

## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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**July 2024 Progress Report**

**EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project**

### **Project Coordination**

#### **Swoyersville Harry E. AML Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project**

- Provided PA DEP BAMR a revised map of the Swoyersville Site and Permit Limits with markers on the map after following up with *Hank Zielinski*; Followed up with *Charlie Jones* from the Swoyersville Parks & Rec. Commission; EPCAMR will research some information on grants through PA DCNR to follow up on pursuing recreational grant funds at a future Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting; Completed Contract Operator License Renewal paperwork and obtained signatures from the EPCAMR Executive Officers and submitted to PA DEP BMR along with our current Certificate of Liability Insurance from POWR; Received and reviewed the April and May 2024 Invoices from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management and received their updated Certificate of Liability Insurance and provided it to Accu-Audits, Inc.;

#### **BeaverBrook East AML Reclamation Project**

- Worked on BeaverBrook East grant documentation to submit to PA DEP BAMR; Submitted the Task and Deliverables Worksheet to *Riyad Barkawi*-PA DEP BAMR

#### **MSI Mine Map Grant**

- Reviewed *Mike's* correspondence with *Shawnese* regarding some loss of data that was unrecoverable on an EPCAMR external hard drive that failed or became corrupted; The brand of hard drive is prone to mechanical failure and only has 2 two-year warranties; EPCAMR had to make a management decision to require backups of all MSI working files by Staff every other week to the Google Drive which is accessible 24/7; This way, at most, there's only a possibility of losing 2 weeks of data if something goes wrong; We have come to the decision that external drives, in general, are not reliable;

#### **Earth Conservancy - Lower South Valley Energy Park (*proposed*)**

- Worked on developing a proposal with Tetra Tech to assess the abandoned mine land features and AMD discharges within 10 defined Problem Areas by the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) in the lower South Valley in the Nanticoke, Newport Township, Honey Pot, and Glen Lyon area; Mike and the Executive Director worked up a proposal and provided it to Tetra Tech to include with their final proposal submission; A few weeks into the month of July, Tetra Tech was informed that their proposal was not selected for funding

## **Hollywood AMD Treatment Plant Modifications for Modular Rare Earth Elements Plant and Tyler Bank Reclamation AMLER Project (proposed)**

- Reached out to partners on the project to inform them that EPCAMR has not heard back on the status of the project proposal that was still being vetted by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE)

## **Catawissa Creek Fishing Access Project and Organizational Support**

- EPCAMR assisted the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association in setting up a Zeffy Donation Account Portal for donations and membership acceptance and provided the watershed group with an update on the fund balance for the fishing access project EPCAMR is holding funds for in a restricted fund account until access agreements are in place with private landowners along the creek as additional AMD treatment work continues in the watershed

## **Schuykill Conservation District Pine Knot/Oak Hill/Replier Mine Pool Study Feasibility Project (proposed)**

- Reviewed files and draft scope of work with *Wayne Lehman*-Schuykill Conservation District, *Chuck Cravotta*-Cravotta Geochemical Consulting, and *Terry Ackman*-MT Water Management, and *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR, on proposing to understand the underground mine pool volumes, map review, mine pool modeling, and flow paths for the Pine Knot/Oak Hill/Replier Mine Pool; EPCAMR worked on a draft application with the partners; *Mike* developed a project location map

## **US DOE Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets at the Frackville Morea AML Complex for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential**

