



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2018 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 60 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 3 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work. Received a **\$485K** grant to continue the work for another 3 years.
- EPCAMR staff participated in 3 AMR Conference Calls, a AML Campaign Call, a fundraising event at **Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders**, a field tour in the **Nescopeck Creek Watershed**; Live streamed and raised brook trout in TIC tank all in the name of EE.
- Created RAMLIS version 18; Collected registration info for the AMR Conference database; Digitized mines under the **SEDCO Industrial Park** and delivered work to the **Northumberland County Planning Commission**
- Sampled monitoring stations near **Mocanaqua** for the **SRBC**; Sampled 7 AMD treatment systems for the Dashed Snapshot and 2 along the **Loyalsock Creek** for the **Sullivan Conservation District**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org; Transferred items to the new online store platform; Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts; Maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstations.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Followed through with plans for new MSI grant by moving current staff up (1 received a raise and 1 from part time to full time), but we will still have to hire a new person to keep up with the workload.
- Received word from the landowner that they were not going to allow us to construct the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design project because we would make too much noise for the retirement home. Notified the state we would have to turn back the grant and began looking into Quickbooks to prepare. Began writing invoices to cover unreimbursed time. [DEP GG]
- EPCAMR staff participated in 3 AMR Conference Committee call to coordinate the conference the following month.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a fundraising event at the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders ballpark called community in the game.
- EPCAMR and SRBC staff showed the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and a driller the locations where we would like to place monitoring boreholes in the Black Creek Watershed for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. [SRBC]
- Printed several more maps of the Western Middle Field Mine Pools for the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA).
- Handed over reimbursement paperwork for the DEP 319 program to EPCAMR bookkeeper to aide in speeding up the process. We are hoping to get a better cash flow of reimbursements coming in vs payments going out. Sent reimbursement for the month of January.

- Participated in an abandoned mine land campaign call to discuss policy changes in Washington DC and how it might affect coal communities.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the PA DCNR Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum
- Issues with a leaking engine intake manifold our GMC Suburban caused us to take it to the shop for repairs. Mechanics replaced a few old parts and warned about a clamp that could be causing an engine hesitation.
- Received word that our Mine Mapping Grant from PA DEP was funded for another 3 years to the tune of \$485,000.
- Traveled to Hazleton to participate in a tour of the Nescopeck Creek with Friends of the Nescopeck and Penn Future. Discussed the projects that had gone on and future projects to clean up the water.
- Participated as an unpaid volunteer at the Lackawanna RiverFest as search and rescue for the Canoe Race. Followed in my pickup truck to take boaters and their boats that “bailed” the race to the finish line at Sweeney’s Beach.
- EPCAMR management staff and board president met with the Luzerne County Rail Authority in West Pittston to discuss a need for digitization of their map collection. Listened to their ideas, came up with a scope of work similar to what we do for the PA DEP Mine Mapping Grant. EPCAMR will come up with a proposal for their next meeting.
- Welcomed our first intern of the year, Scott Cimacosky, who had participated in Earth Conservancy’s Environmental Workforce Development program. Scott’s previous jobs were in IT for a financial institution. His knowledge will be helpful to tackle some IT issues we have been having at the office. Began by teaching Scott how to add information to Datashed.org.
- EPCAMR management staff and president decided to cancel the 2nd quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting because there wasn’t much on the agenda. Our president requested an interim financial report and a summary report from the executive director. Prepared minutes from the last board meeting and shared them with the board as well.
- Updated www.treatminewater.com with some suggestions from the AMR Conference Committee, created a registration reminder email through Mail Chimp stating the conference is only a month away, and created a QR code to easily link to our 20th Anniversary Oddity Award survey.
- Created Program Manager report for the month of February and submitted a reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 program.
- Fulfilled a few iron oxide orders for local artists and found a batch of Silverbrook Purple pigment to process. We will need to go collect additional raw material from McAdoo.
- Added Lewis Treatment System in Sullivan County to Datashed with Scott.
- Changed out lights over the entrance to the office. The bulbs are 8-foot-long and in a fixture that has to be original to the building in the 1960s. Unfortunately, we do not have a maintenance department to call when the lights flicker.
- Now that Patagonia/DHL is setting up their office in the Hanover Industrial Estates (former abandoned coal mine lands) executives began stopping in on a regular basis. Yvonne Besvold stopped in to see how our Aquatic Organism Passage Surveys were going with the money from Patagonia. It’s nice to have a grantor that shows that they are genuinely interested in the project that they funded, not that others aren’t. It helps that they are only a ¼ mile away. We followed up with a link to our DailyMotion account so she can show her colleagues some of the work that we are doing.
- Created RAMLIS version 18 with updated data from Datashed, National Map, PASDA and our repositories. Downloaded the data and formatted it to work in the ArcGIS platform. Created some CDs and ISO downloadable format for sale on shop.epcamr.org.
- Sent our Anthracite Discharge Points layer to PASDA to update their copy.
- Welcomed our second intern of the summer, Shawnese Taylor, who was also a graduate from the Earth Conservancy’s Environmental Workforce Development program. Shawnese picked up the mapping programs (ArcGIS and AutoCAD) well and the teachers mentioned that she was helping others in the class. We are excited to see her skills applied to our technical programs.

