



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### March 2023 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, several **PA AMR Conference Committee** calls, Bay Day in the Hill with **CCWC**, and hosted 2 Solar on AML Focus Groups in Harrisburg and Latrobe with **DEP EPO**
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**; sampled 3 AMD TS, upstream & downstream on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** and **SCD**.
- Updated [www.PaSolarMinedLands.org](http://www.PaSolarMinedLands.org), [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com) and [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); administered G Suite for Nonprofits and social media sites; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR management staff participated in Bay Day on the Hill in Washington, DC. Joined other Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) nonprofit members in visiting legislative staff on Capitol Hill. With newly drawn boundaries in PA, we welcomed a few to the coal region, thanked others for their diligent work in AML related issues, and will follow up with maps and AML statistics related to their district when completed. EPCAMR staff visited Congresswoman Wild's staffer, Congressman Meuser's staffer, Congressman Glen Thompson himself and his staffer then both Senator Casey's and Senator Fetterman's staffers.
- The AMR Conference Committee had a discussion over email about partnering with the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) for our AMR Conference in October. Details like registration, scheduling presentations, and the contract with the facility will need to be worked out, but it seems like a good pairing.
- Working with Laura Rinehimer, EPCAMR Watershed Education and Outreach Specialist, and John Welsh from Rare Light Media (RLM) on Askam in Wonderland 3DVista Virtual Reality (VR) program. Provided them with images of the kiosks and links short video clips from the Brookie videos hosted on our YouTube Channel. The videos worked in the web preview but not on the Oculus VR Headset. Installed the 3D Vista VR program on the intern computer to see if I could sort out the problem. Installed a massive Oculus program on my computer to transfer the files to the VR headset.
- Sorted out the Meta account for the Oculus headset. Used EPCAMR Intern Instagram account instead of my personal Facebook account. It was more complicated than it seemed at first and required a factory reset of the headset.
- Participated in a "1 week out" meeting to discuss some outstanding items and logistics for the PA Solar on AML Focus Group at Harrisburg University on March 15th. Made changes to the [pasolaronminedlands.org](http://pasolaronminedlands.org) website wording to remove roundtable and replace with focus group.

- Discussion with WPCAMR staff about hosting National Technical Training Program (NTTP) AMD Passive Treatment Trainings not only for state workers but also for conservation district watershed specialists (CDWS) and watershed groups separate from the AMR Conference.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in an AMR Conference call with the Conference Committee and NASLR representatives to discuss having "parallel" conferences on October at the Altoona Grand Hotel. We would essentially share the space and costs, but registration and presentations would be separate. Our attendees would benefit from being able to attend parts of both conferences. Sorted out some logistics, but more discussions will be needed. Started looking at room layouts with Anne Daymut from WPCAMR and total number of attendees with info on a Google Sheet created from information on the venue website. Scheduled a meeting at the venue later this month for both groups to tour again and discuss contract changes.
- EPCAMR Management Staff took 3/4 of the Girard Estates maps back to Keystone Anthracite (what we could fit in our trucks). We will take the rest back when we can plan another time and possibly combine with a reconnaissance visit to the Shamokin Creek Watershed AMD Discharges.
- Created and sent Harrisburg University Solar on AML Focus Group logistics email to LaBella and DEP so they could verify that the information on parking and getting to the conference room made sense.
- Removed monster 11GB Oculus App from my Computer used to connect the headset to a gaming PC. We only needed the ability to copy files to the headset internal memory which can be done without installing the program. Continued to troubleshoot YouTube video clips into 3D Vista VR program on intern computer. Images Hot Spots will show on the headset, but not YouTube videos. Can't find a video tutorial to help. Contacted John Welsh for ideas.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in one last PA Solar on AML call before the Focus Group at Harrisburg University. Sent the logistics email to participants that signed up.
- EPCAMR hosted the PA Solar on Mine Lands Focus Group at Harrisburg University. Approximately 20 people were in attendance that were a good mix of stakeholders EPCAMR and LaBella had been looking for in the invitation process. Robert Young from DEP Energy Programs Office presented the expected goals of the meeting while LaBella staff facilitated discussions.
- Edited the PA Solar on AML form to take away the option to choose the Harrisburg Focus Group (which already happened) also set the form to automatically email a confirmation once the form is submitted.
- Updated the registration page on [2023.treatminewater.com](http://2023.treatminewater.com) to show the registration will open by August 1st and the deadline is a week before the conference in October. We plan to create a registration process for the PA Solar on AML Summit on July 19th to start in April and run to mid-July. To avoid confusion, we only want one registration process to be available at a time.
- Coordinated with Diane Madl to have EPCAMR staff at the DCNR watershed forum next week.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in an AML campaign call. Follow up call with Branden Diehl from the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW).
- EPCAMR staff participated in DCNR Watershed Forum AMD/AML Day. Presentations by Earth Conservancy (EC) and EPCAMR staff in the morning followed by a field trip to Askam AMD Treatment System and Bliss AML Reclamation and Redevelopment Site in the afternoon.
- EPCAMR Management staff drove to Altoona to meet with other AMR Conference Committee members and NASLR representatives at Altoona Grand Hotel to sort out a combined contract.
- Worked on Askam in Wonderland VR project to get videos working after back and forth with 3Dvista VR Technical Support. Discovered that there are certain types of hot spot actions that do not yet work with VR Headsets and we will have to work around those features. Had to embed the videos instead of linking them from YouTube. Added some labels to roads and the stream to point out those features. Attempted to add information windows, but those do not work for the on the Oculus headset either. May have to create images from the text and post them as pop up images. Also found royalty free background sound for the stream, pond and road areas. Still having a no sound issue on videos or ambient sounds. John said he would purchase a VR Headset to help resolve this issue.
- Created and sent the Saint Vincent College Solar on AML Focus Group logistics email.

