



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### July 2019 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 73 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 20 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a **NAAML**P meeting, **PA AML Campaign** call and conference calls with **Sierra Club** and **Clean Air Council**
- Created RAMLIS version 19 for 2019 and posted it on the EPCAMR store for distribution
- EPCAMR staff inspected **Kehley Run** breach repair near **Shen Penn Pit** near **Shamokin, PA**
- Generated data to map the mine pool near **Mocanaqua, PA** for **SRBC**
- Collected **NAAML**P registration information from online orders.
- Sampled the Askam Treatment System and **Nanticoke Creek** for **EC**
- Raised **TIC** trout and aided in forum for **PA FB&C**; livestreamed tank at [www.dailymotion.com](http://www.dailymotion.com)
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org); updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAML
- P as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Upgrade ArcGIS Pro to 2.4.0
- February to April 2019 MSI reimbursement for work completed for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG). [MSI]
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in a call with Sierra Club of Pennsylvania regarding waste coal to energy facilities. They and several other environmental organizations are against them as evident in an opposition letter to the Pennsylvania Legislature in regard to extension of a tax credit. A similar tax credit is being considered in the US Congress to continue to allow this industry to clean up AML sites. The call was initiated by Jette Finsden from Congressman Cartwright's office to find out what specifically they are opposed to and what can be done to gain their support for the tax credit.
- Met with Davey Williams and an intern from the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO). They came to pick up maps that had been scanned for the MSI program and to introduce the intern to the technical work that EPCAMR does.
- Met with staff from the Nanticoke Historical Society and borrowed maps from them to scan for the MSI MMG. We are in constant search for maps to fill in gaps in the state collection from private collections. [MSI]
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in a PA AML Campaign Call to coordinate efforts for the RECLAIM Act and AML Reauthorization
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in a PA AMR Conference Call to coordinate efforts related to the NAAML
- P conference in September. Continued to collect online conference

registrations and pass the info on to PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) staff.

- Met with Keystone Anthracite staff to view the Girard Estates Map Collection for potential use in the MSI MMG. Communicated collieries involved to the PA DEP California DMO. Returned later in the month to pick up the maps with two vehicles. [MSI]
- Visited the Shen Penn Pit and Kehley Run stream breach site near Shenandoah to assess the situation since the stream breach was repaired. The bare banks could use some stream plantings.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference call. Approved more scholarships to the upcoming NAAML P conference. Generated more coupon codes from the Magento Online Store for Anne Daymut, WPCAMR.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a PA AML Campaign call. Looked up RECLAIM PA initiative numbers from the 1990s to compare to AML Reclamation Cost per acre average for the past 3, 5 and 7 years.
- Submitted a proposal to the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA) to continue sampling of the Connell's Tunnel B & C treatment systems, upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek near Lopez, PA.
- Started the application to ask for another round of funding from the PA DEP 319 program. Forecasted a budget and a scope of work for FY 2021-2023.
- EPCAMR staff and past president Ed Wytovich met with Bill Bellows of the Deming Institute followed by a tour of some of the typical sites we deal with regarding AML Issues. Finally, Bill took us through a brainstorming session on how the Deming Method could be applied to our business plan. This was a follow up visit to a weeklong training our Executive Director attended in Ohio.
- Hopped on a call at the request of Ron Rohall with National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) representatives from Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Arkansas to explain the RECLAIM Act. The PA AML Campaign had asked for a letter of support but wanted some clarification as to what the act would do. There were a few preconceptions that it would be exactly like the AML Pilot Program or that it would duplicate efforts that the state is already doing to reclaim abandoned mine lands (AML).
- EPCAMR staff spoke with staff from the Clean Air Council at the request of Congressman Cartwright's staff to see why they are opposed to the Tax Credit for the Waste Coal Industry. The Clean Air Council, like its name suggests, is concerned with air quality coming out of the stacks of the power plants. We explained the benefits to AML impacted land and water, but they could still not support the bill. While it's true that Waste Coal Power Plants do have much better air quality than their Coal Fired counterparts, it is still a fossil fuel and not one of the cleanest burning fuels. They are simply opposed to any aide to an industry that produces air pollution and prefer renewable sources of energy.
- Put together an order of iron oxide for Frances Slocum State Park staff who use the pigment for many activities including tie dying t-shirts.
- Dealt with some issues regarding NAAML P conference registration. PA DEP staff were on call to help sort it out. Also, with the increase in sales PayPal required additional paperwork from EPCAMR.
- As we started scanning the Keystone Anthracite Map Collection, we needed figure out a naming system that would comply with the Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Mapping Inventory System (PHUMMIS). Conferred with PA DEP California DMO. [MSI]
- EPCAMR staff were asked to aide in the setup of 3 Trout in the Classroom tanks for Greater Nanticoke Area. A teacher from the school district had attended the TIC training and learned that we could help in obtaining a grant and donated supplies.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- QA/QC MSI work to submit for February to April. Found 2 more maps in the SID/ download folder that we georeferenced. Checked mosaics for completeness and created shapefiles to deliver to PA DEP. [MSI]