- Followed up with PSU Professors to let them know that an embargoed press release will be going out shortly from the US DOE on our proposed project having been selected for funding for **\$100,000**; EPCAMR received a draft B2B contract agreement that was reviewed, signed, and submitted back to EnergyWerx, that is the prime subcontractor for the US DOE; EPCAMR is awaiting a final agreement before we can then work with PSU to develop our subcontract agreement and budget needs for the tasks and deliverables that they will provide some of the research needed on the project location with a part-time post-doctorate or researcher; Informed the PSU Professors that EPCAMR received a copy of the Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the Upper Schuykill Headwaters that was completed in partnership with the Schuykill Conservation District and the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation by Dr. Charles A. Cravotta before he recently retired from the USGS; EPCAMR had difficulties using the Smartsheet Application, which is not a free tool that is being encouraged to be used by EnergyWerx; EPCAMR opted for developing their own Work Breakdown Structure document in Excel based on the Smartsheet template; EPCAMR continued to complete administrative documents and set up the online accounting and tracking system information and is waiting for feedback from our Project Officer from EnergyWerx on how to proceed further; Mid-August is the Kick-off date that is anticipated for the project to be able to begin; Completed the B2B agreement with Energywerx for the Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets project; By completing it in such a short time, EPCAMR was eligible to attend the July 18th Peer Discussion for the Round 1 cohorts; *Ed Wytovich* informed EPCAMR of 2 streams that enter the mine pool at the east end of the property; One comes down from the vicinity of Sky Top Coal and the other comes from Mountain Valley golf course; The stream coming from the golf course is probably the start of Mill Creek headwaters; At one time it had some native trout, but he doesn't know if there are still populations in that area; The mine water also comes up out of the backfilled area east of the Wheelabrator site as you go down towards the I-81 bridge; *Ed* would be interested in knowing the elevation of the top of the mine pool and how that corresponds with the elevation of the areas where the water "boils" out of the ground;

- Participated in a Zoom call with *Gary Merritt*, following our discussions at the ARIPPA Technical Conference regarding mine water use to generate power as well as for geothermal applications; [VFH](#) is a company that was on the call that has developed variable speed low head turbines; They are modifying the technology to be able to operate in AMD; They envision the use of the turbines in mine outfalls, however, it may prove more interesting and valuable on using mine water being delivered to an AMD Treatment System facility as one source of generation and the discharge from the facility as a second source for generation; This same concept could be used on projects using mine water for heating and cooling in close loop systems; The water pumped from the mine would have a turbine before the chillers and a turbine on the water being returned (pump back) to the mine; VFH has been working with the University of Georgia through the Capstone Project Program

### **Loyalsock Creek AMD Sampling and Tour for Sullivan County Conservation District**

- Participated in the monthly Sullivan County sampling of the AMD Treatment Systems and other monitoring points for the Sullivan County Conservation District, White Ash Land Association, and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association; Showed new members of the Sullivan County Conservation District Staff the sites and explained the different type of treatment systems as well as the monitoring and rehabilitation that is currently happening on Connel C site since they haven't been to them before

### **NFWF Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watersheds Assessment Plan**

- Received EPCAMR's amendment approval for the grant from NFWF; Received approval for a number of in-kind matching funds and partners from *Oleksandr Faryga* from NFWF; Sent a message off to *Emma Wigger* at NFWF about closing out the Financial Report and Final Reimbursement and a few in-kind matching funds to the final report that *Oleksandr Faryga* approved; Worked on the Final Report, Executive Summary, and Table of Contents and submitted to *Mike* and *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District for final draft comments and review before completion; Received positive feedback from *John* and *Mike*; We all worked on completing the Final Report document sections and breaking them down into various separate PDF documents due to size of them and inclusion of high-quality photos; *Elizabeth Hughes*, Earth Conservancy, provided EPCAMR with a copy of the Nanticoke Creek Restoration Plan completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers for a reference document to include in the Final Report

### **EPCAMR/WPCAMR/SRI Survey of Community Watershed Organizations on AMD/AML**

- Continued interviewing community watershed leaders for the survey; Reviewed *Frank Sindaco's* review of his transcripts of other interviewees; Reviewed *Natalie's* Outline draft for the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers (POWR); Requested that *Natalie* add *Bill Beacom's* and *Charlie* and *Joyce Andrews'* completed interview to the outline that was transcribed and converted from an .mp4 movie file; Provided POWR with the raw data at their request; POWR and PEC were very pleased with the survey result draft outline with a few markups; Organized quotes from interviewees with *Natalie* from Stream Restoration Inc. and categorized them into major themes on a whiteboard and then created a PDF of them

