



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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November 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- *Mike Piersa*-NMIH sent a [link](#) to a photo album of the first iron oxide ore smelt in Bethlehem, PA; Official photos are on the NMIH Facebook [Page](#)
- Sent around a link to a *Denise, Laura, and Shawnese*-EPCAMR Staff, to review the application and see if we can put together a [PA DEP EE Grant](#) for 2019; Attended a webinar on the EE Grant with *Laura Rinehimer* at Wyoming Seminary with several professors interested in partnering with EPCAMR on a smaller **\$3000** EE mini-grant
- ***Trout In the Classroom*** brook trout eggs were shipped to EPCAMR to begin our 3rd Year Involvement in Trout in the Classroom Program with PA Trout Council of TU and the PA Fish & Boat Commission
- Filmed additional footage on 11-10-18 at the Solomon Creek AMD Boreholes with *Joe Sapienza, Jen Mitlas, and John Welsh*, for the RECLAIMING PA Trailer with *Mike*, a few youth actors, and *Mark Clement*, who will be playing host; Provided *Mark* with some background information before he made the trip north from the Philadelphia area
- Invited to speak at Marywood University's 2019 Anthracite Mining Heritage Month as a panel presenter on EPCAMR's work in the Anthracite Region on mapping and 3D modeling of the Anthracite Underground Mines and Mine Pools on 1-18-19 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Schwartz Center B, Marywood University, Scranton
- Provided *Liz Rosser*, PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Program Coordinator with iron oxide pigment she'll be using as a wood stain for some carved fish that she'll be using as awards for a 2019 Program; Provided her with our EPCAMR Brochures on the uses of iron oxide as a pigment
- Informed by *Erik Dixon*-Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, that EPCAMR will be awarded a **\$2000** mini-grant from the RECLAIM Field Fund to support Staff time and some travel to meet with local legislators and their staffers in their District Offices; Funds will be allocated once a timeline is further discussed with *Erik* and how to distribute the funds to EPCAMR
- Provided *Rachael Grube*, EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist with content for the November EPCAMR Newsletter
- Set up an EPCAMR Exhibit and Macro Viewing Station for a STEM Program at Wilkes-Barre Area's Dan Flood Elementary School

Technical Assistance

- Provided *Liz Hughes*, EC, with a proposed cleanup plan for an illegal dump site that was found in Laurel Run Borough on their property within the Spring Run sub-watershed of Solomon Creek; It looks to be in the vicinity of a previously documented illegal dump that was in the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan prepared by EPCAMR several years ago that was recommended for cleanup; Followed up with *Maria McDonald*, United by Blue, to see if they were interested in helping EC, PEC NE Office, and EPCAMR out with funding or assistance with this project location next Spring or Fall 2019; The sites have to be 100' of a waterway and there are at least 10 Tons of trash around; Provided *Maria* with coordinates to the site in Laurel Run for reference
- Provided *Kerry Teter*-private landowner of the former MEDCO property in Dauphin County, in the Bear Creek Watershed with some earlier e-mail correspondence from back in September 2018 since he lost his phone and got a new one; Included a September Newsletter from WCRA documenting notes and recommendations from the EPCAMR Executive Director's visit to the site; *Kerry* is willing to work with EPCAMR, WCRA, PGC, Dauphin County Conservation District, and Doc Fritchey Chapter TU, on looking at future downstream treatment in the Bear Creek watershed and development of an O & M Plan for the former Bear Creek AMD Treatment system installed by the Dauphin CCD; Sent *Kerry* the October 2018 WCRA Newsletter; *Bill Nace*-WCRA, spoke with *Marlin "Shorty" Umberger*, Wiconisco, who is a historian and scout leader for over 40 years; He suggested pulling up "The Wandering Woodsman" to view videos of the area; He's making maps of the following areas for all the partners:
 - Lykens Tunnel and Bear Creek underground mining structure.
 - Big Lick (Dayton area) mining structure.
 - Williamstown Mine that goes thru the Mountain (*From Bear Valley to Lykens Valley that will include Sheridan Bank's footage*)
- Attended the PEC "Roots for Success" ARRI Reforestation Planning State-wide WorkGroup Meeting in State College, led by *Laura Bray*, PEC Program Coordinator, to discuss AML Reclamation, the need for a comprehensive GIS Inventory of Legacy Reclamation Sites, and the identification of private landowners where tree reforestation projects might be able to be planned and implemented in the future; Provided *Laura* with feedback following the meeting, discussed our RAMLIS Tool, defined various terminology related to abandoned mines, legacy sites, active, but idle mine sites, etc. for her, and requested a copy of the ARRI Presentation; Participated on a conference call on 11-28-18 with *Laura*, *Helena Kotala*, and *Tom Clark*-SRBC to discuss GIS Mapping needs and to form a small working group to map out the data gaps
- Provided *Ray Youngblood* and *Mike Gondell*, two members of the Western Pocono Chapter TU, with technical assistance following a field visit to Penrose Swamp, Hazle Creek, and other areas in the Black Creek Watershed that are mining impacted just outside of Weatherly on 11-13-18; Made some recommendations for future monitoring needs and provided them with sources of technical assistance through the TU TAG program; Provided them with contact information and other resources on previous work that EPCAMR has done with Weatherly Borough, PA DEP BAMR, Cabot Corporation, and the Wildlands Conservancy, including some historical water quality monitoring, flow, and macro data; Sent *Mike Gondell* typical parameters that need to be monitored for AMD and suggested they contact Hawk Mountain Labs for a comparison quote to the Kirby Health Center quote they received; Sent *Mike Gondell* photos that were taken around Penrose Swamp and the Hazle Creek watershed during our hike and recon; Informed *Mike* and *Ray* that there is still a need for funding for a future

