



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: [rhughes@epcamr.org](mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org)

Website: [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

### July 2018 Progress Report

#### Education & Outreach

- Conducted an *AMD Tie Dye Workshop* for the Sullivan County 4-H Intern, *Bethany Lambert's* One Day Camp, at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds, Forksville, PA at the request of the Sullivan County Conservation District's *Carrie Richmond* and the Penn-State University Extension; **40** youth participated; Our request to film the event was not allowed by Penn-State
- EPCAMR Executive Director and EE Intern, *Laura Rinehimer*, met with *Liz Masi*, Education Coordinator and *Carol McGrane*-Director of The Graham Academy to discuss partnering on our ***Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyard Project*** and starting a ***Trout in the Classroom Program*** for 2019 for their classes with students with autism
- Requested that *Denise* and *Laura* review the draft ***Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyard Project*** proposal prior to submitting to ISI, Inc. and the Mental Insight Foundation for consideration; Reviewed *Claudia Meglin's* Food by Youth Proposal from ISI, Inc. that will be incorporated into our overall proposal; *Pam Campbell* and *Claudia* worked on the MOU with EPCAMR; Continued working of the draft proposal and submitted it to ISI, Inc. as Final after *Denise* and *Laura* had looked it over and made some changes; Created a Final **\$50,000** Budget for the two year project as well with the anticipation of a third year potentially after talking with *Claudia* and *Pam*; ISI, Inc. provided us with a Project Engagement Letter that was signed by myself to accept the project agreement and award; Reviewed the Project Narrative from *Claudia*; EPCAMR received the Final Project Engagement Agreement signed by ISI, Inc. and a request for an initial drawdown of **\$6250**; *Denise* prepared the Invoice and submitted it to *Claudia*; The partners discussed a webpage in addition to the short film that will be produced for the project by *John Welsh*; Forwarded Johnny's Selected Seeds and Burpee Gardens catalog to *Denise* and *Laura*; *Claudia* is anticipating a trip to Ashley, PA in late September; EPCAMR reached out to the Graham Academy and developed a relationship with *Elizabeth Masi*-Education Coordinator who will be partnering with us on the project; Informed *Denise* and *Laura* to reach out to her as we proceed with the project to keep her updated
- Confirmed with *Joe Sapienza*, July 18<sup>th</sup> as a date to bring in 5 youth actors for the casting inclusion in the "RECLAIMING PA" mini-series pilot that is being created; The youth attended and helped to process iron oxide, work with our iron oxide chalk, learned about EPCAMR's work and were filmed in the process

