



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### July 2023 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. QA/QC checked work. Submitted 2 reimbursements to close out the grant.
- EPCAMR staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, a **PA AMR Conference Committee** call, a call with **Tetra Tech** re the AML/AMD Grant Application Comments for Hollywood REE Project, Solar on AML calls with **DEP EPO** and **LaBella**, an **EPCAMR** strategic planning call, and hosted the Solar on AML summit at the Ramada Inn State College; Continued to manage registration for an AMD Treatment Course and the PA AMR Conference.
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; sampled 27 discharge and instream sites in **Shamokin Cr.** for **SCRA**.
- Participated in the Columbia County Watershed Festival in Berwick in the name of EE.
- Updated [www.PaSolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PaSolarMinedLands.org), [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com) and [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Got caught up on Timesheets. Added spring water to TIC tank to replace the water that was removed when we took the trout fingerlings to Harveys Creek. Took inventory of sampling reagents and several were needed. Created shopping carts for sampling supplies on TEquipment and Fondriest to find the best deal, but waited on a question about ordering Sodium Hydroxide 0.035 N replacement for the HACH Acidity Test from Fondriest before placing the order. They are likely closed for the holiday. Printed carts instead.
- Found out that Fondriest does not sell Sodium Hydroxide 0.035 N, it's odd because they sell Sodium Hydroxide 0.01 N for the HACH Carbon Dioxide Test. They suggested ordering it directly from HACH. Ordered the rest of the supplies from Fondriest even though they were slightly less expensive on TEquipment, because there is no shipping (regularly \$14) if the order is above \$200. Then I didn't have quite enough for the minimum \$100 for free shipping on TEquipment.
- Added Lab results to Shamokin Sampling Spreadsheet. Notified Matt Caccese at DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). [SCRA]
- Sent Datashed Snapshot 2023 Treatment System Inspection forms with field data to local partners for the 9 treatment systems visited last week. Will follow up with lab data when it is available from G&C Coal Analysis Lab in Summerville, PA. Calculated time and travel for Datashed Snapshot. Cliff said he had \$3K to help defer costs. Worked up hours and travel for and asked Denise to invoice Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI). [DSHD4]
- EPCAMR staff participated in a call with Robert Young at DEP Energy Programs Office (EPO) to discuss statistics work and a presentation for the Summit. Sent 2022 AMLIS feature shapefiles to Steve that were used to produce statewide statistics for the PA AML Campaign.
- Hosted an EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee via Zoom for an hour in the evening. Completed Goals 3-5 review. Wrote up minutes and sent them out to the committee.

- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in weekly AML Campaign Calls.
- Reviewed Solar on AML attendee database with EPCAMR Bookkeeper and Executive Director. De-duplicated registrations, sent emails to confirm it was a duplicate entry and deleted 3 tickets on Eventbrite. Added Robert Young and Andy McAllister. There were 96 total attendees at the time. [SOLAR]
- Responded to an email from John Levitsky who was looking for water quality data on the Jeddo Tunnel AMD discharge as he was meeting with DEP and Friends of the Nescopeck to discuss treatment. Downloaded data from SRBC Mine Drainage Portal and USGS data from NWIS for the Jeddo Tunnel. EPCAMR also had some data from the Tri County (Luzerne, Lackawanna and Susquehanna) County Action Plan (CAP) in 2021. Sent this along to John Levitsky in preparation for his meeting.
- Participated in a Government Accountability Office (GAO) Meeting with other AMLER Sub-recipients and non-government organizations (NGO) via Zoom. Most attendees were at the PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office (DMO).
- Went to Staples to purchase Name Tags and Holders for the PA Solar on AML Summit. Downloaded the 97 attendees from Eventbrite to an Excel Spreadsheet and printed. [SOLAR]
- Added to EPCAMR Executive Director's response to charge questions to USGS proposed report on nutrients in AMD. Added much of the research that we discovered when working on the Tri County CAP Plan.
- Added an agenda for the Solar on AML Summit to <https://pasolarminedlands.org/statewide-summit/>. Created and posted a printer-friendly version PDF for download. Manually signed up 3 more last minute walk-ins for the Solar Summit the following week which brought to total to 100 attendees and 9 exhibitors. Let Jenn West at the Ramada Inn, LaBella staff and Robert Young from DEP know these final numbers. [SOLAR]
- EPCAMR staff participated in a MS teams meeting with Robert Young about the Solar on AML Summit presentations. Confirmed 100 attendees with Jen West at the Ramada in State College. We met a quota and were moved to the Grand Ballroom plus got two overnight room suites. Sent a message to all Summit attendees via Eventbrite that it was moved to the Grand Ballroom instead of the Nittany and Gallery Rooms. [SOLAR]
- Added more approved AMR Conference presentations to [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com).
- Printed last minute attendees name tags and registration list and traveled to State College to host the Solar on Mined Lands Summit. [SOLAR]
- EPCAMR staff hosted the Solar on Mined Lands Summit at the Ramada Inn State College. 100 attendees listened to presentations from Steve Cornia and Bobby Hughes from EPCAMR, Robert Young from DEP and Cassidy Robinson from LaBella. Traveled back home. [SOLAR]
- Started Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) reimbursements, but needed some staff timesheets to complete. Asked Executive Director to help gather staff timesheets. [MSI]
- Started a convening grant application to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW) for the PA AMR Conference. Sent the updated budget for the Conference without state registrants and added in-hand sponsorships to Andy. Scheduled a call with NASLR next week and updated the tour description on [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) based on Anne Daymut from WPCAMR's description.
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR staff met with NASLER representatives to coordinate the AMR Conference. Made updates to our website to match their plans and itinerary. Added sponsors to the sponsors page on [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com). Notified the AMR Conference committee and asked about sponsor freebies to get those sorted in the registration list. Updated AMR Conference Registration list and sent confirmations to registered attendees.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in a call with Tetra Tech and DEP to discuss resubmittal of the Hollywood REE plant proposal.
- Prepared 2nd quarter 2023 (April-June) Reimbursement to PA DEP MMG finally with Shawnese's timesheets that came in after lunch 2 days after the deadline. It took a phone call from EPCAMR Executive Director to get Shawnese Taylor to respond. Unfortunately, I had several questions over email on the timesheets that weren't answered until Bobby Hughes

texted her to respond again. Her communication skills seem to be breaking down again. Found out she was digitizing Waymart and Carbondale quadrangles without having the mosaics approved by DEP. I asked that she georeference KAGE maps until we can get the mosaics approved for digitizing. [MSI]

