goes along with it, in terms of oils, gasoline, salts, trash, cigarette butts, plastic bags, drug baggies, needles, and plastics that can become microplastics that get into our streams and rivers on a watershed

scale; If we look at the problem more holistically and comprehensively, on a watershed scale, the litter eventually runs downhill and ends up in the Susquehanna River or other major waterways we have in the County; This makes it a County-wide issue and not a single municipal issue. Watersheds flow through municipalities and it's why there is an Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan; This issue is directly related to stormwater and should be addressed at the County level; When there is a blockage of debris from flooding and backed up trash and tires and woody debris at various bridges and culverts, on many occasions, that debris has floated down from areas upstream that are located in other municipalities very often and can lead to other issues such as flooding of roadways or road closures; EPCAMR thinks the County needs to look at this issue from that standpoint

- *Sean Bieski*, EPCAMR volunteer picked up **6** bags of trash (**330** pounds) along Mill Creek and Biscontinini Drive in North Wilkes-Barre; EPCAMR coordinated with Councilman John Marconi, City of Wilkes-Barre, to coordinate a pickup of the trash by the City Department of Public Works

MSI Program

- Compiled administrative documentation for Staff timesheets to be filed for year ending December 2022 who worked on the program; Reviewed a draft training manual for Staff being created by *Mike Hewitt* and *Frank Sindaco*

AML Reclamation and Economic Development Project, Hazleton Beltway East, Hazle Township, Luzerne County, with BlueCup Ventures, LLC (*proposed*)

- Worked with *Jeff Randolph*, Managing Partner, BlueCup Ventures, LCC to develop and prepare a grant **\$6,480,000** application; The proposed project would grade, and conduct dynamic compaction of **77** acres of Priority1 abandoned mine lands to construct a commercial warehouse

Abandoned Mine Land/Acid Mine Drainage Subawards Program REE & Hollywood Critical Minerals Recovery Facility in Clearfield County, PA (*proposed*)

- Worked with *Kim Porsche* and *Eric Cavazza*, *Tetra Tech*, and *Mike Hewitt* fully develop the proposal for submission; The proposed project has three (3) phases: (1) Inventory, (2) Design-Build of Plant, and (3) Operation; The goal of this approach is to construct a modular plant that has the capacity to process all of the sludge produced at the Hollywood AMD Treatment Facility, (PA 1416), and capacity to process additional refuse or sludge from identified AML sites; The Plant is proposed to be located within the property boundaries of the existing Hollywood AMD Treatment Plant located off Tyler Road in Penfield, PA; Received a copy of an additional letter of support from the [Clearly Ahead Development](#) organization in Clearfield, PA to add to the application submission

Shickshinny Creek Watershed Coldwater Conservation Plan (*proposed*)

- Began researching around the area of Little Shickshinny Creek in lower Luzerne County that has some abandoned mine lands and potential AMD impacts in the former Stackhouse Colliery area and State Game Lands 260 to consider proposing the development of a Coldwater Conservation Plan for the watershed; EPCAMR would like to include Paddy Run and Rocky Run in the assessment in the same area; Reached out to John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District to inquire if he would be resubmitting a proposal from several years ago or if he would like EPCAMR to submit this round and partner with him; He provided EPCAMR with his earlier submission to work from and some fish survey information from the PA Fish & Boat Commission; EPCAMR to reach out to other potential partners for support letters to go along

with the application; Reached out to the National Fish Coalition, PA Chapter through *Jake Smith*; Will reach out to Stanley Cooper Chapter TU and Columbia County Chapter TU for letters of support and Shickshinny Borough and Union Township; Applications aren't due until March 10th 2023

ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-Grant AMD/AML Program

- EPCAMR Staff updated the EPCAMR website with the new [mini-grant application](#) requirements and publicized the availability of the funds for project proposal submissions that are due May 31st, 2023

Just Transition Fund Federal Access Center Organizational Capacity Building Grant

- EPCAMR was awarded a **\$25,000** grant to allow Staff to spend time coordinating efforts and obtaining information and resources on rare earth elements to support the recently submitted AML grant to the Commonwealth of PA in partnership with Tetra Tech, other partners, and the PA DEP Hollywood AMD Treatment Plant, Clearfield County