- Began working on the development of a draft ***Rare Earth Elements PA AML Pilot Demonstration Project*** grant with Tetra-Tech to be administered by WPCAMR after talking with *Eric Cavazza*, PA DEP BAMR who directed us to talk with *Rich Beam*, PA DEP BAMR; The impetus for this project proposal development came from *Tom Gray's* presentation at our PA AMR Conference in June 2018; Made some suggestions for a draft agenda on how we will determine what AMD discharges to be sampled across the State and what criteria we will be looking for as we identify AMD discharges or AMD Treatment systems to consider; Suggested that we look to SRI's Datashed and SRBC's Mine Drainage Portal initially; EPCAMR and WPCAMR would be conducting the collection and sampling of the AMD for analysis; Set up an initial conference call for July 19<sup>th</sup>
- Asked *Harlon Tabron*, if Wilkes-Barre Area School District had sold the property along S. Empire Street along Spring Run to Mt. Zion Baptist Church yet; He replied that they had not; EPCAMR was looking at considering a future large scale stream channel and floodplain restoration project along Spring Run in the City of Wilkes-Barre for a future grant opportunity with LandStudies, Inc.; *Kelly Gutshall*, President of LandStudies, Inc. suggested that we consider a future grant for this project location once we know for sure about the pending sale of the property to the Church and that we meet with the Church Elders should they need more information on the proposed project; There is still much uncertainty as to who owns the parcels around Spring Run and if the stream would be included in the land purchase
- *Len Lichvar*, PA Fish & Boat Commissioner requested that EPCAMR when making my presentation to the full Commission and the Habitat and Environmental Committee to discuss the benefits of Wild Trout fisheries like those on the Lackawanna River that were referenced recently by Adam Nidoh, President of the Lackawanna Valley Chapter of TU, in the *FlyFishesman* magazine, even when AMD is an environmental impact in those areas of the coalfields that are the hardest hit; EPCAMR brought the presentation down on a thumb drive since it was too large a file to transfer through the PA F & BC government e-mail system and made the presentation on July 9<sup>th</sup>; *Heather Smiles*, Chief, Division of Environmental Services, *John Arway*, and *Len Lichvar* all thanked me for giving the presentation
- *Jaime Yarosh*, Legislative Intern for Representative *Gerald Mullery's* Office, Nanticoke, informed EPCAMR that they would like to postpone our AMD and Environmental Tour until the Spring of 2019 for the Youth Advisory Council from the 119<sup>th</sup> Legislative District
- *John Stefanko*, DEP Deputy for Active & Abandoned Mine Operations, made a presentation to the Citizens Advisory Council in support of reauthorizing the Federal mine reclamation fee that is critical to the continued success of the PA AML Program; <https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/07/dep-reauthorizing-federal-reclamation.html>
- *Danielle Dunbar*, Pittston, PA provided EPCAMR with *Mary Kroptavich's* contact information for the Pittston ArtWalk and the Cultural Collaborative for Pittston's RiverFest; Her daughter *Tierney*, is one of the children in our Reclaiming PA mini-series productions
- *Glenn Florence*, PA DEP sent EPCAMR an interesting article on an artist who purchased an abandoned mine site and turned it into an artful destination spot in Perryopolis, Western PA; <http://wesa.fm/post/artist-transforms-abandoned-coal-plant-through-mosaic#stream/0>

- Provided *Nate Lotze*, Natural Lands Trust, with some before and after photos of our Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project in Sullivan County, PA in the Loyalsock Creek watershed
- *Dave Hess* published on my recent co-authorship on a book dealing with Grassroots Organizations Globally and the environmental issues they face; I co-authored a chapter (Chapter 4) on Abandoned Mine Reclamation, the PA AML Campaign, SMCRA, and EPCAMR's beginnings, along with some very personal insight into my childhood and growing up in the Coalfields;  
<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140105934660>  
[https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/07/bookshelf-grassroots-to-global-broader.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+PaEnvironmentDaily+\(PA+Environment+Daily+Blog\)&m=1](https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/07/bookshelf-grassroots-to-global-broader.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+PaEnvironmentDaily+(PA+Environment+Daily+Blog)&m=1)

## **Technical Assistance**

- EPCAMR Staff are working with *Ashley Wilmot*, Program Coordinator for PA TU to develop a State-wide GIS Map of TU Chapters based on watersheds that they cover and based on membership zip codes with the National TU Office
- Followed up with *Tyler Breech*, Union County 4-H Assistant, to see if he had completed his NAACC AOP Online Certification yet
- Requested a copy of *Pete Horger's* Poster Presentation on temperature changes and other water quality data collected from the Jermyn AMD Outfall south, along the Lackawanna River, and its impacts on the coldwater fishery in the Upper Lackawanna River watershed; EPCAMR Executive Director provided Pete with technical assistance for his Keystone College Capstone Project
- Prepared a Letter of Support for the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance for the Quaker Run and Buck Run Restoration Plan being submitted for a Growing Greener Grant by Clauser Environmental, LLC
- EPCAMR was informed that the boreholes in Duryea will be closed following the 16<sup>th</sup> of July and *Jonathan Ulanoski*, PA DEP NE Region, gave the Staff advance notice to go to the property along Foote Avenue to obtain water level readings in the mine pool prior to the closure occurring; Racheal and I went up to obtain the water elevations in the mine pool on the 16<sup>th</sup>
- Offered a partnership for consideration with PAEE who is in need of filling an Administrative Assistant Education position since *Amber* has moved on to another position and we are looking for additional hours for our Watershed EE position; It is something for the PAEE Board to consider and EPCAMR if it's a viable option; The position will be posted soon
- Talked with *Ryan Cant*, CEO of EnviroDrone, who is interested in providing aerial services targeting AMD and reclamation areas in the Delaware River Watershed with support from Good Company Ventures (GCV) and Climate 2.0 Program; The funding would provide free data for EPCAMR; EPCAMR provided *Ryan* with the locations of multiple areas that are in need of drone flyovers in the Delaware and Lehigh River watersheds and provided him with contacts and organizations to follow up with since he has the funding to spend the time to do the follow up work that EPCAMR can not do without additional funding
- *Carl Rodzewich*, TetraTech asked if we could help produce some data on areas where past mining existing that might benefit UGI, one of their utility clients; They are looking for coverage areas in Northern and Northeastern PA

