



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2019 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 90 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 101 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Met with **Luzerne Co. Rail Corp.** to deliver GIS data to **Redevelopment Auth. of Luzerne Co.**
- EPCAMR staff participated in a **NAAML** meeting, **LRCA Riverfest**, **PA AML Campaign** calls and lead an AMD tour for **Nescopeck State Park** volunteers.
- Collected **NAAML** registration information from online orders.
- Raised **TIC** trout and aided in forum for **PA FB&C**; livestreamed tank at www.dailymotion.com
- Updated www.epcamr.org; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAML as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Sent invites to attend the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) 2019 Joint Conference in Pittsburgh in September via MailChimp. Also made non-profit and watershed groups aware of the half off discount on registration and travel scholarship they could receive.
- NAAML 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.
- Facilitated a discussion with EPCAMR board members and staff related to the future of Co-Gen Power Plants and their lands. The premise was that when they are thinking about shutting down, is there anything to help them restructure. There are several assets to keeping them in the power industry if that no longer includes waste coal processing. Their connections to the electric grid, their reclaimed lands, their corporate structure, etc. As I learned from my trip to Germany, fossil fuel power companies had to transform into renewable energy companies to stay afloat. The other option was to turn to foreign resources (i.e. Russian supplied gas) which was uncertain depending on relations with that country. Several were not successful, but some were and some turned to foreign resources. We were tasked by our immediate past president, Ed Wytovich, to brainstorm ideas and present them to the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA). We know wind turbines are successful in Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA). One question that remained to be answered was, "How well does solar power do in NEPA?" I contacted a residential solar contractor out of California to get a quote on my house. It turns out that about ¾ of my roof is ripe for solar production. Green Solar could install a STC-DC 5.27 kW solar system that was estimated it will produce 6,750 kWh per year at my latitude for a cost of approximately \$20K. The estimate was based on my electricity bill where I spent 8,700 kWh in a year. In the spring months, I would be sending excess power to the grid, but the rest of the year I would use all the solar power and

some, but it could cut my bill by approximately 70%. So residential solar works well in NEPA, but commercial is still unknown.

- EPCAMR management staff participated in a conference call to discuss developments in the RECLAIM Act and to find out who was available to participate in the Blue Green Alliance “fly-in” to DC to talk to legislators in June.
- Participated in the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) RiverFest as registration at the Blakely River Complex boat launch and then Search and Rescue for the Canoe-a-Thon Race.
- Completed quarterly review of QuickBooks to generate the treasurer’s report including a jobs list and grant prospects list. Prepared and uploaded last meeting minutes and agenda the www.epcamr.org for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Met with a crew from MSNBC to visit several AML and AMD sites in preparation for a “Hardball with Chris Matthews” event in Wilkes-Barre.
- EPCAMR staff participated in three AML Campaign Conference Calls to discuss reauthorization of collection of fees to the AML Trust fund through the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) which will sunset in 2021. Looking for a congressional leader to introduce a bill.
- Spoke with Ramada Inn and Conference Center staff to schedule potential June 2020 dates to host the PA AMR Conference.
- Created the EPCAMR Program Manager report for the months of January, February and March. Uploaded staff reports to www.epcamr.org. Prepared Reimbursement paperwork and submitted to PA DEP.
- Created an AML Reauthorization Resolution in Google Forms and distributed it via MailChimp to the EPCAMR Board list.
- Heard from the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association and DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO) that Kehley Run (clean water) was diverted recently into the Shen Penn Pit which drains to a mine pool and out as mine drainage. It is unclear whether the diversion was man made or if it was caused by sediment clogging up the stream since the removal of the dams upstream. DEP is 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.
- Updated legislative and county conservation district contact lists on the PA AML Campaign google drive to coordinate the outreach to those groups on the need to reauthorize SMCRA by 2021.
- EPCAMR staff lead a “Golden AMD Tour” in the Wyoming Valley with senior citizen volunteers of the Nescopeck State Park. Sampled South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes AMD discharge in the process which still spits out 3,000 to 6,000 pounds of iron per day into the Solomon Creek.

Technical Assistance:

- Updated www.epcamr.org to Wordpress 5.2 but in the process an error occurred that updated out PHP version automatically which shut down the website and online store. Resolved the issue with our webhosting service, Host Gator.
- Replaced a ballast in an aging fluorescent light fixture in the office and replaced a burned out bulb in another fixture. Sprayed upshot paint to cover water stains on ceiling tiles.
- Added 6 more maps to the Wilkes-Barre West Quadrangle No. 3 Vein Mosaic for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG). Determined that one map was incorrectly drawn as it showed the No. 5 Vein of the Truesdale and Loomis Mines on the same map. It should have shown the No. 6 Vein of the Loomis mine when elevations are considered. Corrected the error in the mosaic. In this area, the numbered veins are recorded differently in these mines from each other and in reverse of surrounding mines: Huber, Sugar Notch, Nottingham and Buttonwood. [MSI]
- Attempted to add 3D data to ArcGIS online account at epcamr.maps.arcgis.com, but multipatch shapefiles are not supported. Researched what was allowed and started to add Luzerne County Rail Road data to the site as an interactive web map. Learned that there are limitations from what can be done with a CD or digital download also that it would cost 1.92 ESRI credits

per month just to host the vector information and about 480 credits per month to host the georeferenced images. In our contract we only have 100 for the year. Extra can be purchased for at \$1 per 10 credits which equates to about \$600 per year. Abandoned the idea but started to formulate a plan for adding RAMLIS as a web app which should allow us to share the data and stay within our credit limit for the year. [RALC]

- Assisted Redevelopment Authority of Luzerne County in obtaining an ArcGIS Pro license, but they were not eligible for a discount directly from ESRI. They would have to purchase it at \$700 per year. Spoke with Luzerne County Mapping Department about assisting the Luzerne County Rail Authority with obtaining an ArcGIS license at a better price. Downloaded QGIS freeware as an alternative. [RALC]
- Transferred processed railroad maps and layers to a travel drive and EPCAMR staff met with Margie at the Luzerne County Rail Authority. She was impressed and agreed to work with Luzerne County Mapping department to obtain a license of ArcGIS Pro. EPCAMR will transfer the data and give a primer for usage afterward. [RALC]
- Troubleshooted the large format ColorTrac 56" Map Scanner which is no longer under warranty. The scanner lights would go out and would continue to scan resulting in a black image. Took it apart to get to the individual LED panels and test each one with a variable power supply. Found the bad LED and replaced it. [MSI]
- Algae had grown in the TIC tank and choked out the water cress mats contained within the redd baskets. A moldy smell took over the office. Did a 40% water change and cleaned out the redd baskets and started a new batch of water cress seedling to help control the nitrate levels.
- Several people on the AML Campaign and RECLAIM act listserves were no longer getting the emails. Worked with our webhost to add SPF authentication to our emails. This did not resolve the issue. Worked with individuals from Trout Unlimited to determine that the emails were showing up in their junk folder and they needed to mark them as "not spam" to get them to show up in their regular email.
- Aided EPCAMR Intern, Conal Herron, scan mine maps for the mine mapping grant [MSI].
- Updated the staff page on www.epcamr.org

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.