- Worked with Denise to secure some silent auction items/ funding from local stores. Applied to Wegmans, Weis, Garrity's and Sheil's Markets to start.
- Caught up on AMR Conference registrations and reported the totals for the month to the conference committee.

Technical Assistance:

- More issues with M and X Drives. Attempted to troubleshoot and contacted Sans Digital Technical Support.
- Spoke with Branden Diehl, Foundation for PA Watersheds, about GIS work they needed completed for the Little Conemaugh Watershed. They plan on using the maps and data for a statistical study of the watershed. [FPW]
- Printed a US Geological Survey (USGS) open file report from 1968 titled Geology, Hydrology, and Geochemistry of the Black Creek Watershed near Mocanaqua, Luzerne County, PA for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. This report contains information that will be helpful in building a 3D mine pool model and better understanding the mine drainage system. [SRBC]
- Finished digitizing mines under the SEDCO Industrial Park with a color scheme to show depth from the surface and potential for subsidence. Sent previews to the Northumberland County Planning Department, County Conservation District and SCRA.
- Converted a water monitoring database for the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project to google sheets so that staff could easily collaborate on the spreadsheet. Searched for LiDAR elevations via ArcGIS to add to each monitoring location. [SRBC]
- Sent re-georeferenced maps to Patrick at the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO). Also asked about how to modify the catalog information of maps that were not scanned by us, but we georeferenced them. [MSI]
- Printed several maps for Gabby Zawacki now that she is working for Patagonia/DHL.
- Spoke with Marty Gilgalon, formerly PA Tectonics, about a lake in Hegins and if it was undermined or a strip pit. In that particular area, there were no mines that I could find.
- Downloaded data from the transducer in the Old Forge Borehole and changed the desiccant.
- Prepared for Dashed Snapshot Sampling by ordering bottles from the lab and scheduling visits to treatment systems.
- Purchased a Hardware RAID device and researched NAS (network attached storage) as recommended by our Intern, Scott. The old SansDigital RAID towers were software driven and relied on the computer to organize the drives and serve them up to the network. I found out recently from the manufacturer that these drives were not made to be shared over a network. The Hardware RAID is faster and more reliable because it takes care of the RAID configuration internally. It is still shared by the computer to the network. A NAS is a mini computer (linux based) that is specifically built to serve hard drive space to the network.
- Continued with updates to www.treatminewater.com and switched over to shop.epcamr.org for the EPCAMR online store. Started collecting registration information via the new online store as well.
- Produced poster sized maps of the mines under the SEDCO Industrial Park and sent them along with 2 cross sections to the Northumberland County Planning Department.
- Attempted to hook the Hardware RAID tower directly to the router, which required using some 3rd party software to manage the router. Scott and I tried, but the router would not recognize the drive. We thought perhaps there was a drive size limit to what can be shared on via the USB port. The router seemed to function better however and can now be fine-tuned.
- Sampled field flow and chemistry at the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. Collected water samples at the tunnel discharge and sent them to Hawk Mountain Labs for analysis. Took transduced readings wirelessly with the app reader to my smart phone. Recorded all this in a google spreadsheet. [SRBC]
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (WALA Connel B and C Tunnel AMD treatment systems), upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek to judge the effectiveness of the upgrades to the Connel B Tunnel AMD treatment system. [LCWA]

- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (Aylesworth Treatment System in Lackawanna County and Askam Treatment System in Luzerne County) and collected water samples for lab analysis for the Datashed Snapshot. Planned to do more this day, but the timing belt broke on our GMC Suburban and we had to be towed to a repair shop. The repair was relatively quick and inexpensive.
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 4 treatment systems (Oneida #3, Oneida #1 in Schuylkill County and Buck Mountain #2 ALD and Lausanne Wetland in Carbon County) and collected water samples for lab analysis for the Datashed Snapshot.
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 1 more treatment system (Espy Run in Luzerne County) and collected water samples for lab analysis for the Datashed Snapshot. Sent all the Datashed Snapshot lab samples to Mahaffey Labs via FedEx.
- Ordered Aluminum and Sulfate reagents for the YSI Photometer and a part for the Swoffer flow meter. They got a lot of use over the past few weeks.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.