- The OSM TIPS ArcGIS Pro Training has been cancelled until FY' 19 due to employee turnover and software updates; OSM will get back to the EPCAMR Staff when the course schedule is completed
- Attended a partner meeting with *Adam Rouselle*, Renewable Energy Aggregators, Inc., SRBC, LRCA, Susquehanna Mining Solutions, Inc., Reilly Associates on further discussion of the potential for the construction of a Hydrogen Peroxide AMD Treatment Plant for the Old Forge AMD Borehole; Mike provided *Adam* with some cursory mine mapping information on the “supposed” unnamed tributary to Red Spring Run showing that many areas within the subwatershed were previously mined; Offered to have EPCAMR provide him with an estimate of what it would take to map the entire area of existing mine maps that are located within the project area if Tetra-Tech was not going to be performing that work

## Project Coordination

- Reviewed the Service Reimbursement Agreement draft from Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management, LLC for the ***Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project*** and informed *Matt Cochran* that I would send back any additional comments, changes, and corrections; Sent back changes and comments based on a review by one of EPCAMR Attorneys on our Board; Filled out the FFTA Form and the PA DEP Mining License Application and sent all the paperwork to Donna Ulrich, PA DEP BAMR; Informed *Gene Breznay*, Swoyersville Borough Manager of where EPCAMR and everyone was at, in terms of the progress on the administrative paperwork for the project and final execution of agreements, grant awards, and sub-contracts; Gene informed EPCAMR that the Mayor would still like a Town Hall Meeting to the residents exactly what is happening, who is paying for what, and the truck routes through the community; I told *Gene* that we would follow up with Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management, LLC and the PA DEP to see how the communications and outreach are going to be handled on the project once everything is fully executed; Discussed the Buy American Act clarification with *Gerard Schmidt*, PA DEP BAMR Project Officer; Received the Certificate of Insurance from Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management, LLC;
- Submitted two Work Progress Reports on the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project*** to *Gregg Davis*, PA DEP BAMR Project Advisor; EPCAMR also included the total amount of In-Kind Value over the course of the entire length of the Project that we have calculated; We initially thought that in the first few reimbursements and Progress Reports that we may have no longer needed to calculate above the needed 15% matching funds, however, after looking back, we wanted to provide that estimated value for the overall time of the project, despite not being able to get the project to construction due to the new landowners of the nursing facility; The time is an accumulation of our Rent, Utilities, and Equipment/Supplies for the entire project period; EPCAMR has each of the totals for all reimbursements that were submitted individually, but for simplicity and a grand total, the amount over the 12 years came to **\$181,360.28**; EPCAMR requested assistance with how to move funds from the Construction category to Salaries/Benefits from the Working Capital; Since we utilized funds from the Initial Working Capital and didn't reimburse for it, we are looking to see how we move funds from the Construction Category to cover the Staff time for myself and my co-worker, *Mike Hewitt*, who spent the majority of the time on the project; We didn't think we would submit a Supplemental Sheet for Reimbursement for the Working Capital; EPCAMR submitted a request for a 60 day extension on July 12<sup>th</sup> in order to compile all of the proper documentation that needed to be submitted to the Grants Center to close out the grant and forwarded

it to *Gregg*; EPCAMR also submitted a separate document making the official requests to move funds from one category to another for reimbursement; Received our approval letter from the PA DEP Grants Center for our extension through August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to continue working on closing out the grant

