



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### May 2018 Progress Report

#### Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR Staff conducted an outreach program on May 11<sup>th</sup> with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area's Height's Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and assisted teacher *Kevin Sickle*, Science Coordinator, *Mike Corcoran*, and the students with releasing their trout fingerlings raised during their ***Trout in the Classroom*** Program
- Provided *Kaitlin Fauerbach*-Speech-Language Therapist for the Lake Lehman School District with a link to [Acorn Naturalist](#) since she is on the Lake Noxen Elementary Grow with the Flow Committee; She was looking to purchase the green magnifying glasses that EPCAMR uses and the students used at their Earth Day event in late April that they borrowed
- EPCAMR Staff attended the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders baseball game as their Community Organization of the Night as a small fundraiser and awareness of our organization to the crowd in attendance; *Gavin* threw out the first pitch, while the Executive Director did an on-air live interview and gave an overview in front of the crowd with an on-field interview; EPCAMR set up an exhibit for the evening and talked with interested fans at the game
- Informed *Gavin* that *Bert Myers* will be the new contact in the PA DEP EE Program since *Ann Devine* has recently moved back to the Water Resources Planning Division and will be working with the Growing Greener Program and Section 319
- Provided PAEE with the Executive Director's brief biography to remain as an [Open Board Member and NE Regional Director](#) in the 2018 election for another 1 year term until 2019; Put the word out to members of the NE PAEE Region to consider running for an open position
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop for the Sullivan County 4-H One Day Camp in Forksville, PA on May 19<sup>th</sup> with EPCAMR Environmental Education Intern, *Laura Rinehimer* for around **50** youth ages 5-13 at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds
- Provided several video links from EPCAMR's [Daily Motion](#) site on our recently uploaded drone footage videos on a few of our projects to partners in the PA AML Campaign; *John Dawes* from the Foundation for PA Watersheds thought the videos were inspirational and should be considered for the Washington DC [Environmental Film Festival](#) in March of 2019

- Informed *Virginia Vassalotti*, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, that EPCAMR will be attending the Schuylkill Action Network Meeting at the Schuylkill Conservation District
- Communicated with *Lyndsay Taurus*, Alliance for Appalachia to discuss what PA AML Campaign partners are doing to continue to support the RECLAIM Act
- Informed by *Dr. Marianne Krasny*-Cornell University that the SESYNC Book Advance copy was distributed to her as the lead Editor of our collective [\*Grassroots to Global: Broader Impacts of Civic Ecology\* book](#) from Cornell University Press; EPCAMR Executive Director had co-written a Chapter in the book and will be shipped a copy; She asked all co-authors to share the book's web link with friends, family, and colleagues
- EPCAMR signed on to a CCWC Sign-On Letter showing our disapproval of HB 2154, which is the conventional oil & gas drilling bill that reenacts the Oil & Gas Act of 1984, rolling back protections almost 35 years and has significant implications for clean water in PA
- EPCAMR asked *Scott Herring* to send examples of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plates to EPCAMR for review so that we can decide on how many to order to sell on our online store as a possible small fundraiser and to create awareness for Anthracite's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- *Len Lichvar*, PA Fish & Boat Commissioner-District 4 requested that EPCAMR and WPCAMR make a presentation before the full Habitat Restoration Committee in Harrisburg to update all the Commissioners on our work and stream restoration work and habitat improvement work related to coldwater fisheries; EPCAMR Executive Director committed to making a presentation on behalf of EPCAMR at their next quarterly meeting on July 9th

## **Technical Assistance**

- *Leigh Ann Kemmerer*, EPCAMR Board Member sent a link to an upcoming webinar on Introducing the Neighborhood Voices Curriculum, Guidance, Lessons, and Hands-On Activities for Youth-driven Community Engagement Projects hosted by [Groundworks USA](#), US EPA's technical assistance provider who assists brownfields communities with incorporating environmental justice & equitable development approaches into their site cleanup and reuse projects
- Reviewed edits made by *Scott Cimkosky*, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern on the Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System drone flyover video that is on our DailyMotion/EPCAMR site; <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6iu7bl>

