



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

Website: www.epcamr.org

June 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Followed up with *Denise* to see if we could reapply for the [First Federal Charitable Foundation](#) grant in Hazleton
- *John Dawes* suggested that EPCAMR submit our ***Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project*** video to the [DC Environmental Film Festival](#) in 2019
- Nominated EPCAMR to ***1% for the Planet's*** consideration for funding in their Quarter 3 Funding Cycle; Followed up with *Gina Schiappacasse*, Press Liaison/Social Media Director
- Followed up with *Joe Sapienza* and *John Welsh* about the development of the EPCAMR Trailer and Mini-Series development project entitled "***Reclaiming PA***"; EPCAMR has looked over the budget and letterhead; They have a good handle on the pre-post animation production costs, in terms of budget development; We decided to start looking for various art and media production locations or foundations to see if they will pick it up since EPCAMR doesn't have funding up front; Provided them with topics of interest to be more focused related to abandoned mine lands and polluted mine water from past mining practices throughout the Anthracite and Bituminous Coal Regions of Northeastern and Northcentral PA; The Executive Director believes that we will need to give a brief overview of what the series will have included in it; AMD Tie Dye Workshop, Trout Stream Restoration, Aquatic Connectivity Culvert Assessments, Monitoring and Maintenance of AMD Discharges and Treatment Systems, Environmental Education Programs in Underserved School Districts, GIS Watershed Mapping, 3D Mine Pool Modeling, Mine Subsidence Insurance Mapping, Conference Coordination, Mine Fire Monitoring, Illegal Dump Site Cleanups, Economic Redevelopment through Reclamation on Abandoned Mine Lands, and AMD and Art; Scheduled some pilot testing field day trips with *Joe* and *John* on July 17th to shoot the pilot footage with *Mike* and the Executive Director; Youth were invited to be cast for parts in the pilot

- Provided an AMD Tour for 9 *University of Maryland* Field School students studying archaeology, who were working at Eckley's Miner's Village under the direction of *Dr. Paul Shackel*, the Director of the Department of Anthropology; *Dr. Shackel* chose to focus on AMD remediation and abandoned mine reclamation as a current issue for his students due to high interest in EPCAMR's work in the region
- *Beth Berkhauser*-[The Hexagon Project](#) and co-author of the Iron Oxide AMD & Art Curriculum with *Mellisa Cruise* and the EPCAMR Executive Director reviewed and finalized the Iron Oxide AMD & Art Curriculum prior to it being released at the PA AMR Conference in State College on June 20-21st; Made edits, provided comments, and added photos as needed to the curriculum
- EPCAMR Executive Director confirmed making a presentation before the entire PA Fish & Boat Commission and the Habitat Restoration Committee in Harrisburg to discuss EPCAMR's work in the region
- EPCAMR Executive Director participated as a guest speaker on a National [RECLAIM](#) Webinar on June 13th as a co-host with the Alliance for Appalachia to discuss RECLAIM PA AML Pilot Projects and examples of economic redevelopment opportunities in AML projects; Provided the EPCAMR Staff with a document on the [Black Lung Fund](#) issue that is tied to RECLAIM for their review; Created a press release that was picked up by the [PA Environmental Digest](#); [Slides](#) were available following the webinar
- Informed Professor *George Gomez*, University of Scranton Biology Department that EPCAMR would work with the University to make an AMD Environmental Education presentation to the McNichols Elementary school in partnership with him in the future if he was interested
- EPCAMR Staff participated in a PA AML Campaign SMCRA Reauthorization conference call to discuss talking points; Provided Staff with a one page document on Innovative Mine Reclamation Projects that are happening throughout Appalachia
- Attended the Schuylkill Action Network Meeting in Schuylkill County, at the Schuylkill Conservation District to review 15 years' worth of projects and successes
- Travelled around the Wyoming Valley showcasing Nick Malawsky, Reporter and a photographer from the Patriot-News in Harrisburg, PA AMD and abandoned mine lands for a feature cover story on AMD in PA
- Provided the EPCAMR Staff with a bulleted list of projects and updates for the upcoming few months monthly EPCAMR Newsletter and tasks that Staff should be working on throughout the Summer