- Some EPCAMR staff setup an AMD Tie Dye activity and Askam in Wonderland VR headsets at the Columbia County Watershed Festival in Berwick. EPCAMR Environmental Education Specialist declined the invitation to help out.
- Answered questions regarding AMR Conference Registration. Issue with additional GAI employees wanting to go to conference. They asked for a paper registration form which we have not provided for more than a decade. Explained that their gold sponsorship allowed 2 attendees, an exhibit booth and a presentation. I was coordinating with Anne Daymut to get those benefits filled. Anyone wanting to join the tour or NASLR dinner would need to sign up for those separately. Additional GAI staff will also need to sign up online for conference attendance separately. I offered to help guide them through the online form.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Gained access to PHUMMIS again which required setting up a new COWPA account since the old one was disabled for some unknown reason. Worked on access to required security trainings which must be done by remote login to a physical state workstation because it needs to run in Microsoft Edge. This training usually takes 4 hours to complete every year. [MSI]
- Prepped 27 sets of bottles and sampling sheet for Shamokin Sampling the following Monday and Tuesday. [SCRA]
- Created Pittston Lower Red Ash, Middle Red Ash, Lower Ross footprints and uploaded to MMG SharePoint. Created and added 23 maps to Upper Ross and 44 maps to Lower Skidmore Mosaics from CSV. Worked on the footprints to fit them together like pieces to a puzzle. This work should have been done by EPCAMR GIS Watershed Specialists Shawnese Taylor or Steve Cornia, but the work was never sent as mosaic geodatabases for these veins. When questioned, they did not have them, but they existed at one time as evidenced by the CSV files. [MSI]
- Sampled 5 Shamokin Watershed AMD discharges from Richard's Shaft to Corbin Mine Drift with upstream and downstream (16 sites) on the first day. All the labels stuck this time. [SCRA]
- Sampled 4 Shamokin Watershed AMD discharges from Big Mountain to the Cameron Discharges with upstream and downstream (11 sites) on the second day. Filled out the DEP lab sampling datasheets for both days. Met Brenna Schneider from Northumberland County Conservation District in Paxinos by 3PM to drop off the coolers. She kept them on ice and called the DEP lab courier to pick up the samples the following day. [SCRA]
- Worked with Matt Caccese on issues with Shamokin Samples paperwork sent to lab and to regain access to our Sampling Database on SharePoint. Learning that SharePoint is very tricky with sharing outside our organization. Need to be careful not to change the share settings when giving others access. Cleaned flow meter impeller to remove iron buildup on the sensors. [SCRA]
- Completed 5 mandatory trainings over 4 hours for State Intranet Access for the PHUMMIS database. Printed certificates and sent them to PA DEP California DMO staff. Confirmed that PHUMMIS saves records. Started recording BMSA georeferenced maps for January, but wasn't able to add EPCAMR georeferenced NMMR maps as they need info from the spreadsheets that go along with the maps. I was working from home and did not have access to those spreadsheets. [MSI]
- Added Askam, Espy and Aylesworth (including DEP data) field sampling and lab data from Dashed Snapshot to EPCAMR Fieldbook on Google sheets.
- Finished recording georeferenced maps for January with the aide of the NMMR spreadsheets. Added February and March georeferenced maps to PHUMMIS. Finished and submitted Jan-March MMG Reimbursement paperwork to MSI program. Still needed staff timesheets to complete the April to June reimbursement. Asked Executive director to again aide in gathering the timesheets. [MSI]

- Created footprints for the 23 maps in the Pittston Up Ross mosaic that was reconstructed from CSV files. This geodatabase was also lost or deleted by EPCAMR staff for unknown reasons. [MSI]
- Reviewed several tables of Rare Earth Element (REE) and Critical Minerals (CM) sampling data that Frank Sindaco gathered from the NWIS for Northern Anthracite Field. Frank was checking in to make sure this was the data we were looking for and continued to gather more. There should be 41 sites with REE samples from 1999 in the Anthracite Region in total as mentioned in a USGS report from 2008. [JTF]
- Uploaded scanned mine maps to DEP's MMG SharePoint. Left it run overnight, but came back in the morning to find that only a few actually transferred over. Restarted the upload and it took most of the day to complete upload of 16 files. The TIFF files are large, but the transfer speed seemed inefficient. [MSI]
- Discussion with Frank Sindaco and Bobby Hughes regarding REE Table for Northern Anthracite Field from data Frank gathered. Added 5 more sites to the table, calculated loadings, calculated max and min concentrations and loadings to help steer sampling in the Northern Anthracite Field (NAF). Checked for data in the Eastern Middle Field (EMF) and started in Southern Anthracite Field (SAF) but stopped at Newkirk Tunnel near Tamaqua. Need to finish the SAF and start the Western Middle Field (WMF). [JTF]
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. Also downloaded stage data from 4 transducers in the watershed to convert to instantaneous flows. Delivered field sampling results to EC in spreadsheet form. [EC]
- Ran into some issues adding data to PHUMMIS, but Patrick at DEP California DMO was able to correct permissions on my new PHUMMIS account. Checked with Patrick on the naming of Second Geologic Survey maps scanned in the KAGE collection. Denise was still having issues adding records, but it could have been the date as map dates need to be month day and year. Many maps only had a year or month and year, so I relayed the fix to add 01 to the missing date parameter (representing the first day of the month). Entered KAGE\_SGSD3-P125 to KAGE\_SGSD3-P129 and KAGE\_SGSD3-P132 as a trial. Then 11 more were added by Denise using these templates.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.