## Little Shickshinny Creek/Paddy Run/Rocky Run Assessment-PA American Water Charitable Foundation

- *Mike Korb*, volunteered to provide EPCAMR information on the E. Stackhouse Colliery history, some geological maps, and history on the owner of the colliery, E.S. Stackhouse, for our report; *Mike Korb*, provided EPCAMR with an article to bat surveys that were conducted in 1995 in the Shickshinny Area that could have been on State Game Lands 260 in the Stackhouse Colliery, which was confirmed by *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District; EPCAMR will include it in the assessment report since it could be the areas where the bat gates are currently located in Dogtown, along Dogtown Road, in the Rocky Run watershed, where we know there to be AMD seeps on abandoned mine lands; The article didn't mention the specific location; It could be the Ice Caves or Bat Caves in Glen Lyon that is a very large hibernacula the PA Game Commission constructed on SGL 224; EPCAMR participated in a bat survey there years ago with them to study the white-nose syndrome fungus that was killing many of them and spreading; We used the harp traps in the mine and did lots of measurements on the bats (Big Brown, Little Brown, etc.) and put them under UV lights to see the progression of the fungus on their wings from year to year; Citizens Voice newspaper ran an [article](#) written by *Nora Betts*, on the project and where the funding came from, however, it's behind a paywall; EPCAMR will try to obtain a hardcopy

## Technical Assistance

- Informed *Nick Zmijewski*, Industrial Archives Library and Museum that EPCAMR's AmeriCorps could scan the Lattimer Mine Maps and Blaschak Coal Company Maps once the position is filled to assist them in their inventory and cataloging of the mines so that they have a digital collection and we could submit them to the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program; Offered Nick an opportunity to submit an abstract to present at this year's PA AMR Conference for consideration and sent along our [Abstract Submission Form](#)
- *Brett Connell*, Trutta Solutions, asked a question regarding bathymetry mapping for AMD treatment ponds; They have developed their [autonomous boat](#) for bathymetric surveys that can be used in ponds and rivers. His question related to an assumption that excess precipitated metals and sediment flowing downstream and from within the AMD Treatment ponds will change the total volume of water that each pond can hold over time, and potentially the effectiveness of treatment; The Executive Director explained that the treatment ponds are sized according to how much flow that they can siphon off from an AMD discharge so they are actually calculated and in the design of the systems there is often some redundancy built in so that overflow AMD water during high flows either bypass or go to another pond; What happens in the ponds when limestone or mushroom compost is involved is that there are preferential flow paths and short-circuiting that goes on and sometimes there can be blockages; We're not sure how bathymetric surveys could account for that, but it's something to think about and consider; Sediments are meant to be trapped in the ponds and then removed periodically to continue to allow for effective treatment, storage, and to leave enough freeboard for the water levels to go up and down
- Discussed with USGS through the C-SAW Technical Assistance Program, about getting together with the EPCAMR Staff to discuss some advice and technical assistance on monitoring using our various types of flow meters and setting up flow monitoring stations throughout the EPCAMR Region at AMD discharges