Technical Assistance

- Scheduled and convened a meeting with *Scott Reinhart*, Associate Director of [Quantified Ventures](#) and Earth Conservancy Staff to discuss potential sites for natural reforestation projects on abandoned mine lands that are larger than 30 acres; Introduced *Scott* to *Aaron Eldred*, Watershed Specialist/Dirt & Gravel Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Technician for Columbia County Conservation District who works on reforestation and tree planting projects around the County; He will be a beneficial connection to have for family forests in the area as well as potentially getting their Ashland planting off the ground
- Provided *Gary Leander*, Friends of the Nescopeck Watershed with links to several sources of foundation funding that could potentially serve their surrounding communities and suggested that they become a member of the [Non-Profit Community Assistance Center](#) in Pittston
- Provided *Branden Diehl*-Foundation for PA Watersheds, with a link to the [eFACTS](#) website to search for NPDES Permits based on all types of industries, including mining; Other sites for him to review were provided [Clean Water](#) and [eMAP](#)
- Participated in a conference call on Zoom with *Alex Sokolof*, *Peter Hayes*-*Urban Outreach Marketing* President & CEO-[Urban Outreach Marketing](#), and *Bill Huston*, from [Soil Genetics](#), a company that has a microbial treatment process that they are interested in seeing if they can utilize to treat AMD; Provided the group with information on EPCAMR's work in the region and directed some of their desire to reach out to a local university with a Wet Lab to sample some AMD towards Wilkes University and Professor *Dr. Ken Klemow* for some follow up; Provided them with groups to reach out to as well in PA and invited them to participate in our state-wide conference on abandoned mine reclamation to network with other potential partners and landowners; Provided Alex with information on the STREAM Act; Bill Huston provided a project proposal to pass around to potential partners

Nanticoke Creek and Espy Run Watershed Monitoring for EC

- EPCAMR downloaded various data information from water level loggers around the Nanticoke Creek watershed and Espy Run subwatershed for the Earth Conservancy

Loyalsock Creek Watershed AMD Treatment System Monitoring

- EPCAMR was informed by the Sullivan County Conservation District and Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited that PA DCNR wants to play a more active role in some additional watershed restoration efforts on State lands in the Loyalsock Creek watershed; They are taking a closer look at their lands now that there is Federal funding available; We haven't monitored anything on their lands; Usually a State Forest Research Agreement is needed to conduct monitoring and data collection on State lands; Informed Carrie Richmond, Sullivan County Conservation District that EPCAMR would have a better idea of where some of the acidity may be coming from once we conduct the sampling in the Spring at the locations around the watershed below the ponds and others waterbodies we have identified to give us a better picture of how we can combat some of the other acidity loadings that may be impacted the Loyalsock in other parts of the watershed.
- [Northcentral PA Conservancy](#) (NPC) has received donations over the last several years from donors who want to help acquire property in the Roaring Creek watershed, Columbia County; The Bureau of Forestry is currently in negotiations for a property near Natalie that was owned by the Circle Coal Company (and adjoined the Susquehanna Coal Company); The property is on the edge of the Roaring Creek watershed, but adjoins property the Bureau of Forestry owns around the reservoir PA American Water sold to the state a number of years ago; EPCAMR reviewed our RAMLIS Tool to see if there were any AMD efforts in the area provided by *Renee Carey*, our partner in the NPC; EPCAMR reviewed the area and found none; Based on the features shown on the map, it only showed some unreclaimed featured, in yellow, that symbolized shafts that may have not been reclaimed and are priority sites for reclamation; Referred her to the PA DEP BAMR to inquire and follow up to see if they have updated their inventory on those particular features to see if in fact they were backfilled or capped properly
- Provided Pastor *Adam McGahee*, Moving River Ministries, Wilkes-Barre, at his request, some information on potential grant opportunities and some regional connections to area funders and community assistance organizations as he was looking to develop a community center and supporting arts programs in the former historic Planter's Peanuts building along S. Main Street
- EPCAMR provided *Judy Rodd*, Friends of the Blackwater, in Thomas, W. Virginia, research, data, and watershed plan resources for the Blackwater Falls Watershed that we were familiar with decades ago, when it initially was a site for a rotating drum limestone based treatment system within the Blackwater Falls State Park; EPCAMR was familiar with the technology as some were used in PA as well historically, like at Aylesworth Creek, Lackawanna County; It looks like W. Virginia AML is going to be building an AMD Treatment Plant for the N. Fork of Blackwater Falls with the recent influx of funding now that the STREAM Act has passed; EPCAMR suggested they have a mine pool feasibility study completed as well; It appears that a major highway project is going to go through an area that could be affected by AMD
- Participated in a conference video call with *Colin Gardner*, Stormwater Solution Source, LLC and a few vendor manufacturer representatives for the [Gator Box](#), who were interested to see if their technology could be applied to treating AMD since it actively treats construction site runoff to flocculate and remove fines, silt, and clay particles by introducing polyacrylamide

Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership

- Forwarded a tree order from *Christopher Breischy*, Pottsville, to *Bill Reichert*, Schuylkill Conservation District

Datashed Technical Assistance to Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI)

- *Cliff Denholm* informed EPCAMR that he has now been promoted to the Executive Director of SRI; EPCAMR Executive Director offered any words of advice and technical assistance we could provide to him during his transition
- Provided *Annabell Devault* and *Sarah Benson*, Senior Chemical Engineering students from [Northeastern University](#), Boston, MA contacted EPCAMR about resources on AMD for a senior project to investigate iron oxide recovery for pigment from the mine drainage; They were interested in the Quakake AMD Tunnel in the Upper Lehigh; Provided them with contacts for PA DEP BAMR; Provided them with EPCAMR resource documents on AMD chemistry; Participated in a Zoom conference call with their student group for the project

Solar on Abandoned Mine Lands Listening Sessions & Summit with PA DEP Office of Energy and Technology

Scheduled our first kickoff meeting with *Robert Young*-PA DEP Office of Energy & Technology and *LaBella Associates* to plan and organize 3 listening sessions around the Commonwealth of PA and a one-day Summit in State College, PA on the topic of developing a strategy for implementing and advocating for solar development projects at the community or grid scale on abandoned mine lands; Meeting was held at the EPCAMR Office on January 11th in our conference room and through a hybrid Microsoft Teams video meeting with several *LaBella Associates* Staff and *Robert Young*; Tossed around ideas for a website domain name to put the survey up on for attendees and those that can't attend the listening sessions; Reviewed the meeting minutes provided by *Cassidy Robinson* from *LaBella Associates* of our meeting; Followed up with *Libby Yeager*-LCCC who put EPCAMR in touch with *Donna Kratz*-Director of Sales and Meetings for the Education Center about utilizing an educational center room or the auditorium for one of our listening sessions; Provided *Robert Young* and *Cassidy Robinson* from *LaBella Associates* with the documentation EPCAMR received from LCCC just for their initial review; Reached out to *Jim Eckenrode*-Professor at [St. Francis University](#) to see if they had any venue options in the Altoona area such as the [Curry Innovation Center](#); Reached out to *Angela Belli*-[St. Vincent College](#), Latrobe area to see if [The Fred M. Rogers Center](#), a LEED Gold Certified building which contains The Conference Center or [The Sis and Herman Dupre Science Pavilion](#) that has a solar roof since they are much closer to the Pittsburgh area; Reached out to *John Quigley*-Harrisburg University in Harrisburg who offered to host one of the listening sessions at their downtown campus at the [Center for the Environment, Energy, and Economy \[E3\]](#) less than a block away from the Rachel Carson State Office Building; *John* put EPCAMR in touch with *Steve Infanti* to assist with scheduling the date and facility when we are ready; *Kelsey Forren*, [Energix Renewables](#), Senior Analyst, followed up with EPCAMR from Arlington, VA; They are interested in ramping up utility-scale solar development in PA; Updated her on our work and the listening sessions and summit that are in the works; She introduced EPCAMR to *Allie Ondash*, from PA that is leading their efforts and was interested in having EPCAMR provide her with an overview of our work in this space and on our Site Selection Suitability Model GIS Tool for Solar on AML; Set up a conference call meeting with *Allie*, *Kelsey*, and a few other Staff from *Energix Renewables* for February 3rd, 2023 and the Executive Director and *Steve Cornia* from EPCAMR

Education & Outreach

Keep PA Beautiful-Open Your Eyes to Litter EE Project

- Reviewed a draft copy of the first OYEL book for *Laura* and made minor suggested edits; Sending along the final draft copy to Keep PA Beautiful so that we can continue to work on the development of Book 2 and finish the Spanish translation of Book 1 to be completed by *Denise Hernandez* on Staff

