



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2023 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, 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 and an **AMR Conference** call. Met with **Qualified Ventures** and **Earth Conservancy** regarding reforestation of AML, with **LaBella** and **PA DEP EPO** regarding Solar on Mined Lands and **Tetra Tech** regarding REE
- Continued to research and secure replacement phone service for EPCAMR Office.
- Sampled AMD Treatment System on **Nanticoke Cr.** & collected/processed transducer data for **EC**
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and www.epcamr.org; administered G Suite for Nonprofits and social media sites; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Created the 2023 EPCAMR Membership application for Denise to send out to board members and nominating organizations.
- Attempted to cancel Verizon Wireless account now that all phone numbers are ported away and final bill was paid. The representative said the account will be automatically disabled 30 days.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in a PA AMR Conference Committee call over Zoom. Continued to setup of the AMR Conference website based in information from the call.
- Received word from Ooma that the porting request to transfer the EPCAMR Main Office phone line was denied for a second time. Called Tello customer support to have them elevate the porting request over to Ooma. Learned a lot more about the issue. Tello recorded the phone as a wireless phone and Ooma is using a land line database to send the porting request. Apparently, there is a software glitch between the two databases. Also, since Tello is a 3rd party using T-Mobile network they cannot manually approve the request. Waiting for Tello to solve the software compatibility issue between Ooma and T-Mobile.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in a Teams call with Tech Impact to learn about Internet Technology (IT), cyber security, Voice over IP (VoIP) phone, strategic planning and cloud storage services available for free or low cost to non-profits. This program is similar to Tech Soup services, but Tech Impact is based out of Philadelphia. The representative followed up with quotes. Compared VoIP phone service vs. Ooma and it would be saving \$1 per month, but there would be high start-up fees (+\$800). We may take them up on transferring from Google Cloud Storage limited at 30GB per user to Microsoft OneDrive and SharePoint cloud storage at 1TB per user. But that quote came in at a cost of several thousand dollars. I also learned that most of this work was done to register with Microsoft and I could probably finish the process.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in weekly PA AML Campaign Calls.
- Updated language for treatminewater.com after Cristy Sweeney's review. Always a great help!

- The PA Trout in the Classroom (TIC) trout eggs arrived from PA Fish and Boat Commission. Counted 177 alive and placed in baskets. Started livestream on Daily Motion and took video snapshots for social media.
- EPCAMR staff met with Scott Reinhart from Qualified Ventures and Earth Conservancy staff regarding reforestation of AML. Mentioned our Solar on AML tool could be adapted to seek out areas that would be good for reforestation vs development. Steep slopes and far away from roads/utilities.
- After weeks of waiting for Tello to port our EPCAMR main line to Ooma, calling Tello to elevate the case to their network provider T-mobile, waiting patiently, and still getting denials I opened a Better Business Bureau (BBB) case on Tello. The intention was not to move toward arbitration, but to get Tello to take these requests seriously and take action. The EPCAMR main line was inactive during this time period.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the Solar on Mine Lands Assessment Kick-Off meeting with LaBella and PA DEP Energy Programs Office (EPO) staff in EC conference room. Some joined from Microsoft Teams. Setup a listserv and Google Drive folder to aide in coordination off focus group meetings.
- Teams call with Tetra Tech about the 2023 Abandoned Mine Land/ Acid Mine Drainage Subawards Program - Hollywood Draft Application. Divided up the narrative to fit the questions asked in the online grants form. EPCAMR submitted 2 AML grants to PA DEP BAMR.
- Finally received correspondence from Tello to cancel the porting request from Ooma, wait for their OK, and then resubmit. Tello sent a different account number and service ID information which was to be entered in the porting request. After this, Ooma notified us the porting request was approved! The transfer was slated to happen by January 20th. Began exploring the Ooma Office Manager portal and use of the new phones to get ready for the switch. Setup the automated assistant to direct calls to Executive Director's line and me by pressing different keys. Called Ooma Customer Support to help setup ring groups and answer some questions. They also sent an email containing the PDF manual for the phones.
- Checked on status of Ooma porting in our EPCAMR Main phone line. It is still expected to be completed by the 20th of this month.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the PA AMR Conference Menu Selection committee to select food items for the conference in October. Made updates to the AMR Conference budget, but there were still some questions on AV equipment and some changes we would like make to customize what is on the banquet menu (which could cost more). Bobby forwarded selections and questions to Shaina McNally at the Altoona Grand Hotel.
- Spoke with Branden Diehl with FPW about an AMD Passive Treatment System (PTS) Operation, Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R) Team for the state. Some discussion points were: What would it cost to monitor PTS monthly? What technology could be deployed to monitor and alert when something is wrong? How to plan for future big maintenance / replacement and new systems strategically and efficiently? Would GIS help? Other methods...
- Several online store orders came in for multiple 1 oz. by weight Iron Oxide bags in different colors. Some of the small whirl-pak bags "went missing," but were able to fill 2 online orders. Ordered 2 oz. by volume whirl-pak bags for Iron oxide and put them in a more secure place so we have them when we need to fill orders.

