



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### March 2021 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned 48, georeferenced, mosaicked 51 & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Updated EPCAMR Field Sampling Binder circa 2004, updated in 2011 & now for **NFWF QAPP**
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, a **CCWC** call, a **Susquehanna Chapter TU** call, a call with **Chesapeake Conservancy**, a call with **LCRA**, a call with **AC Power**, a call with **WPCAMR, PA DEP 319 & SRI**, the **HNRC MRS** virtual hearing & hosted an **EPCAMR Strategic Plan Mtg.**
- Sampled AMD Treatment Systems on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** & a site on the **Upper Lackawanna** for the **LCD**
- Updated [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) and [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org); administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Calculated amount needed for MSI 2-year extension and checked with EPCAMR Executive Director before sending it off to Jim Charowski at PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Program. [MSI]
- Participated in a call with Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) and Senator Toomey's staffer Hal Duncan.
- Continued working on Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and contacted John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist, for his comments.
- Took a few days off for my second Moderna COVID vaccine shot and foot treatment which makes my foot swell up for several days.
- Spoke with Adrienne Gemberling at the Chesapeake Conservancy over Zoom regarding GIS and how our databases could compliment theirs. Learned a lot about Practice Keeper limitations, a program suggested by DEP to have conservation district watershed specialists record information about best management practices (BMPs) for stream projects.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in a weekly PA AML Campaign Call.
- EPCAMR management staff and WPCAMR staff spoke with Trish Attardo PA DEP 319 about how to get AMD treatment system in Datashed over to Practice Keeper. Engaged Cliff Denholm from Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) and developer of Datashed to help with the task.
- Participated in a discussion regarding Practice Keeper with Cliff Denholm and Trish Attardo to talk about incorporating Datashed treatment systems and BMP categories into Practice Keeper.
- Split Solar on AML sites by anthracite coal field and sent to board members for comments.
- Participated in a Susquehanna TU zoom meeting regarding Loyalsock Creek Treatment Systems data from Hedin Environmental.

- EPCAMR management staff participated in a PA AML Campaign Call. Updated coal related bills spreadsheet with the newly introduced bills in the house and senate.
- The Practice Keeper discussion continues over email. Watched the Practice Keeper demo video to gain some more understanding of what it can do.
- Recorded Askam, Nanticoke Flow and recent Luzerne County AMD sampling data. Sent results to those waiting (EC and LCD).
- Participated in a call with the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority (LCRA) about transferring Luzerne County Railroad GIS data to ArcGIS Online for remote updates. Started on a proposal for next month.
- Digitally signed Tri-County County Action Plan (CAP) Scope of Work subcontract and sent to Larson Design Group (LDG). Updated Luzerne and started Lackawanna AMD tables sent to John and Bernie respectively for comments.
- Spoke with Ed Wtyovich, EPCAMR Past President, about Solar on AML sites in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field and Department of Energy (DOE) grants potential for ARIPPA. Passed the information on to Cristy Sweeney at ARIPPA.
- Created header image for 2021 PA AMR Conference website and began to add some content to the [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) website.
- Stopped into the office between doctors' appointments to pick up files. Aided Executive Director with his testimony before the House Natural Resource Committee's (HNRC) Mineral Resources Subcommittee (MRS) virtual hearing.
- Watched and commented in the feed as EPCAMR Executive Director to provide testimony before the HNRC MRS virtual hearing.
- Participated in an AML Campaign Call in the morning but took 1/2 sick day. Was not feeling great this week because of immune modifying foot cream started on Friday. Had a family doctors' appointment in afternoon and negative COVID test.
- Updated Appalachian Tree Planting event page and registration google form on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) for Laura.
- Prepared October to December 2020 EPCAMR 319 Reimbursement and submitted to Trish Attardo at the PA DEP 319 program. Caught up on time sheets and travel reimbursement requests.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and met with AC Power to discuss next steps in the Solar on AML project.
- Prepared a proposal for AC Power Solar on AML Phase II FP&NP estimates to Bobby and Steve for comment.
- Update Centralia Apple Tree form with EPCAMR Environmental Education Specialist. Asked for a previous liability waiver from EPCAMR Executive Director and posted blank version to google drive for future use.
- Finished up LCRA proposal after some research on sharing web layers securely with other organizations. Made a call to ESRI to confirm and contact Dan Reese at the Luzerne County Mapping Department to confirm their license to LCRA will allow the secure connection.
- Hosted an EPCAMR Strategic Planning Committee Meeting over zoom until I had to leave for a doctor's appointment.
- Coordinated with staff about upcoming field work and the Centralia Tree Planting event next month.
- Sent an email to MSI staff to gather their work for March. Spoke with EPCAMR Executive Director about MSI staff not meeting goals and hiring a new part time person.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Loaded MSI digitized geodatabases into one MSI Digi Quads map document. Reviewed digitizing progress and made notes in Google Documents for Frank. [MSI]
- Took flow at Nanticoke Creek headwaters and Espy Run below Bliss Banks for Earth Conservancy (EC). Met with EC to answer some GIS questions. [EC]
- Took flow at the location of the DIY Mayfly we installed on the Upper Lackawanna and delivered Mayfly components to Cheryl Nolan, Lackawanna Conservation District Watershed Specialist.

- Spoke with P.J. Malorchek from Miller Brothers Development Company, LP regarding depth to mine pool under a development site in the Mount Carmel Area.
- Sampled 5 discharges in Luzerne County for typical AMD parameters (metals, pH, alkalinity, sulfates, DO, ORP, TDS) and added nutrients (phosphates and nitrates) and sediment (turbidity) parameters for the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) with ARIPPA funding. [LCD]
- Finished QAPP and EPCAMR Field Monitoring Binder with wetland macro info and sent to Robert to forward on to NFWF.
- Built a list of recently georeferenced maps for Denise to add to PHUMMIS. QA/QC 49 georeferenced maps that Shawnese completed for Weston and Keely's Run Collieries from the KAGE collection. 25 were georeferenced copies of surface maps.
- Sampled Loyalsock upstream, downstream and in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift) for the Sullivan Conservation District (SCD) and Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. We discovered our YSI Pro Plus was not working right so we sent it in for refurbishment. Substituted with HACH kit DO and pH to make up for those parameters we normally take. Only missing the ORP parameter. [LCWA]
- Received word about our YSI meter from Fondriest. The cable was bad. We ordered a new cable. Fondriest will install it, tune up our unit and send it back. Researched additional probe(s) with similar parameters to our YSI Pro Plus. YSI Pro Plus was discontinued and the YSI Pro Quatro is the replacement. Looked at one with similar parameters but replaced the ORP with Nitrates. The cost is a little over \$3K but will be the most accurate and convenient setup for our needs. We could get a separate ORP stick meter, like the separate conductivity or pH meters. There are no reliable stick meters for DO or Nitrates.
- Sampled flow at Askam Treatment System, Nanticoke headwaters/Espy Run @ Espy Street.
- Spoke with Huber Breaker Society volunteer, Matt Stegura, working on the Wanamie No. 9 Lokie and forwarded information on the Luzerne County Parcel Map Viewer that should help him estimate a perimeter needed for a fence.
- Spoke with Justin Walters from Fondriest Environmental about fixing our YSI Pro Plus meter and got a quote for a YSI Pro Quatro. We decided to go ahead with both.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.