PA Trout in the Classroom EE Project

- Received communications from *Cody Whipple*-PA Fish & Boat Commission that the rainbow trout eggs will be shipping this month; Worked with Staff to prep the fish tank for the arrival of the rainbow trout eggs that EPCAMR raises and releases every year and provides a free live streaming camera of the operation, maintenance, water testing, and feeding of the fish prior to their release later in the Summer; Fish eggs arrived on January 10th and were counted and placed into their artificial redds created by EPCAMR Staff; *Mike* added the bacteria to the tank to encourage growth; Talked with *Jake Smith* and *Emily Shosh*-[Native Fish Coalition](#), who are interested in partnering with EPCAMR to promote their mission and are interested in seeing how they can become connected to some of the schools that we work with to make future presentation; Emily mentioned that an NFC Curriculum is in the works; NFC would like to have EPCAMR's logo placed on one of their signs that promote native trout areas so EPCAMR provided *Jake* with several logo files; Provided *Jake* with 4 locations (2 in the Mill Creek watershed and 2 in the Solomon Creek watershed for potential sign placement if permission can be granted by the landowners, PA DCNR, and PA American Water) Provided *Michael Shimko*, Wilkes-Barre Area School District STEM Program with contacts to follow up with for assistance with funding, resource links, curriculum, and potential local sponsors of their tank that they would like to start up in the new school
- Talked with *Jane Ann Ashton*, Director of Continuing Education at Penn-State University's Wilkes-Barre/Lehman Campus to discuss future ways that EPCAMR can continue to partner with the University on future projects or grants and utilization of the campus facilities; Updated her on several other partnerships we have currently with the Penn-State system of partners including working with the Main Campus on several large Engine Grants with PSU as the lead related to Industrial Hemp production research on abandoned mine lands and Critical Rare Earth Elements in AMD; We're playing a partner role in those previously submissions and have written letters of support; We've also been talking with PennTAP at PSU Hazleton on some other economic development ideas related to solar development on abandoned mine lands
- Provided *Mariah Davis*, Choose Clean Water Coalition Energy Workgroup Chair with an update on EPCAMR's work in the solar on abandoned mine land sector with state-wide partners and our plans for listening sessions and a one-day Solar on AML Summit in June 2023; Discussed EPCAMR heading down to Washington DC with the CCWC to meet with new legislators in the new Congress on March 1st with members of the PA contingent as we have done every year; CCWC has secured room blocks for attendees on February 28th
- Provided the PA AML Campaign members with a Federal Update of legislation, legislators, and things happening inside the Washington DC beltway, as they relate to environmental issues within PA, provided by the Choose Clean Water Coalition

- Communicated with the 119th newest State Legislator, *Alec Ryncavage*, to introduce him to an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) Innovation Fund piece of legislation and to introduce him to EPCAMR and our mission and work in his legislative district; The legislation would establish a grant program that would incentivize both public and private entities to develop, embrace, and integrate this technology; EPCAMR will soon be utilizing our drone to assist with work in the region once a few Staff are certified and have obtained the FAA Part 107 Certification license; Details are found on the [PA Drone Association](#) website; EPCAMR has been a member of the association this past year and will renew our membership in 2023
- EPCAMR reviewed the [SB 111](#) provided by ARIPPA which amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act adding language requiring the following to be transferred by the Department of Environmental Protection into the Reclamation Fee O&M Trust Account: civil penalties collected for a violation of The Clean Streams Law which is any manner connected with or related to coal mining activities; and moneys collected as a result of a violation of any rule, regulation or order of the department or condition of any permit issued under The Clean Streams Law which is in any manner connected with or related to a coal mining activity; Further provides all of these civil penalties and moneys shall be used to pay for construction costs and operation and maintenance costs associated with treating postmining pollution discharges at ABS Legacy Sites; It's been referred to the [Senate Energy & Environmental Resources Committee](#)
- Followed up with *Kylie Wright*, Sustainability Engineer, Southwestern Energy, and informed her of our upcoming [PA AMR Conference](#) in October 2023 in Altoona; She is also interested in future work going on in the Loyalsock Creek watershed; Provided her with a link to our last November 2022 Annual Meeting so that she could catch up on our discussions and projects that were highlighted at that time
- Provided *Dana Kuhnline*, Appalachian Voices, with some of EPCAMR's comments and concerns on the Community Reclamation Partnership Act from the last Congress and sent along information on PA's Environmental Good Samaritan Protection Act as well as the national Volunteer Protection Act; Watershed groups and non-profits are starting to think about increased volunteer protection and liability concerns now that funding is going to be more readily available for AMD treatment and additional land reclamation efforts
- *Susan Turcmanovich*-Pennsylvania American Water informed EPCAMR that the 2023 Environmental Grant Program was opening until March 31st
- Provided information to *Katherine Pohlidal*, [Misericordia University](#) on abandoned mine lands, AMD, environmental justice areas, GIS, after reviewing information she provided to EPCAMR on the [US EPA EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#) grant opportunity that MU is looking into; Provided her with copies of previous EPCAMR Logic Models submitted on previous grants to the US EPA for her consideration and review; Worked with *Mike* to fix a broken link to the EPCAMR data on the PASDA Map Server through contacting Penn-State
- Participated in a conference call with the Energy Horizon Cross-Sector Collaborative that is looking for [Hydrogen investments](#) in PA and some of the lands that may be considered to be utilized could be on abandoned mine lands; Referred participants on the call to the [2016 Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force Final Recommendations Report](#) that had several committees