- Provided *Gabby Zawacki*-DHL Supply Chain with some print outs of several trail maps for the DHL-Patagonia site in Hanover Township, PA in Arc C 18" x 24" paper and a picture of the Huber OSM Folio Map
- *Marie McDonald*-United by Blue, Cleanup Coordinator requested assistance with publicizing an upcoming cleanup along the Susquehanna River between Route 11 Bridge and the W. Nanticoke Bridge, Plymouth Township, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9:30-1:00PM; It's an area that is set to become an extension of the Susquehanna Warrior Trail; As it turned out, UGI decided to cleanup up the area themselves internally, since it is on their property and right-of-way; [unitedbyblue.com/luzernecleanup](http://unitedbyblue.com/luzernecleanup) ; *Maria* signed up as an EPCAMR Volunteer to stay aware of our future events and volunteer opportunities after being sent our May 2018 Newsletter
- *Russ Collins*, Doc Fritchey Chapter TU in Dauphin County, requested EPCAMR's assistance in creating a watershed map of the areas that his Chapter covers and works in down in Dauphin, Schuylkill, and Lebanon Counties; Rachael has been assisting him in creating a draft map to see if it will work for him; He's interested in enhancing riparian buffers in many of the watersheds and is interested in individual watersheds being defined
- Coordinated with *Kamiliah Pendleton*-Geographer, OSMRE, Pittsburgh, PA about who'll be attending the Fall 2018 ArcGIS Pro Reclamation TIPS Training from September 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Informed her that *Gabby Zawacki* had moved on to another position and that EPCAMR would be hiring someone shortly that would replace her; EPCAMR will inform her as soon as possible on the position
- Set up a meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> with the Luzerne County Community Development Executive Director-*Andy Reilly* and *Margie Thomas* with the Luzerne County Rail Authority to see if EPCAMR can provide them with some professional GIS services to assist them with mapping their rail resources within Luzerne County in a GIS format
- Reviewed a draft updated version of the PAEE EE Certification brochure and made a comment to the PAEE Marketing Committee related to keeping the fonts consistent throughout the document
- Coordinated with *Cliff Denholm*-Stream Restoration Inc. about working with the EPCAMR Staff to get out and do a field reconnaissance of several regional AMD Treatment Systems for the **SNAPSHOT AMD Treatment Assessment**; EPCAMR Staff will be sampling the following sites;
  - Audenreid Tunnel, if accessible
  - Aylesworth ALD
  - Dundee Wetlands
  - Espy Run
  - Lausanne Tunnel
  - Oneida No 1
  - Oneida No 3
  - Lewis Mine Rehabilitation System

- EPCAMR signed up to receive notifications from the USGS on the Susquehanna River Gauge in Wilkes-Barre to get real-time hydrologic data on the river levels
- EPCAMR donated a Stroud Water Research Center Leaf Pack Kit to *Cheryl Nolan*-Watershed Specialist for the Lackawanna County Conservation District to begin doing Macro ID courses with youth and adults
- Received permission from *Marc Lewis*, the landowner of the Lewis AMD Rehabilitation Treatment System in Cherry Township, Sullivan County to grab a few water samples for the Datasched Snapshot sampling event being coordinated by Stream Restoration Inc.; Informed *Aaron Ponzter*, PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office that the EPCAMR Staff would be making a trip to grab the sampling during the month