- Convened a conference call on July 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ***Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project***; Updated the project partners on the dye study, permit for monitoring drilling, drilling timeline, water quality data downloads, water quality sampling, mapping, historic water quality data found in Newport Aggregate SMP Permit, and billing from EPCAMR; *Pierre MaCoy*-SRBC provided EPCAMR with a sample of a few other organizations quarterly reporting formats and the PA DEP Progress Report format that we hadn't received until now to utilize; SRBC also provided EPCAMR with an FTP site to transfer the Newport Aggregate SMP water quality data files for *Tom Clark* to review; Tom and I reviewed all the Hawk Mountain Lab data from the Newport Aggregate SMP Permit and found 8 additional historic water quality and flow monitoring points of interest with good water quality data; *Mike* began uploading the water quality data to the site; PA DCNR is in receipt of EPCAMR's signed documents for the SFRA and is now being routed for signatures within the Legal Department of PA DCNR; Provided *Kristen Hand*, PA Geologic Survey Senior Geologic Scientist, with a copy of the project scope to get her caught up on where we were since she would like to attend the drilling on-site when we drill the monitoring boreholes into the mine pools; Sampled with *Tom Clark*, SRBC on the 24<sup>th</sup> down on the project site; Received an update report from *John Pippy*, AES, LLC for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2018 and an Invoice for \$4100; *Denise* created a Quickbooks Invoice and I sent it along to SRBC on the 24<sup>th</sup>; Discussed the Road Use Agreement, Fee Schedule, and Seeding Mix documents with *Nick Lylo*-PA DCNR; It was determined that there would be no charges or fees to conduct the Exploratory Drilling and installation of the boreholes; *Mike* downloaded the data from the level loggers and barologger; EPCAMR still needs to correct the data to determine the surface elevations for each of them to provide the proper elevations to associate the data with the readings; EPCAMR sent a Report for July 2018 to SRBC; Requested that *Mike* send *John Pippy* a map of the drilling coordinates for the approximate location of the monitoring boreholes that will be put in place in September
- *Aaron Clauser* from Clauser Environmental, LLC informed me that he was beginning to work on the design concept plans that we came up with together in the field following our tour of the various pocket parks throughout the City of Wilkes-Barre as a part of the ***Wilkes-Barre City NFWF Stormwater Technical Assistance Grant***
- *Matthew Williams* sent EPCAMR a copy of his plan for the construction of a public kiosk to be constructed within the Ashley Borough Park along Solomon Creek for public notices and public events such as the Ashley Trout Stocking Association event where the recently completed ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration Project*** took place; EPCAMR has made a request of Ashley Borough to provide approval for the construction of the kiosk since *Matthew* will be raising all of the funds for the materials for the project as a part of his Eagle Scout Project with the Boy Scouts of America; Ashley Borough Manager *Greg Gulick* has been in communication with me on the project and doesn't see a problem with it as a community service project with the Borough being the primary beneficiary of the project; Forwarded the application and sketch plan to *Greg* via e-mail

- Reached out to Dallas Township Officials to let them know that EPCAMR received the grant to develop the ***Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project***; EPCAMR sought the use of the Dallas Township Municipal Building for the first informational public meeting on the development of the plan; Martin Barry, Dallas Township Manager agreed to hosting the meeting for us from 6-8PM on July 18<sup>th</sup>; Reached out to the local newspapers in the Valley and the Back Mountain to get some coverage and to increase attendance at the meeting; Posted to various social media groups in the Back Mountain to encourage attendance and participation; *Sean Robbins* and *John Koch* from the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (ASTA) published our upcoming meeting on their website for the Back Mountain Trail; *Paul Golias*-Citizens Voice mentioned that he would be attending to cover the meeting and that the paper would be running the story as a Feature Article; Alerted each of the municipal officials in the watershed from the three municipalities, the Senator's Office of *Lisa Baker*, Representative *Karen Boback's* Office, and Representative *Aaron Kaufer's* Office; Informed the local non-profits in the area as well such as the North Branch Land Trust, the ASTA, and PEC NE Office; Convened the public information meeting and had a great turnout from the public with lots of information gathered and locations suggested to be investigated further; Sent along the presentation from the meeting to all EPCAMR Staff following the meeting; Transcribed the notes from the meeting and had *Rachael* send them around to all who attended the meeting; *Martin Barry*, Dallas Township Manager would like to meet with us in the Fall on MS4 Best Management Practices; *Christine McCarthy*, resident of the Back Mountain, responded back that the presentation was excellent and had a wealth of information that was presented; She is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR on the project; *Scott Cimacosky*, Watershed Intern, scanned in some historic articles from The Dallas Post on the Toby Creek watershed for future review and inclusion in the coldwater conservation plan
- Provided a copy of the EPCAMR ***Rausch Creek Mine Pool Report*** to Rob Feldman at Rausch Creek Partners at the request of Pierre McCay-SRBC