that looked at pipelines and infrastructure at that time when natural gas was being developed in the Marcellus Shale play; EPCAMR had been selected to be a part of that former Pipeline Task Force years ago to provide technical assistance and education on abandoned mine lands; [Team PA Foundation](#) and the [American Petroleum Institute](#) were leading the call

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

- Reviewed some sample artwork from an artist in Bozeman, Montana that *Andy McAllister* met that has offered them up for review and consideration as potential PA AMR Conference Mayfly Awards for the Fall of 2023; Provided feedback and comments to *Andy* that they should be considered; They are made out of metal on top of a hardwood; Reviewed the initial draft contract agreement with the Grand Hotel, Altoona with members of the PA AMR Conference Committee and made several comments over two revisions to submit to *Shaina McNally*-Director of Sales, for changes now that the facility and the dates are confirmed for the [2023 PA AMR Conference](#); Informed *Shaina* that we were going to meeting on February 2nd to make a final review of the contract agreement and then get back to her before the end of the week
- Provided an EPCAMR overview and AMD Tour for [Jerome Whittington](#), a visiting Assistant Professor who is interested in people and communities engaged in environmental practices from compromised positions and *Zeynup Oguz*, [New York University](#) in around the Wyoming Valley
- Coordinated with the three speakers for the Anthracite Coal Breakers Presentation Panel for Anthracite History Month to ensure they had all their audio/visual needs taken care of; Downloaded PowerPoint presentations from *Eric Bella* and *Sue Hand*; EPCAMR and the Earth Conservancy hosted the event on January 17th at our Conference Center Room in Ashley; *Matt Popecki*, Videographer, PCN-TV recorded the public event and will air it in February at a date and times to be determined; **88** people from the public attended the 3 presentations, one included by EPCAMR on our work to reclaim abandoned mine lands and support the cleanup of watersheds impacted by AMD across our region
- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited to participate and accepted into a two-day in-depth training on dam removals from [The Nature Conservancy](#) through their River Restoration Program; EPCAMR had previously completed a small dam removal and check dam removal project on Solomon Creek several years ago as a part of a mitigation project for PA DOT with the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Communicated with Christine Arnot, Freshwater Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy on the training and to provide her with technical assistance for a property at the Eales Preserve that they manage in Lackawanna County that they are wondering is being impacted by AMD since the removal of the O'Conner Dam in the Sterry Creek Watershed that is mining impacted; Reviewed her data she submitted to EPCAMR and provided her with some comments, suggestions, feedback, and recommendations

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for the January 2023 renewal with Highmark; EPCAMR saw a 7.4% increase in premium cost coverage for 2023; Paid off Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Made deposits to FNB for incoming reimbursements, checks, and accounts receivables; Provided *Denise* with a copy of the January 2023 FNB Statement and Payroll Details for January 2023 for the 319 Program Reimbursements and ACH Invoice payments
- Coordinated with OneSource with 2023 payroll Staff increases approved by the EPCAMR Board and distributed W-2s and 1099-MISC to Staff and our single independent contractor, *Brady Mock*
- Completed the January 2023 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for the Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike*
- Ordered and received Winter Jackets for the Staff from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Business Sales
- Provided *Denise Hernandez*, with an updated Appeal Letter for 2023 to send out with the membership renewals to our Coalition partners across the EPCAMR Region; Sent an electronic copy to *Carrie Richmond*-District Manager, Sullivan County Conservation District at their request since their Board Meeting was coming up and they wanted to approve it as early as possible; Renewal membership began to roll in for the month of January from our partners across the region
- [Freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) provided EPCAMR with an update of their upgrades to their phone system that we often utilize for some of our calls and committee meetings
- Submitted EPCAMR's renewal membership application to the [NCAC](#) for 2 years after following up with *Shanice Edwards*-Community and Economic Development Specialist; Communicated with *Shanice* about EPCAMR's work in the region and our previous partnership with NEPA Alliance over the years and offered to give her an AMD/AML Tour of the region, if she is interested since she is new to her position