Technical Assistance:

- Started the 2023 AMR Conference Website since the conference committee selected the Altoona Grand Hotel as the venue and dates in October 2023. Setup subdomain on WPCAMR's webhosting site. Installed WordPress. Installed plugins and brought over similar information from 2022 conference website. Changed dates. Organized conference files.
- Received several quality controlled (QC) mosaics back from Mara at the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO), marked as complete and ready to Digitize. Received 2 Forest City quad mosaics from Shawnese to start our internal QA/QC process. [MSI]

- Began to review and provide comments on Frank's Mine Mapping Grant Digitizing (MMG) tutorial on Notion. [MSI]
- Reviewed provide more comments Frank's MMG Digitizing tutorial on Notion. Download the Layer Package file from the Google Drive. Discovered that it makes setup of the map in ArcGIS Pro easier than described. [MSI]
- Continued editing Frank's MMG Digi Tutorial on Notion. While Notion was an OK program to view the documents, it was difficult because I could only comment on text revisions. The program did not work like collaborative editing in Google Docs or Word where it would highlight and cross out the edited text. It was getting confusing. Received several more QC'd Wilkes-Barre West mosaics from Mara. They are ready to be digitized. [MSI]
- Frank converted the MMG Training Documents in Notion to Google Docs. I converted them into Microsoft Word documents on the EPCAMR SharePoint cloud server. We have been wanting to transition work to this platform since we have 1 TB of storage. Where we only have 30GB of storage with Google Drive. Explored Microsoft SharePoint. It is similar to DropBox or a FTP site, but much more collaborative as all staff are added and we could setup a website to share common documents like the Employee Policy Manual.
- Met with Frank about edits to MMG Digitizing training edits. We went over edits together and then he gave me full reign to edit on EPCAMR's SharePoint. He let us know that his eyesight was getting worse and requested less computer work. Will work with Bobby to get more variety to his work. He is interested in policy work for example. Sent an email to all staff inviting them to EPCAMR SharePoint. Setup a homepage with some important documents like EPCAMR holidays, a blank timesheet, employee policy manual and board management directive.
- Looked into managing Microsoft Cloud licenses online and several individuals were having trouble signing into SharePoint. Looked into the automatic migration tools between Google and Microsoft clouds. Not surprised that all our active user accounts scanned resulted in an error which would not allow us to automatically transfer the data. More research is required. Perhaps it is a permission issue.
- Aided Shawnese with some questions in ArcGIS Pro related to georeferencing map control points not saving. She also copied all SID'd NMMRs to her external drive while she was in the office. Continued making edits to the Mine Mapping Grant Digitizing Tutorial, mainly on Mined_Areas(Polygons) exercise. [MSI]
- Met with Frank to review MMG Digitizing Training edits. Finished the section on moving on to new vein mosaics and quads. Frank edited a little more then we said it could be considered final and ready for other staff to test out. [MSI]
- Sent Jason with EC three sources for Past Weather: Weather Underground, NOAA NWS Climate Data, and Global Historical Climatology Network daily (GHCNd). The problem is that all the data comes from the Airport in Avoca. It is difficult to find localized weather history data.
- In an effort to find better localized precipitation data for studying mine pools and discharges, I discovered a free service a few years ago called Agrible Morning Farm Report which allows you to sign up via email for daily weather data within the last 24 hours (5am yesterday to 5am today) for specific locations (farm fields) that you draw on a map. I started back in 2020 with 3 "farm fields" and now have 5: Old Forge, Lopez, Ashley, Nanticoke, and Shamokin (all places we sampled or plan to sample). In the email, it reports Rain (in) Yesterday, Rain (in) Today, Max Temp (F) Today, Rain (in) Next 7 Days, Avg Max Temp (F) Next 7 Days, Rain (in) Last 7 Days, and Rain YTD (in) vs (Normal). They all have slightly different data, so it's definitely localized statistics. Agrible has a smartphone app called Pocket Rain Gauge to display the most recent. The app info says "Data comes from reliable sources." I dug a little more to find that it aggregates data from several radar maps from NOAA including MRMS. I had a rain gauge set up here at the office and at Old Forge where I tested and the data it estimated was very close to actual.
- Found a way to convert that Agrible daily table to a google sheet using cloudHQ's email to spreadsheet google app/chrome plugin (but it's limited to 50(?) conversions/day or pay \$300/year for a premium account). Checked with cloudHQ on a free account. Response from cloudHQ that I could get 35% off or a free Premium account for 1 year if I wrote a blog article and it is approved by their staff. Started that blog article on epcamr.org but kept it as a draft. I

asked more questions about my specific data process request and if the free Premium account would cover it. There are 3 levels of premium accounts and the difference between them were cryptic to understand. Evaluated 2 other email to spreadsheet conversion programs: Zapier and MailParser. Zapier was difficult to use and did not automatically recognize tables in an email. MailParser was similar to cloudHQ but you have to forward the emails to them. I did successfully send 38 emails thru the MailParser system, but then my quota was exceeded and the account was locked down.

- A customer purchased our RAMLIS digital download tool from the EPCAMR online store but was having issues with the download. Uploaded a new version of RAMLIS digital download, updated the links, and had them try again. I assume this download was successful. Updated the store and EPCAMR websites via WordPress.
- Spoke with Jason about scanning maps, there may be more in their safe. Spoke with Patrick about adding scans to next grant. He would prefer not to scan property maps if surface maps exist. But we should look into it more and maybe add a small amount (200 maps) to scan for the next grant round. This way, we will have this category in the next grant to bill to or transfer money. [MSI]
- Resumed QA/QC of Kingston Quadrangle Mosaics. Steve sent updated Lower Ross, Upper Red Ash and Lower Red Ash mosaics. Imported these and started fixing file paths. Steve uploaded his files from his travel drive to the network (X) drive. Started a reconciliation to be sure that I had all his work products submitted to DEP. [MSI]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites for the month. Recorded data into sampling spreadsheet and delivered to Earth Conservancy. Also downloaded quarterly data from the 5 transducers in the Nanticoke Watershed. [EC]
- Worked on QA/QC of the Kingston Lower Red Ash mosaic. Discovered a mismatch between maps for the Dorrance Colliery on the lower section below the river. The WBDO map georeferenced in 2014 and NMMR maps georeferenced more recently were ~100 feet off. Asked Steve to re-georeference the WBDO map. [MSI]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.