## **Community Volunteer Coordination**

- *Destiny Erdman*, Bethlehem, PA, *Mary Kuna* (interesting in fundraising & policy development), Pittston, & *Christopher Zwiebel*, EHS, White Haven, PA signed up to become EPCAMR Volunteers
- *Dr. Rose*, King's College Environmental Economics Professor informed me that she would be providing EPCAMR with the results of her class's Contingent Valuation Survey results that they canvassed in the last semester related to Abandoned Mines in the coming weeks ahead
- Worked with *Gabby Zawacki*, DHL Supply Chain/Patagonia to coordinate having a few EPCAMR Staff assisting with a volunteer tree planting with EC, LRCA, and DHL employees in Hanover Township with some of LRCA's nursery trees on September 22<sup>nd</sup>; EPCAMR provided DHL Supply Chain with the use of our shovels and some rakes for the project
- *Robert Dubas*, Program Coordinator, replaced *Aaron Semasko*, at Keep PA Beautiful and will be coordinating with EPCAMR on the future installation of some surveillance cameras in and around Centralia; Asked *Tim Altares*, PA DCED if he had heard anything from legal counsel on permission to install the surveillance cameras in Centralia

## Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Informed *Eric Cavazza*, PA DEP BAMR that the PA AMR Conference logo should be black on white for the **NAAML P Conference** site; *Mike* and myself continue to work with *Steve Golumbiewski*, PA DEP BAMR on the development of the content and graphic design of the 2019 NAAML P website; <http://www.naamlp2019.com/> domain name was purchased by EPCAMR through GoDaddy for 5 years
- Coordinated with *Amy Wolfe*, National TU, about our co-presentation at the **Annual PA TU Meeting** in Bellefonte, PA at the PA F & BC Centre Region Office on GIS Mapping, Culvert Assessments and Training, and Technical Assistance programs available to watershed groups & TU Chapters across PA
- Registered with *Doug Orner*, for the **PA Recyclers of PA (PROP) Conference** on July 26; Spoke on the use of iron oxides as a recyclable product in the art realm, AMD Tie Dyes, creation of chalk, creation of pigments, wood stains, pavers, and other uses
- Developed a budget for approval and submitted it to *Claudia Meglin*, ISI, Inc. to attend the **ARRI/OSMRE Conference** under the Ecosystem Restoration Fund that ISI, Inc. has that is tied to the development of a short film on our **Growboxx, Food by Youth-Reclaiming Our Backyard Project**; EPCAMR became a sponsor of the Conference and will set up an exhibit, along with a Waterboxx since the Growboxx wasn't shipped yet; We were able to receive a flyer from *Pieter Hoff-Groasis* on the Growboxx however that we made copies from to handout at the Conference; Received permission to film at the Conference on August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> to utilize footage in the short film being produced for the project; Forwarded the grant proposal to *Eric Oliver*-PA DEP Moshannon Office who is a co-coordinator of the Conference with IUP and the OSMRE

## EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed the July 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements; Requested two payroll reports to be used for reimbursement submissions to the PA DEP 319 Program from OneSource
- Submitted timesheets to EDSI for the TWE Interns working for EPCAMR
- Mericle has office furniture that they are donating to non-profits in the region; EPCAMR to follow up to see what they have available
- Filled an order for several Centralia DVDs through our website online Store for *Cheryl Custard*
- Requested from *Joyce Conrad*, PA Department of General Services a 60 extension to complete some paperwork to continue to be eligible for surplus State equipment, office supplies, computers, materials, field equipment in Harrisburg, PA; *Joyce* has completed the front of the application and the W-9 for EPCAMR already