hydrogeological investigation of the mine pools of the area, in addition to the development of the Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan for the watershed

- Followed up with *Hannah Buckley*, Growing Change AmeriCorps VISTA Coordinator Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Bucknell University after talking further with *Claudia Meglin*, ISI Inc., to let her know that there is a growing need for support in the region; EPCAMR suggested that *Hannah* send us an official letter stating their need for support and willingness to become a partner with EPCAMR in the region that will be forwarded to ISI, Inc.; *Claudia* was forwarded the letter on 11-12-18 and will be using this need to justify seeking additional funding and financial support from the Mental Insight Foundation to help others in the EPCAMR Region
- Forwarded *Kerry Teter*, Lykens, a copy of the November 2018 WCRA Newsletter and followed up with *Robert Frank*-Dauphin CCD Watershed Specialist, who made contact with *Steve Bernardi*-PGC to discuss future development of an O & M Plan for the Bear Creek AMD Treatment system and a partnership to look at the other AMD discharges in the area; Provided *Robert Frank* with links and contacts to funding sources to seek for O & M Plan development through a TU TAG or WPCAMR's Quick Response Program; Mentioned to *Robert* that EPCAMR would reach out to *Terry Schmidt*, formerly with Skelly & Loy, Inc. to see if there ever was a Plan developed since the DCCD nor PGC can locate one
- Sent *John Gibbons*, Ashley Borough Councilman, a link to the ***Brownfields to Playfields*** grant program for them to consider for future funding of the Huber Breaker property in the Borough
- Provided *Liz Hughes*, EC with a snow date (2-6-19) for the ***EC Introduction to Brownfields/Grayfields and AMD Environmental Workforce Training (EWT)*** scheduled for 2-1-19
- Discussed with *Aaron Clauser*, Clauser Environmental, LLC the remaining deliverables to Clauser Environmental, LLC before 12-21-18 under the ***NFWF Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices Technical Assistance grant***; Provided him with an invoice for the professional services for \$5000 for work completed on the project; Provided Clauser Environmental, LLC with a letter stating that \$2,500 worth of in-kind services has been completed on the project; Reviewed the concept designs and provided comments; Worked with *Joyce Morrash Zaycoski*-Wilkes-Barre City Office of Community Development to see if we can get a presentation with the City Council on 12-6-18 for public outreach on the completion of the project