## **Project Coordination**

- Shared the ***Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project*** drone footage video short to project partners as a preview until we get final word on the grant agreement with the PA DEP BAMR and then schedule a meeting with Swoyersville Borough and other local officials; Requested an update from *Dean Baker*-PA DEP BAMR on the grant agreement and contact documents since we hadn't heard anything in a few weeks
- *Nick Lylo*, PA DCNR District Forester provided EPCAMR a copy of the Bureau of Forestry Road Use Agreement and informed him that the tracer dye study would be placed in to the SFRA; EPCAMR printed it and reviewed it for future discussions on the ***Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project***; *Pierre MaCoy*- SRBC provided EPCAMR with a link to a 1968 document on historic flows, detailed geologic maps and early mine pool mapping that could be useful for EPCAMR in our project; <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr71343>; Forwarded the document around to the EPCAMR Staff and Project Partners; Requested from *Joe Young*-PA DCNR, who we should contact from the Topographic & Geologic Survey when it comes time to drilling the monitoring boreholes; Made a note to reach out to *Kim Snyder*-PA DEP BAMR to see if they have any additional information on past reclamation efforts within the Problem Areas in the vicinity of our project to include with the SFRA; Received our lab report back from Mahaffey Lab for our first results of the Ferrous Iron and Total Organic Carbon samples and included them in the EPCAMR Water Quality Monitoring Excel Data File for the Project; Mahaffey Lab made a clerical error that was caught and reconciled by the Executive Director and sent us what read as Ferric Iron, instead of Ferrous; Discussed ownership around the Mocanaqua Tunnel entrance and the conveyance towards the Susquehanna River; EPCAMR Executive Director is coordinating a meeting with the Shickshinny Sewer Authority and SRBC to discuss on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, however, the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to a later date; PA DCNR has advised that the AMD tunnel is not on their surveyed property; Looped *James Ridolfi*, Sr. Project Manager for Reilly Associates in on our future plans to meet with the Shickshinny Sewer Authority; Informed AES, LLC that EPCAMR Staff had sampled on May 24<sup>th</sup> and then

SRBC and the Executive Director went back out on the 25<sup>th</sup> and installed additional transducers in the Stripping Pits; EPCAMR sought permission to fly a drone over the site from PA DCNR; EPCAMR President and Secretary were asked to sign on behalf of EPCAMR as opposed to the Executive Director for the Mineral Prospecting Permit by PA DCNR; Sent around the documents electronically for signatures

- Provided *Aaron Clauser*, Clauser Environmental with the GIS City Parcel layers for the ***Wilkes-Barre City NFWF Stormwater Technical Assistance Grant***; Transferred the files online through WETRANSFERBIGFILES.COM due to the size of the files
- Planned a June 1<sup>st</sup> Tour the completed ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration Project*** in Ashley Borough with *Ben Lorson*, PA Fish & Boat Commission; Reviewed the Landowner/Access Agreement and forwarded it to the Borough for signatures; Invited *Greg Gulick*, Ashley Borough Manager along for the visit, but didn't receive a response

### **Community Volunteer Coordination**

- Provided a verification letter to *Tiffany Smith*, Columbia Co. Adult Probation for *C.H.*, who has already provided 8 hours of community service with EPCAMR on April 28<sup>th</sup> during the ***Pipe Road Cleanup*** along Newport Creek in Glen Lyon in Newport Township; He needs to fulfill 20 hours by August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will be back to assist EPCAMR over the Summer on other volunteer activities as they arise
- *Kyle Argenziano*, an Environmental GeoScience Major, Minor in GIS at Bloomsburg University signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer after seeking a paid internship and finding another internship in a similar field
- *Gabby Zawacki-DHL/Patagonia* signed up to continue to be an EPCAMR Volunteer
- *Joshua Pechulis*, Kingston, PA, *Markeez Smith*, Wilkes-Barre, PA and *Steven White*, Carbondale, PA both signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer
- *Jayce Temperine*, Reading, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Stream Restoration Volunteer and sent along his resume
- Informed *Cassidy Moyer*, Hudson, PA to sign up to become an EPCAMR volunteer and to review a few websites for future job opportunities in water quality around the State; Cassidy is the daughter of a high school friend of the Executive Director who will be graduated shortly from Wilkes University; Invited her to come in for a meeting to discuss any questions she might have about the environmental field and to offer serving as future mentor

