



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### June 2019 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 106 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 89 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a **NAAML**P meeting, **ARIPPA** Convention, **PA AML Campaign** calls and traveled to **Washington DC** to meet with legislative aides.
- EPCAMR staff investigated **Kehley Run** breach into the **Shen Penn Pit** near **Shamokin, PA**
- Collected **NAAML**P registration information from online orders.
- 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.:

- National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML
- P) 2019 Joint Conference registrations continued to trickle in and the information was sent to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) for them to build the registration list. EPCAMR created several items in our online store to ask questions of attendees, collect the money and handle general questions.
- Created the EPCAMR Program Manager report for the month of April. Uploaded staff reports to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Also updated the staff calendar on the website.
- EPCAMR staff met with staff from Tetra Tech to discuss a proposal to sample for Rare Earth Elements in mine drainage discharges.
- Installed an informational kiosk at the Solomon Creek Natural Stream Channel Design site. The sign explains that a dam was removed and 5 smaller rock weirs were installed to aide in aquatic organism passage through the site. The bank was also regraded and planted to cut down on erosion.
- EPCAMR had a conference call with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) staff regarding registration money being collected in PayPal. Calculated amount to transfer to their NAAML
- P conference account.
- Investigated the breach of Kehley Run (clean water) into the Shen Penn Pit reported by the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association (MCWA). Robert went on site and I looked at maps. It seems that it was a sediment buildup that caused the change in flow. DEP worked on getting the coal company to repair the breach. EPCAMR worked on securing funding from ARIPPA with the watershed association to plant a riparian buffer to stabilize the new channel. The MCWA refused to be the fiduciary for the grant, so EPCAMR will conduct the project on their behalf.

- EPCAMR staff attended the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) Tech Convention in Harrisburg to announce the ARIPPA Awardees and catch up with our co-gen industry colleagues. Learned that Keystone Metals Recovery are researching Rare Earth Elements in waste coal.
- Picked up compost from the Earth Conservancy Compost Facility near Glen Lyon for the GrowBoxx project and for our backyard garden. [Grow]
- Explained the benefits of supporting the waste coal to power industry including the beneficial use of fly ash to Jette Finsden of Congressman Cartwright's office in Washington DC. Congressman Meuser is looking to support a tax credit bill similar to the one in Pennsylvania for Co-Gen plants. There has been a lot of pushback from environmental organizations in Pennsylvania. Some we were surprised to learn had signed on to an opposition letter. Many are our partners we keep in close contact with and know the benefits of having Co-Gen plants cleaning up AML site at no cost to the AML Trust Fund. The ARIPPA member plants are great allies in the AML cleanup arena.
- Traveled to Washington DC to participate in the "RECLAIM Act Fly-In" funded by the Blue Green Alliance. It was a great opportunity for EPCAMR to meet elected officials staff of the newly formed congressional districts in Pennsylvania and educate them on AML issues. Met with staff from nine members of the PA delegation and both senators over three days.
- Sat in on a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) conference call as requested by Ron Rohall to explain the RECLAIM Act to their members.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AML Campaign Call to debrief the committee on our efforts in Washington DC earlier in the month.
- Did a water change in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) tank with spring water from a local spring outside the coal measures.
- Followed up with Jette Finsden, Congressman Cartwright's Office, who sent me a report from ECO Northwest which was cited many times in the Waste Coal to Power Industry Tax Credit Bill Opposition letter. Being a biologist and working for an environmental group she was interested on my opinion. The report was not that well written and many of data from their sources were being misconstrued into something that was not completely true. EPCAMR was also a source in the document. I was able to counter quite a lot of the data related to land and water pollution. However, I am not as knowledgeable about air pollution and did not comment on those "facts". Also generated and passed along a list of future, current and recently completed AML projects in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Pulled the information from the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMILS) tool.
- Generated more coupon codes for the NAAML conference 50% off non-profit registrations and sent them to WPCAMR.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Aided EPCAMR Intern, Conal Herron, with scanning and Shawnese Taylor with georeferencing and mosaicking mine maps in ArcGIS Pro for the mine mapping grant [MSI].
- Spoke with Dan Reese, Luzerne County Mapping Department, about assisting the Luzerne County Rail Authority with obtaining an ArcGIS license at a better price. [RALC]
- Experienced some issues entering data into the PA Historic Underground Mine Mapping Inventory System (PHUMMIS). There was a general error that did not say much about the issue. Troubleshoot the entry process and discovered that we were trying to enter a control number that was written down incorrectly. Control numbers and map names must be unique and cannot be used twice. The system was trying to stop us from making a mistake, but was not very forthcoming about it. [MSI]
- Quality control checked the work done in February and March for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG). Made sure the data on the drive matched what was recorded in PHUMMIS. [MSI]
- Troubleshoot an issue with a map in the Wilkes-Barre West Abbot Mosaic. The map was re-georeferenced and re-added to the mosaic but the old map would still show up at certain resolutions. Discovered how to clear the map cache for the mosaic. Sometimes it takes a

restart of ArcGIS Pro as well. Updated the mosaic “how to” instructions to reflect the newly learned information. [MSI]

- Continued to update the Abbot Mosaic by removing 400 scale maps and replacing it with eight newly scanned and georeferenced 100 scale maps from the Blue Coal Collection. Exported the shapefile for Abbot, Snake Island and several numbered veins for delivery to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO). [MSI]
- Showed EPCAMR Intern, Conal Herron, how to georeference the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Anthracite Mine Map Folios. The maps were sliced into a grid pattern which is in the ball park of where the maps fit. It will be helpful to have these maps georeferenced so we can compare coverage per vein in the folios based on the new mine map mosaic we are creating. [MSI]
- Update BIOS on one of our computers what was freezing up and dropping internet connection.
- Gathered and converted transducer data for the Old Forge Borehole to flow data. Sent the data to Mike Korb from Tetra Tech.
- Lost PHUMMIS access and worked with PA DEP California DMO staff to regain access. This time it was a little more involved than just a password update. [MSI]
- Was questioned by a board member as to how our sampling equipment and methods matched up with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved methods for sampling wastewater and drinking water. Researched each of the parameters through the YSI and Hanna websites. Called tech support from both companies and found that they were not required to meet EPA standards. Hanna Instruments denied my request for information, but YSI was a little more helpful. Many of the YSI tests meet international or published standards, but not necessarily EPA standards.
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[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.