- Worked on Bear Creek and 319 reimbursements after comments from the 319 program staff. For the first time, we were asked to reduce the reimbursement request from the 319 program paperwork for the amount of the Bear Creek grant reimbursement over the same time period. In the past, it never mattered whether we ask for the full amount now or reduce the amount now then ask for it later. We only get 70% of the funding needed to support the costs for the Executive Director and Program Manager from this grant. As costs grow year after year, this funding source has stayed the same at \$130K per year for almost a decade. We always expect not to reimburse for these increasing staff costs for many months toward the end of the grant period. EPCAMR finds the makeup funds through other grants and professional services related to our goals in the 319 grant. Though match is not required, we count this unreimbursed amount as match toward the grant equaling approximately 30%. This recent change only makes the paperwork more difficult to fill out. Started November progress report.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in another AMR Conference call to share the decisions made at the Altoona Grand Hotel.
- Participated in a meeting with EC and Tetra Tech to discuss the hydrogen peroxide testing performed on Askam AMD discharge and next steps with the potential system revamp / replacement.
- Traveled to Latrobe to host a Solar on Mined Lands focus group at St Vincent College. As with the first meeting, DEP staffer presented the goals for the meeting and LaBella facilitated the discussion.
- Wrote up notes from 2nd Pennsylvania Geologic Survey Maps into an Excel Spreadsheet and sent to PSU Librarian, Linda Musser.
- Reworked Shamokin Sampling proposal for a 4th time to split in to 4 month and 2 month proposals to match funding that is currently available for the work as a mathematical mistake was made on Tetra Tech's side when they were relaying the cost of sampling to SCRA. Also, a lot of paperwork was required for us to be a sub-contractor under Tetra Tech.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek, and 2 flow sites. [EC]
- Re-wrote the HACH AMD Test Kit Quick Reference guide because we realized that the multiplication factor of 17.1 for the Total Acidity Test was wrong. Titration drops should be multiplied by 20 instead. Added the Low Range (0-100 mg/L) Acidity Test instead instructions as well to get a more refined 5 mg/L per drop increments. Laminated the instructions and replaced the old ones in the field test kits.
- Worked on importing weather data from Agrible daily emails via MailParser to Google Sheets. Broke up the sites into different tabs. Will need to cancel account Pro at end of month and fix the date grab coding, but the data table looks good and will be usable for comparing weather data with our flow data.
- Entered Askam sampling data for the past 2 months into our field sampling data Google Sheet and sent to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Replaced WBDO\_095-15 map with a clearer copy, the BMSA\_4905-16 map that came over from Pittston Quadrangle Lo Ross Vein mosaic, in the Kingston Quadrangle Lo Ross Vein mosaic. Expanded geor\_BMSA\_5353-001 map footprint and removed an overlapping copy, geor\_BMSA\_1181-002 that came over from the Kingston Lo Ross Vein mosaic. Re-georeferenced geor\_BMSA\_5353-004 from Kingston Lo Ross Vein mosaic to match the geor\_BMSA\_1303-001 map in Pittston Quadrangle Lo Ross Vein mosaic. Added geor\_BMSA\_5353-004 to the Pittston Quadrangle Lo Ross mosaic. Added maps from EPCAMR staff supplied CSV snapshots of Pittston Quadrangle Up Ross, Up and Middle Red Ash Veins to groups in ArcGIS Pro table of contents. These mosaics were sent to me from staff, but I was thinking these 3 vein mosaics should exist in the Pittston Quadrangle even if only a few maps in each. Started to compare these groups of maps to other existing vein mosaics that were above or below. [MSI]

- Removed geor\_BMSA\_1182-002 from Kingston Quadrangle Up Ross Vein mosaic. Looked through remaining Keystone Anthracite Girard Estates (KAGE) collection of maps here at the office. 30 TIFF scans were missing from those that were scanned in July. The files exist on our network drive but were corrupted by the checkmate ransomware attack months ago. Contacted Patrick Jaquay to see if they were on the travel drive that was sent to DEP on July - August 2022. Otherwise, we may have to get the bags back from Keystone Anthracite to rescan. Found the original inventory we created when we brought the maps to our office and were reminded that we wanted to ask Penn State University (PSU) library if they were missing some 2nd Pennsylvania Geologic Survey maps. The ones in KAGE collection seem to be more complete than they have online. Contacted the PSU Library to ask if they were interested. [MSI]
- Follow up with Patrick about the 2nd Pennsylvania Geologic Survey maps we had from the KAGE collection. Contacted the PSU library to see if they were interested in digital scans of them. Patrick said we could scan them all and give them to PSU library but only log ones into PHUMMS that were underground mine maps, surface coal mines or coal cross sections. [MSI]
- Uploaded a Layer Package of the Wilkes-Barre West Digitizing Geodatabase to MSI Program OneDrive to show progress for the last reimbursement since no maps were scanned and very few were georeferenced. Patrick reported that they could not find the travel drive and it could have been lost in the mail, but because we don't pay extra for proof of delivery there is no way to know. Submitted a Missing Mail request to the USPS to hopefully find the MSI travel drive.
- Double checked Frank Sindaco, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist's, numbers for the AML Statistics by Congressional District. AML Feature Polygon acreages seemed off. Remembered that we needed to reproject the shapefile to an Albers Equal Area to conserve Area and calculate geometry to get Acres. Relayed the workflow to Frank and the numbers he produced afterward seemed within range.
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the SCD & Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Produced Statewide and District 8 Maps with AML statistics by Congressional District produced by Frank. Shared with the members of PA AML Campaign.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.