- Met with *Dr. Jessica Nolan*, University of Scranton Professor of Environmental Education to inform her more about EPCAMR's work in the region and to coordinate a showing of the Centralia documentary for her students

Technical Assistance

- Reached out to [United by Blue](#) to see if they can provide any assistance with future cleanups in the EPCAMR Region; *Ed Wytovich* provided EPCAMR with a link to their site
- Provided *Jessica Sprajcar Aiello*, RiverStewards Collaborative with links to water quality databases and economic reports on improving water quality and abandoned mine lands in our region for future discussion at their Forum on August 13th and 20th at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg
- Provided Earth Conservancy with a Letter of Support for their PA DEP Growing Greener Grant submission on the continued remediation of Espy Run in the Nanticoke Creek watershed
- Provided Stream Restoration Inc. with a Letter of Support for their PA DEP Growing Greener Grant submission for continuing work on Datashed
- Informed Professor *Vincent Marshall* that EPCAMR has plenty of water quality data on the Old Forge Borehole if he was interested in obtaining some of it for his Biology Class at the University of Scranton or would like to have EPCAMR along for a field tour of the AMD discharge in the Lackawanna Valley to discuss our work on the borehole with our partners in the watershed
- Provided *Gabby Zawacki*, Environmental Specialist-DHL/Patagonia with donated non-GMO milkweed seeds for her company to start a Monarch Waystation in the Industrial Park
- Prepared a Letter of Support for *Dr. Jen Demchak*, Mansfield University-Chair of the Department of GeoSciences and Lead on the Watershed Management Program, after reviewing her new program that is a 2 year Associates Degree related to the a resource extraction industry informing her of what types of classes, software, trainings, and hands-on technical training and experiences students should expect to have to become employable
- Met with *Dan Bochicchio*, Skybernetics, at EPCAMR to discuss drone technology use in AML and to discuss his presentation for the PA AMR Conference; Toured our **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Improvement** Project for him to test fly and get some additional footage for his presentation
- Talked with *Clint LeRoy*, Principal for [Marg Energy, Inc.](#), who is interested in getting involved in AMD remediation and AML reclamation in PA; Informed him that EPCAMR could set up a tour of AMD sites and AML lands with him in the late Summer, early Fall 2018 to see if he can develop some potential projects with private landowners and coal companies in the region

- EPCAMR will be creating new Congressional District Map overlays of AMD/AML for the newly created legislative boundaries during redistricting; The numbers can change considerably what is going to be in each particular State Legislator's and Congressional Districts when it comes to PA AML Sites, acreage of AML, number of AMD discharges, total number of stream miles impaired by AMD, number of problem areas, number of feature points within the Problem Areas, estimated cost of reclamation/acre, etc.; The PA AML Campaign requested our technical assistance in preparing these maps over the Summer while EPCAMR Staff attended the Strategic Planning Session on SMCRA Reauthorization in Huntingdon, PA at the Foundation for PA Watershed's Cabin on June 15th
- WPCAMR, Tetra-Tech, and EPCAMR are considering putting together a PA AML Pilot project for 2019 on **Rare Earth Elements Sampling** across PA; Convened a conference call and notes on the approach, proposal, and process, along with tasks for responsible partners; EPCAMR to come up with 20 AMD sites or treatment sites to be sampled in the EPCAMR Region and WPCAMR will do the same; Both organizations will be responsible for collecting the samples and funds will be budgeted for the Staff time and Travel to obtain the samples; Proposal will be worked out over the next few months
- Met with *Kelly Gutshall*, President of LandStudies, Inc. to discuss ways in which EPCAMR can continue to partner with her consultant firm on watershed projects in the future