- Aided staff in scanning of Blue Coal Corporation maps that were missed and needed to fill in gaps for mosaics. Georeferenced maps for Nanticoke and Shickshinny Quad Mosaics. [MSI]
- QA/QC Bottom Red Ash Vein multipatch for the Priscilla Lee Basin created by technical staff. Directed staff to help digitize elevation points for the Bottom Red Ash in the Dupont Basin and the Top Red Ash for all the basins in the West End Colliery for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. [SRBC]
- Diagnosed the 56" Colortrac Scanner for an issue where the lights would go out. The scanner warranty was up over a year ago, but technical support showed me how to diagnose this problem. Required taking apart the scanner and removing each LED light panel to test at a certain frequency with a variable power supply. Eventually found and replaced the faulty LED panel. [MSI]
- Investigated coal vein thicknesses in the West End Colliery for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. When the Northern Field Mine Pool study was done a few years ago the coal thicknesses were general for the large sections of the field. Used reports, borehole information on maps and borehole core information from the West End Coal Company and Glen Alden Corporation to determine more exact thicknesses in each of the basins. [SRBC]
- Calculated an AML Reclamation Cost per acre average for the past 3, 5 and 7 years of PA DEP BAMR Progress Reports for the PA AML Campaign. As cautioned by the head of PA DEP BAMR, it is difficult to calculate an average per acre reclamation cost, but this will help to compare to numbers from past years. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) uses a formula to equate different units (i.e. feet, cubic yards and etc.) in problem types to acres. PA DEP BAMR has been instructed to use these formulas in Priority 1 and 2 cleanup estimates.
- Generated a table of coal vein thicknesses by basin for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Potential Report. There were various sources for the thicknesses including mine maps, the Black Creek Report and US Bureau of Mines Barrier Pillar (Ash) reports. Also digitized coal elevation points for the Top Red Ash vein in the Priscilla Lee Basin to add to the 3D modeling. [SRBC]
- Created another version of RAMLIS for 2019. Prepared the data CD and downloadable version for the EPCAMR online store.
- Our bookkeeper's computer crashed and would not boot up again. Created a functioning computer from 2 older Dell Precision computers of the same make and model. The computer already had Windows 10 installed and several programs, but they had to be updated.
- Sampled 3 sites within the Askam Treatment System and 2 sites downstream on Nanticoke Creek to ascertain the health of the system. Sent results to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Discussed sampling methods with John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District. He suggested that we need to sample not only the typical AMD suite, but also nutrients and sediments to comply with Chesapeake Bay goals and EPA standards. Researched EPA standards and compared them to our current sampling methods. Most of the YSI tests are not EPA compliant, but follow accepted industry and academic practices. Found that I could order additional YSI Photometer tests for phosphates, nitrates and turbidity (which can be translated to TSS).

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.