- *Quinn Daniels*, Wilkes-Barre, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer who has an interest in AMD and iron oxide art
- *Sarah O'Hop*, inquired about volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR as a Community Development volunteer to assist with finding grants and funding sources for EPCAMR to target
- *Yajaira Castillo*, Wilkes-Barre, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer with an interest in marketing and nature

### **Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops**

- Sent a personal "thank you" to *Dr. Marianne Krasny*, Cornell U. for hosting the EPCAMR Executive Director and *Akiima Price* in Ithaca, NY for our recent talks that we provided around the University and our meetings with various graduate students and Professors interested in our work in civic ecology and environmental education
- Chemco Systems, LP and Commonwealth Equipment Corporation, signed up to become an exhibit at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PA AMR Conference; Worked with *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* to finalize the Conference Program; Jeddo Highlands Coal Company became a Bronze Sponsor
- Completed the nomination form for *Craig R. Morgan*-retired Schuylkill Conservation District Manager, as a candidate for the 2018 Mayfly Award for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PA AMR Conference and sent it along to *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* who was collecting all the nominations before the official voting; Obtained the Graymont Limestone Quarry Tour description from *Jay Russell* and informed the PA AMR Conference Committee that the PA DEP sponsorship funds were deposited; The Committee voted and *Dave Mankmayer* and *Craig R. Morgan* were selected for 2018; Cliff followed up with two potential bands for evening entertainment, Corned Beef and Curry and [WellStrungBlueGrass](#); Tried locating contact information for former WPCAMR Staff to attend the PA AMR Conference; Followed up with *Mark Chuck* and commissioned him to create two more Mayfly Awards for 2018; Delegated Committee members as moderators and as opening and closing speakers throughout the conference
- EPCAMR Staff attended the ***Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference*** in Lancaster, PA from May 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> , and made several presentations on our work and successful projects and programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed related to AMD and Environmental Education; Served as a survey volunteer during the Conference

- EPCAMR Staff provided a tour on May 11<sup>th</sup>, of the Jeddo AMD Mine Tunnel to *Jacqui Bonomo*, PennFuture, with *Tim Ference*, *Pete Haentjens*, and *Bill Schmitt*
- Received a confirmation that the EPCAMR Executive Director's presentation at the **2018 PROP** Conference on EPCAMR's Recycling Efforts with Iron Oxide was moved to July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Unique Recycling Panel Session in Harrisburg, PA
- EPCAMR Staff continued to make progress on the development of the **NAAML 2019 Conference** website, e-mail referral accounts, and online registration processing working with *Steve Golembiewski*, PA DEP BAMR, and reported back to the Conference Committee

## **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 May 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Submitted a signed a yearly Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Agreement to PA TU as a recently appointed member of the Board, Executive Committee, and volunteer NE Regional Vice President, and forwarded it to *Bob Pennell*, Secretary
- Payments began to come in for the PA AMR Conference for registration as the dates of the Conference get closer and closer to June 20-21<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- EPCAMR was able to bring on *Scott Cimkosky*, *Shawnese Taylor*, and *Laura Rinehimer* for a 12 week Transitional Work Experience (TWE) Program paid internship through the Luzerne County PA CareerLink and EDSI; Completed and signed a Work Site Agreement with EDSI and forwarded it back to *Kevin Ryan* at EDSI; Provided EDSI with weekly timesheets for the interns
- *Brian Ferry*, Boulder, CO informed EPCAMR that he had applied for our GIS Technician position and submitted a copy of his portfolio as did *Ian Redding*
- *Sherri Hanaway*, Bloomsburg, PA applied for EPCAMR's GIS Technician position and submitted her resume and references
- Worked with *Jessica Barbose*-PA OneSource to clarify a tax credit from the IRS to EPCAMR for 2017 from 2016
- Received clarification on whether or not EPCAMR has to provide full health care benefits to employees working more than 30 hrs from Highmark Underwriting under the ACA; Groups with 51 employees are considered a Large Group and that's who it applies to; EPCAMR is considered a small group and is therefore exempt from the mandate