- Provided Kulpmont Borough, at the request of *Steve Moytka*, Councilman, some comments on their US DOE C-Site reviewer response letter for a proposal to design and construct a municipal-owned solar system; Executive Director of EPCAMR mentioned that they should include that they are a member of EPCAMR as a municipality that partners with us in the region and that we provide technical assistance, grants, educational opportunities, and have previously worked on developing a site solar suitability GIS tool and model that can assist with helping to locate approximate locations of where solar projects might be developed; They should reference our [Assessment Report](#) with LaBella Associates; Provided links to our website created to share resources and information <https://pasolarminedlands.org/>; Suggested reaching out to [SEDA-COG](#) to see if they can provide any economic development statistics that might support the project; Add the number of units of homes that will be served in the Kulpmont service area; Provided a link to the [EPCAMR County-level data](#) (2019) on Demographics and some Poverty data that might be helpful to the site for Northumberland County; Suggested looking at the [NREL data](#) on Solar; Kulpmont Borough responded that they truly valued our input, knowledge, support, and friendship and were able to submit their comments in record time for further review and consideration
- *Marcus Kohl*, Director of Business Development for PA American Water called to find out how EPCAMR can support their efforts to stabilize part of Roaring Brook in Lackawanna County below the Dunmore #7 Reservoir; They met on-site with staff from TU and a board member from the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LCRA) recently; Both indicated that the local groups routinely work together and that EPCAMR is among those groups; He called to keep us apprised and updated on progress and opportunities to be a part of the project; He provided EPCAMR with *Kurt Staller's* contact information, who is the Project Lead and Lead on dam projects throughout the state
- Informed *Rob Dubas*-Keep PA Beautiful that there was no active Abraham Creek Watershed Association in Luzerne County
- Provided *Shawn Cox*-Pocono Sand and Stone, Environmental Program Manager, for the quarries, information on Scandium that is being found in AMD
- Participated in a Zoom meeting with *Joe Baran*, [Hydrum Energy](#); They are an early-stage energy technology company that looks to extract value from hazardous water streams and create green hydrogen from the resulting water and would like to collaborate in the future with EPCAMR; He provided EPCAMR with their company slide deck; *Joe* provided EPCAMR with a video link to the mission of his company and the name of *Allen Sinor*; *Allen* is currently working with The Competency Alliance for RenewableSkills, Geothermal Sector; He has a background in oil and gas and was the CEO of a company called GeoX, which concentrated on supercritical geothermal opportunities
- Talked with *Dave Soltysiak*-Senior Sales Manager for [Chemstream](#), about setting up a meeting with him over the Summer to talk about Chemstream's expertise in AMD and water quality monitoring and treatment; They are also interested in becoming an Exhibitor at our PA AMR Conference in 2024
- Provided *Kevin Diehl*, links to EPCAMR and LaBella's [Solar Assessment Report](#) and [Vote Solar](#)



## **Education & Outreach**

- Participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls
- Scheduled a meeting with *Deb Nardone*, Executive Director for the Foundation for PA Watersheds
- *Deborah Stiles-WV* Candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture introduced EPCAMR to *Mr. Steven Ellison*, who grows chinquapin, persimmon, pawpaw, and other tree species for stream restoration, forestry, and reclamation projects at [EMH Nursery](#); His #1 plant in stock is the Allegheny Chinquapin; They are on some endangered species lists in some states and they are native miniature American Chestnuts and the best tasting native nuts in North America according to *Mr. Ellison*; They were a staple of Native American and colonial settler diets
- Reached out to *Yvonna Besvold*, Patagonia to see if we can work with her to resubmit or renew our access and involvement with [Patagonia Action Works](#) to become eligible for future grant opportunities since they are on a 2-year cycle depending on when the last grant was received since the pandemic interrupted our ability to reapply
- Attended a meeting in Shamokin with the Board of the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance to provide them with some guidance on grants and to have further discussions on continued monitoring and assessments of various AMD-impacted areas throughout the watershed
- Received a response letter from Senator *Bob Casey* providing EPCAMR with updates on various pieces of legislation and where they are at in various committees in the House and the Senate and who their co-sponsors were; The legislative bills he offered in his letter were related to abandoned mine reclamation, infrastructure projects, stream restoration, and AMD treatment; Forwarded a copy of the letter to the PA AML Campaign members for their review as an update
- Reviewed the host application from [Stewards Individual Placement Program](#) (SIPP) sent by *Patricia Urquiza Silva*; They are a national AmeriCorps program that specializes in supporting Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) placements; They are launching an innovative Energy Communities AmeriCorps Program with AmeriCorps, other federal agency partners, and private foundation funders; The project aims to work within the 9 rapid response communities that the Interagency Working Group (IWG) listed as priority areas with the most impact around energy transitions (coal mine closures, power plant closures, abandoned mine lands, etc.); They work with communities like ours to host a VISTA, a unique opportunity to address the issues that are an important priority in our local community and to gain valuable support and resources; Developed a Volunteer Activity Document (VAD) and volunteer job descriptions for the two positions and submitted the OSMRE VISTA host application on behalf of EPCAMR for two positions (Community Outreach Watershed Specialist and Community Development Coordinator) following a call with OSMRE's *April Elkins* and talking with *Patricia Urquiza Silva*; Character limitations on the application didn't allow me to get into too much detail on a number of projects that EPCAMR is working on throughout the region; Our application was approved for our AmeriCorps Fellow Community Watershed Outreach Specialist position; EPCAMR started recruiting on our social media outlets right away;
- *Jacob Smith*, ARM Group, reached out to EPCAMR to let us know that we had a broken link on the [Passive Treatment System](#) page on our website that we ended up fixing