Project Coordination

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Received a copy of the Environmental Assessment from our Project Manager, *Gerard Schmidt*, for the project, reviewed it, and filed it with the Project folder; Provided *Hank Zielinski* with some links to books by *David Dekok*, on the Centralia Mine Fire and resources on mine fires in PA; Requested from PA DEP BAMR that EPCAMR be placed in the upcoming news release on the 12-5-18 second informational meeting in Swoyersville on the project; Provided Colleen Connolly with a slide with the website link on it where project updates and fact sheet information will be located for the public to view at the request of the community members who were in attendance at the first meeting

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards

- Provided *Claudia Meglin*, ISI Inc. with contact information for *Bode Murin-Eckley* Miner's Village; Discussed various aspects of future film short shots with *John Welsh* and EPCAMR Staff working on the project; Provided an initial contact e-mail to *Bode* to introduce *Claudia* to him so that they can follow up with one another on the project and our interest in having Eckley Miner's Village and the Museum as a partner; Eckley can add a lot of value to the "patchtown life" concepts we'll be teaching about in our curriculum development; Participated in a Zoom conference call with project partners and ISI Inc. to discuss timing of future film shots and coordination; Worked with *Denise* to submit an Invoice for **\$6250** to ISI Inc. and inquired about payment for a previously submitted Invoice to attend the ARRI Conference at IUP for **\$1689.26**; *Claudia* combined the two Invoices into one payment and mailed it to EPCAMR; Developed a separate film budget estimate and EPCAMR workload for some Staff and a brief scope at *Claudia's* request through the end of December 2018; *Claudia* informed the EPCAMR Staff that the filming timeline will be moved to the Spring 2019 to allow for more time to develop the content, review existing footage, and to create the message; EPCAMR Executive Director provided the EPCAMR Staff with a Summary of Notes from a conference call held on 11-16-18 with *Claudia*

Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project

- Updated *Tom Clark-SRBC* on the monitoring of the pressure transducers in each of the 4 boreholes at Mocanaqua; BH1 wasn't calibrated properly when it was initially set up by SRBC and EPCAMR, so we reset the data collection timer and picked up the data going forward; All the 3 other pressure transducers inside of the boreholes were working properly and recording real-time data; Participated in a monthly conference call to update SRBC on the completion of the Phase I Deliverables; *John Pippy*, AES, provided EPCAMR an itemized list for the drilling work that was submitted to SRBC; Received the 10-22-18 Hawk Mountain Lab Report for the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel and entered it into the Water Quality Excel Database;

Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Improvement Project

- Informed *Ben Lorson*, Project Officer from the PA Fish & Boat Commission that EPCAMR received the final hard copy of the submitted ACH funds into our EPCAMR Account for the last reimbursement from the PA Fish & Boat Commission through the Commonwealth of PA; Paid the final invoice to RiverLogic Solutions and Fossil for the Interpretive Signage Design and Construction that will be installed in the Spring 2019

Rausch Creek SRBC Mine Pool Mapping Evaluation and Discharge Transport Project

- Provided *Mike Hewitt*, Program Manager with a draft copy of the final report I had been working on for review and inclusion of additional information; EPCAMR Staff, in turn, reviewed *Mike's* additional work on the Final Report related to the mine pool mapping, as did the Executive Director; Provided *Tom Clark* and *Pierre McCoy-SRBC*, the volume estimates they were requesting for the Markson Mine Pool and the Good Spring No. 1 Mine Pool; *Mike* finished inserting the narrative portions related to the Mine Pool Modeling portions of the Final Report and EPCAMR sent it along to SRBC