Project Coordination

- Received a draft copy of the Services Agreement from Keystone Reclamation for review **Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project** and informed *Matt Cochran* that an EPCAMR attorney, Dan Taroli, Esq., who is on our Board, would be reviewing it as well as the Executive Director to be sure all the necessary language is included prior to signing off on it; Attended a meeting at the PA DEP BAMR Office with BAMR Staff and partners to discuss how the grant agreement and funding is coming along
- Provided *Gregg Davis*, Project Advisor for PA DEP, with two Work Progress Reports on the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project**; One was for the 1st Quarter of 2018 that takes in to account December 2017 through March 31, 2018 and the Final Report for the 2nd Quarter 2018 from April 1, through June 30, 2018; The Reports will go along with the Work Progress Report Sheets that EPCAMR Executive Director had sent along with the "See Attached Report"; EPCAMR will be finalizing all of the financials and expenditures utilizing some of the Working Capital and then making those submissions; A written request to move funds from one category to another will be included
- Directed *Denise* to review Quickbooks to see if we had previously created an Invoice for SRBC to send down on behalf of AES for submission on work completed for the **Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project**; *Mike* made the EPCAMR version of the Mocanaqua Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Water Quality Monitoring Excel

data file editable for Staff and distributed it to project partners; The database will be added to on a monthly basis following sampling events and lab water quality data results, once they are returned from Hawk Mountain Labs and Mahaffey Labs; Followed up with *John Pippy*, AES on the initial results of the dye study which hasn't shown anything significant and the SRFA Agreement approval completion by PA DCNR; EPCAMR needed to provide additional signatures on the SFRA and will be circulating the documents to our President and Secretary; SRBC pulled the sondes to check the dye accumulation for the tracer study; Reported to SRBC that 3 months of water quality data was still not enough to establish a proper curve of the flow of the water; Requested publicly available water quality data from the SMP # 40150201, ID #36-10177 from the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office to assist EPCAMR and SRBC with our Consumptive Use Feasibility Study and State Forest Research Agreement with PA DCNR; Set up a meeting to come down and pull the water quality data from the file to assist with the project and background historical water quality data; Provided SRBC with an EPCAMR Progress Report and Invoices for Request for Payment up through June 2018

- *Aaron Clauser*, Clauser Environmental received the large transfer files of GIS maps for the City of Wilkes-Barre to begin creating updated maps for the parks and other areas around the City that we will be assessing under the ***Wilkes-Barre City NFWF Stormwater Technical Assistance Grant***, Clauser Environmental has prepared base maps with aerial photos, LIDAR, and site boundaries for each of the 9 public spaces that we will be surveying; Filed a PA One-Call Notice for all 9 public spaces; Left a voicemail with *Joyce Morrash-Zaykowski* to bring her up to speed on the project; Shortly, Clauser Environmental will plot responses from PA One-Call on the maps; EPCAMR and Clauser Environmental will visit each of the sites and sketch the draft concepts on the base maps after brainstorming ideas for green infrastructure on July 10th-11th, 2018
- Followed up with *Ben Lorson*, PA Fish & Boat Commission Project Officer to see if the final reimbursement request was processed for EPCAMR to pay River Logic Solutions for the final construction work done on the ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration Project***, Touched base with *Matthew Williams*, who is an Eagle Scout candidate for the Boy Scouts to see if he had put together his project application for submission to construct a small educational kiosk for the Ashley Borough Park and to secure funding for it as well as 4 trash containers for the Park; *Matthew* forwarded the documentation to EPCAMR to send along to Ashley Borough for approval; Sent along a letter to *Greg Gulick*, Ashley Borough Manager to have him sign the Landowner Access/Maintenance Agreement that was already signed by the EPCAMR President and send a copy back to EPCAMR to send along to the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Informed *Greg* that EPCAMR was working on the final interpretative sign for the park to illustrate the work that was done and who all the partners were on the project; Received the signed Landowner Access Agreement and forwarded an electronic copy to *Ben Lorson*-PA Fish & Boat Commission; Made an official request to PA Fish & Boat Commission to extend the agreement deadline to September 30, 2018 to

complete the interpretative sign and have it installed in the Ashley Borough Park and it was approved; EPCAMR Executive Director and EE Intern, Laura Rinehimer will:

- list all of our project partners on the sign, including the construction contractor
 - where the funding came from
 - get logos of all partners, (unless we have them already) for placement on the sign
 - describe the dam removal process and benefits of the removal,
 - describe the cross vanes that were placed in-stream and the reasons why they were constructed
 - include a few select photos in color for the sign
 - describe the use of native vegetation for streambank stabilization
 - decide on the size of the sign and the construction materials to be used
 - include a final design drawing as an element of the sign
- Sent *Denise* a copy of Johnny's Selected Seeds online catalog for our upcoming new project called "**Reclaiming Our Backyard**" Food By Youth Community Health Program to be funded by ISI, Inc. and the Mental Insight Foundation; Convened a Conference Call with ISI, Inc. to discuss the project proposal drafted by the EPCAMR Executive Director with *Claudia Meglin* and *Pamela Reynolds*
 - Ordered a large 24" monitor and Dell Inspiron 17" laptop under the **MSI 2013 Mine Map** grant from Dell Refurbished Factory Outlet Sales

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- EPCAMR Staff began finalizing the online registrations, speaker confirmations, and t-shirt sizes in advance of the **PA AMR Conference**; Ordered NASCO Whirlpacks for iron oxide to package the iron oxide pigment for the AMD Tie-Dye T-shirts that will be given away to attendees at the Conference and provided them with EPCAMR's Tax Exemption Certificate; IMCC had to decline making a plenary presentation at the Conference; Finalized the tour schedule with our partners with the PA Fish & Boat Commission for the Stackhouse School and the Fish Hatchery at Fisherman's Paradise and *Jay Russell* at Graymont; Talked to *Anne Daymut*, WPCAMR about how to approach our lunch time facilitation on going forward as an agenda related to SMCRA and defining success over the last 20 years with conference attendees; Continued working with EPCAMR Staff to begin pulling together resources for the Conference; Convened our last Conference Planning Committee call and reviewed the final contract, floor plan, room layout, and meal transitions; Pulled together our Silent Auction items for the Conference; Purchased name cards for the Conference; Confirmed with *Billy Joe Knepp*, Long Motor Buses, about our bus for the Pre-Conference Tour and provided her with the itinerary for the trip; Ordered a buttercream 20th Anniversary cake from WEIS Market in State College and were informed to bring the PA AMR Conference logo to the store once we arrived in town; Obtained a **\$50** donation card from WEIS Markets in Nanticoke for payment of the cake and picked it up; Allowed *Stephen Lee*, Bloomberg Environment, Reporter to

attend the Conference as Press; Coordinated picking up the two Mayfly Awards from *Mark Chuck* at Marywood University who are listed below:

Craig R. Morgan
2018 Mayfly Award
20th Annual PA AMR Conference

David Mankamyer
2018 Mayfly Award
20th Annual PA AMR Conference

- Convened the 20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference in State College on June 20th-21st successfully; Conference presentations will be uploaded to www.treatminewater.com

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 June 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Submitted timesheets to EDSI for the TWE Interns working for EPCAMR; EPCAMR was able to secure funding through EDSI for a third TWE Intern and brought on *Laura Rinehimer* as our Environmental Education Intern
- Attended the PATU Summer EXCOM Meeting in Bellefonte at the PA & Fish & Boat Commission Office
- *Ian Redding* and *Brandon Ball* followed up with an e-mail about their interest in the MSI GIS Watershed Technician position and submitted their cover letter and resumes
- Payments continued to come in for the PA AMR Conference for registration as the dates of the Conference get closer and closer to June 20-21st, 2018
- Forwarded the PA Anthracite Council's Monthly June Report around to the EPCAMR Staff
- *Monica Conroy*, Sales Manager for [Hyatt Place](#), State College, PA contacted EPCAMR to see if we were interested in utilizing their facilities for a future conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation and offered to show EPCAMR around the next time we were in State College for an event
- Talked with *Donna Yearyean*, Client Coordinator for NonProfit Megaphone, about their assistance they provide to non-profits to apply for the [Google Ads Grant](#); It wasn't a fit for EPCAMR; She directed us to some blog posts from her site and to another smaller company, [RoundUp App](#), that helps non-profits raise funds online
 - [Ultimate List of 50 Nonprofit Marketing Ideas](#)
 - [Social Media Tips from Leading Nonprofits](#)
 - [25 Grants Your Nonprofit Can Leverage + Winning Strategies](#)
 - [Fundraising Ideas for Nonprofits: 205+ Actionable Ideas for Your Organization](#)