- [Marc Levy](#), Associated Press, was looking for confirmation that the Jeddo Mine Tunnel was the largest source of non-point source pollution to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; EPCAMR believes it is; The Chesapeake Bay Foundation doesn't consider AMD as a sediment for some reason because it is not incorporated into their Bay Model for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment; Referred them to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and the [Friends of the Nescopeck](#) for more information and their website and EPCAMR's on [Nescopeck Creek](#)
- Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) asked to bring additional t-shirts to tie-dye with AMD at the upcoming PA American Water Camp with youth in Peckville at the Valley Library along the Lackawanna River and EPCAMR absolutely was fine with *Missy Williams*, Program Manager, bringing the extra shirts
- Submitted an invoice to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit for participation in the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) Environmental Literary Series Program over the Summer with PA DCNR and a number of STEELS educators and teachers from Luzerne County
- *Dave Mashek*-Partner at Meiner-Mashek Communications was provided EPCAMR's information by *David Hawk* at Panther Creek, as well as by Jaret Gibbons at ARIPPA; His firm assists Panther Creek with communications services; He asked if EPCAMR had a position on its proposal to utilize tire-derived fuel to supplement the waste culm burned by the facility; Informed Dave that it would have to be discussed at the Board Meeting in August
- Communicated with *Jordi Comas*, EJ Regional Coordinator for NC PA in the EPCAMR Region to discuss addressing the capacity gaps for the State and the community watershed groups and non-profits that are working in EJ areas; EPCAMR is focused more on helping the community watershed groups, Conservation Districts, and non-profits that don't have nearly the amount of funds to operate and build capacity for these projects that can become inflated to the millions of dollars and administration of those types of funds are not usually in the repertoire of smaller community organizations; We need to find out what types of organizations can assist with the administration of these types of funds, foundations, or community development type groups that have the business acumen and financial resources and accountants or bookkeepers that can assist with the fiduciary responsibilities of administering the larger grants; Suggested he review the results of our survey of Community Watershed Groups and Conservation District stakeholders later in the Summer, when we will have a much better statistical need and validation of our initial hypothesis on what are some of the critical needs and hurdles facing community groups in EJ areas and mining-impacted areas across PA; It will address the larger financial and fiscal challenges of administering a grant. It doesn't take into consideration community outreach, watershed assessment work, boots on the ground, social media, storytelling about the projects, building community partnerships, working with volunteers, incorporating art and environmental education into the projects, development of infographics, quick statistics on watersheds and community demographics

### **Keep PA Beautiful Open Your Eyes to Litter Educational Booklets**

- Received an update from *Laura Rinehimer*, EPCAMR Education Specialist on her work on the booklets; Corresponded with Stephanie Larson, about the status of the booklets and the Spanish translations and EPCAMR putting forward another reimbursement request for Laura's time through June 30, 2024; Provided her with links to a lot of different greenways and trail information and resources that might be included in the booklet on greenways and trails that we will be highlighting in one of the books; Suggested the concept of pocket parks if there was room

in the booklet; The Waterways booklet is nearly complete; We will look to make a request for reimbursement quarterly until the end of the year; Received a W-9 from *Brady Mock* for his professional services work on the graphic designs and drawings for the booklets; Provided him with a payment for completion of another booklet