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Jay Jay Masur*, EPCAMR Volunteer and college student from Wilkes U., spent a few days in the EPCAMR Office organizing and packaging our iron oxide pigment
- Provided *Mary Kuna*, EPCAMR Volunteer, Pittston, with examples of the grant program and project areas that we seek funds for to fulfill our mission in the region; She offered to do some research and get back to EPCAMR; Sent her an EPCAMR Overview Powerpoint Presentation to allow to become more familiar with our work following our meeting in the Office
- Bridgestone Tire, through their Tires4ward Recycling Program approved picking up the 161 tires from Centralia through a local partner, Lakin Tire, who has picked them up in previous years; Provided them with directions to the street where the tires were piled for pickup and informed *Tom Hynoski*, Fire Chief, Centralia that they would soon be picked up; Thanked *Steffen Horwath*-President of the Wilkes University Sustainability Club for coming down to the **5th Annual Centralia Cleanup** with several students to help out with the cleanup on 10-20-18
- *Brandon Hilsheimer* wants to become an EPCAMR volunteer so he was directed to go through the website to fill out our official volunteer form to get on our mailing list
- *Jeremy Heiser*, Warrior Run, and recent Bloomsburg University graduate, signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer
- *Laura Campbell*, Exeter, and *Jessica Britten*, King's College student from Wilkes-Barre, signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Several EPCAMR Staff attended the **POWR and PEC NE Watershed Forum**, Scranton, PA at the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority Office on 11-7-18; Staff were seated at various tables with other regional non-profits, watershed groups, technical service providers, and coalitions to discuss what technical assistance each of the groups potentially have to offer, how we can build some new partnerships, how to formulate new ideas for new projects and grant proposals potentially, and to network with these other service providers to see where there might be some overlap; EPCAMR promoted our technical assistance and work that we are doing in the region to those in attendance
- Held a PA AMR Conference call to discuss what the scholarship amount will be and what it will cover for the **2019 NAAMLPA/NASLR/ PA AMR Conference**; Sent out a follow-up invitation and request to former vendors, sponsors, and exhibitors to join the PA AMR Conference in our joint effort with NAAMLPA and NASLR in 2019 and consider becoming a Sponsor to assist with offsetting scholarships that we would like to provide to the non-profit watershed community and Conservation Districts across PA; Provided a list of those companies and vendors sought to *Eugene Trio*-PA DEP BAMR; Communicated with *Eric Cavazza*, PA DEP BAMR about Conference Registration responsibilities that will be divided up between PA DEP Staff or EPCAMR Staff; Provided an estimate and average sponsor level to many of the previously solicited sponsors and vendors, as well as new leads notations to PA DEP BAMR; Graymont agreed to become a Sponsor for 2019 at \$750

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff and renewed our 2019 Premium; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed the November 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Worked with *Jennifer Barbose*-PA OneSource to allow for each employee to access their payroll stubs and direct deposit reports individually; She forwarded an e-mail to each of them to set up their own accounts; Provided her with EPCAMR's copy of our 941 Quarterly Deposit Requirements from the IRS; Held a meeting at OneSource with *Phil Amend* and *Jessica Barbose* to review a payroll administrative oversight and error that needed to be corrected; *Jessica* provided instructions on how to download Payroll Detail Reports from ADP for EPCAMR grant reimbursements
- *Emily Krafjack*, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, informed EPCAMR that she was working on providing us with a final report for the ARIPPA limestone dosing mini-grant awarded in 2017
- Picked up the EPCAMR 2017 990s from Kovalchik & Kollar for the upcoming Board Meeting and to upload to Guidestar; Kovalchik & Kollar filed them before 11-15-18
- Worked with *Mike* to place various agenda items on the upcoming 4th Quarter Board Meeting Agenda; Convened the EPCAMR Board Meeting on 11-15-18
- Provided the EPCAMR President and Personnel Committee with copies of the EPCAMR Staff Evaluations and Executive Director Self-Evaluation with recommendations for 2019 merit raise consideration; Held the Personnel Committee Meeting prior to the Board Meeting on 11-15-18
- Requested that *Laura Rinehimer* submit paperwork to Johnny's Seeds Catalog to have our non-profit sales tax exemption certificate approved for future purchases
- Provided *Leigh Ann Kemmerer*, EPCAMR Board Member-Borton-Lawson Engineering an explanation as to why there are so few watersheds in NE PA that are high priorities under Growing Greener and aren't yet approved for Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plans under the federal SMCRA Title IV funding
- *Daniel Stonebraker*-student in the Environmental Resource Management Program at Penn-State requested information on what is necessary to submit to EPCAMR for consideration for a Spring 2019 Internship; Sent him instructions on what to submit to be considered
- *Nick Price*-student at King's College, is interested in applying for a Spring 2019 Internship; Sent him instructions on what to submit to be considered
- Completed a **\$10,000** grant to the Luzerne Foundation's Youth Allocation Committee and submitted it for consideration for organizational capacity for EPCAMR