### **PA DEP Aggregate Advisory Board**

- 2 Individuals provided Public Comments at the Aggregate Advisory Board (AAB) Reclamation, Legislative, Technical (RLT) Committee Meeting on 7-29-24

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

### **26<sup>th</sup> PA AMR Conference Planning for 2024**

- Conference registrations continue to come in; Followed up with *Laura Phillipi* at Toftrees to thank her for providing the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee with a quote for the use of the facility in State College; Followed up with [Dave Heineman](#), Director of [NEPADOC](#), who will be presenting at the Conference; Placed a Call for Presentations on our social media sites; Participated in the July PA AMR Conference Planning Committee meeting; Scheduled the next month's meeting for August 1<sup>st</sup>; A number of scholarship requests came in to EPCAMR and the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee then approved them; Reviewed the draft contract agreement for the Conference

### **Marywood University Architecture School Coal Mining Related Exhibit**

- Executive Director met with *Stephanie Golden* to tour and view her exhibit that will be discussed at our PA AMR Conference in October that was on display at Marywood University's School of Architecture

### **Sweet Springs 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Summit**

- EPCAMR Executive Director was a speaker on at the [Sweet Springs Institute](#) 7<sup>TH</sup> Annual Sustainability Summit in Gap Mills, WV hosted by the [Sweet Springs Resort Park](#), an economic development and historical restoration project underway at one of W. Virginia's most treasured pre-Civil War spas; Attended the 7-18/20 event and was a speaker on EPCAMR's work in PA; Many of the organizations in Western West Virginia are still in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition; *Roseanne Sacco*, organizer for the event said that it was an honor to have met with the Executive Director and that she extended a heartfelt thanks to EPCAMR's fabulous presentation at the Forum and that our work that we are doing was nothing short of phenomenal and had inspired all in attendance; She said that she felt lifted up and that after the intensity of focus she had experienced over the past month and having felt like a lost ghost wandering around, not sure of which way to go, that when our Executive Director was there, she had the distinct feeling that the cherished dream of paradise gaining ground over the entire planet was not only possible, but in a budding sense, began to unfold before her very eyes; EPCAMR vowed to elevate everything about the property, the history, culture, the blight, and the resurgence and reuse that they all have found through the Institute; It was very inspiring and deserves National attention and we hope to be able to lift their message throughout our region here about the beauty of Sweet Springs; Funding to attend the Summit was provided by the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) through a convening grant; Forwarded the presentation that was given to FPW



## **Interagency Working Group Retreat**

- Attended the 7-23/24 Empowering America's Energy Communities [Interagency Working Group Retreat](#) in Washington DC to meet with Program Managers of the various federal agencies that are looking to assist community groups like EPCAMR across the country and in Appalachia; Attended numerous sessions, small group breakouts, and individual meetings with a number of the federal agencies to find out more about various funding programs, technical assistance funding, and organizational capacity funding; Funding was provided to attend the trip and overnight stay by the Foundation for PA Watershed through a convening grant

## **NTTP AMD Passive Treatment System Training with OSMRE/PA DEP BAMR and EPCAMR/WPCAMR**

- Sent out a call for a few of the open registrations that remained for the training through targeted invites across the state to watershed specialists and watershed groups working on AMD; EPCAMR closed the final training registration numbers and provided them to WPCAMR and OSMRE/PA DEP BAMR for the upcoming 3-day training in State College funded by the PA Foundation for PA watersheds for Conservation District Watershed Specialists and watershed organizations working on AMD Treatment Systems to attend; The funding covered overnight accommodations and food for all attendees; Submitted dietary restrictions to the Ramada Conference Center; **23** attendees were confirmed; Registration confirmations were coming into our e-mail; Requested from State Farm, a copy of the Executive Director's Vehicle Insurance since we will be renting a 15-passenger van to transport the attendees around to the field tour AMD Passive Treatment Systems in Clearfield County; Received a copy and provided it to Enterprise Rental while working to secure the passenger van; Worked with *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR to coordinate with *Kelly Williams*, Clearfield County Conservation District Watershed Specialist on the tour locations and any access issues with a passenger van; Reviewed the draft contract agreement for the Training

## **Beneficial Use of Mine Pools in PA Conference (planned for 2025)**

- Provided *Steve Chrismar*, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance volunteer with a possible venue option and contact information for Marywood University if he wants to see additional locations for a planned Conference on abandoned mine pools in 2025; Suggested that our rare earth elements (REE) project from Columbia University, with Professor *Sean Kinney* that who is sampling for REEs with us around the EPCAMR Region (Lackawanna Valley, Wyoming Valley..so far) and planning to install some monitoring equipment for real-time data collection, in partnership with their Climate Center in New York; EPCAMR is writing a research paper with them; They have some pretty amazing XRF high-end lab analysis equipment and mass spectrometry they are using as a part of the project; [Demand for rare elements used in clean energy could help clean up abandoned coal mines in Appalachia](#); It was decided that Bucknell University would hold the Conference in May 2025

## **Professional Recyclers of PA Annual Conference**

- Executive Director presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Wind Creek Hotel, Bethlehem, PA on July 25<sup>th</sup> on the Status of Swoyersville/AMLER Reclamation and Community Athletic Area Project and some examples of other EPCAMR Regional Efforts Looking at Recycling of Iron Oxides for Art Projects, Reuse of Mine Pool Water for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential, and Rare Earth Element Sampling with Columbia University

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for July 2024 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB
- Prepared information for upcoming August 15, 2024 Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting; Sent out tentative agenda to the Board and partners in the EPCAMR Region
- Completed the May and June 2024 Monthly Reports for both the 319 Program and for Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike* to upload to the website and for our reimbursement request; Worked on close-out report for the previous 319 Grant Document Number: C990002343; Provided *Mike* with some Payroll Detail Reports he needed; Received an adjusted reimbursement amount from the PA DEP 319 Program until we close out the Final Report on the previous grant
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for *Frank Sindaco*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, for a US Department of Energy Community Workforce Readiness Accelerator for Major Projects (RAMP) 2-Year Fellowship Program
- Participated in a meeting with PA DEP 319 Program's *Trish Attardo* and *Shane Kleiner* to review the new process of entering information into PracticeKeeper, the reimbursement process, and the submission of the new grant going forward; Received our access to PracticeKeeper
- Submitted financial statements to Accu-Audit, Inc. on the expenses to Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) as subcontractors to EPCAMR on two of our projects; Provided them with SRBC's Certificate of Liability Insurance
- Provided *Dr. Jenn Baka*, Penn-State University, comments for the Office of Environmental Justice Hiring Committee to consider when reviewing applications and conducting interviews to hire the next Director since *Justin Dula* has moved on to another position
- Updated EPCAMR's address with the [Scranton Area Foundation](#) for them to send out a NEPA Gives check for donations received
- Setup a Meta PayPal Giving Fund Account to receive public charity discounted fees & donations
- Submitted MBE/WBE Reporting for Report Period [October 15, 2023; December 31, 2023, January 15, 2024, March 31, 2024, April 15, 2024, June 30, 2024]-Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR); DEP Document Grant Number: C990002344;
- EPCAMR Executive Director submitted his name and Letter of Interest for consideration for an open seat on the [Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Advisory Committee](#) appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania has long demonstrated leadership across the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP). The Advisory Committees play in the CBP "Beyond 2025"; Given the fact that AMD and abandoned mine lands are a key source of nonpoint source pollution in PA, and our share of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, our Board was fully supportive of the nomination being sent in because of the long-standing leadership, advocacy, education, expertise in watershed restoration, and stream health provided by our Executive Director; Submitted documentation and resume to *Jill Whitcomb*-Director, PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management for her consideration and that of the Governor's Office