



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## November 2022 Progress Report

### Project Coordination

#### **Swoyersville Harry E. Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project**

- Received the October Invoice from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management and began working on the Summary Narrative Progress Report and Request for Payment to PA DEP BAMR; Submitted the documentation and revised Invoice after working with *Denise to Riyad Barkawi*-PA DEP BAMR; Provided information to EPCAMR's CPA and *Laura Holahan*, the Single Audit Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Bureau of Accounting & Financial Management that was requested both for our 990 completion for 2021 and the fiscal year of EPCAMR along with funding that was received for the project during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which ends in December 2022 for EPCAMR

#### **Bear Creek Mine Pool Study and Conceptual Design Project**

- Gathered up updates from Mike for work completed on the Bear Creek mine pool mapping to pull together a quarterly reimbursement from August through October 2022; Prepared the reimbursement request and Narrative Progress Summary Report and submitted it to *Trish Attardo*-PA DEP and *Dan Koury*-PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office once Mike converted everything into a single PDF document; Received correspondence that our 7<sup>th</sup> reimbursement request will be approved on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022; Worked with *Trish* to make an official request that was approved to move **\$3000** in funds with a Budget Revision Request Form to the Administrative category from the Salaries/Benefits line item to cover future administrative costs within our overall budget

#### **Just Transition Fund Cycle 2 Planning Grant for Capacity Building Expansion of EPCAMR Solar Project Development**

- EPCAMR was informed that *Max Shipman*, Program Manager for The Just Transition Fund was moving on to a new position; EPCAMR Executive Director wished him well and thanked him for his support of our work on solar development on abandoned mine lands over the past year; He'll be heading to Freedman Consulting, LLC to work on infrastructure funding projects; Worked with Denise to allocate hours, travel, and time to drawdown on the funding for the project through October 2022; Worked with *Monique Wallen*, Finance Department with the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, to verify EPCAMR's banking information and our W-9; Followed up with *Dave Graff*, Center City Print to see if they had an update on the repair and or replacement of our Solar on AML collapsible banner since the recoil mechanism was broken when it was first delivered; *Nicole Faraguna*, Director of Office of Planning and Policy, PA DCNR reached out and let EPCAMR know that they are working with PA DEP to better understand the opportunities for us to collaborate on the IJA funds; They would like to see

opportunities where the funds can leverage additional dollars for cleanup, restoration, recreation, and of course. opportunities for reforestation; They would also like to see how these funds can support site preparation and remediation for grid-scale solar; EPCAMR informed *Nicole* of the Listening Sessions and Solar on AML Summit planned for 2023 with the PA DEP Energy Office

### **NFWF Small Watershed Grant for the Southern Wyoming Valley**

- Worked with *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist to install 16 HOBO Temperature sensors around the watersheds within the project area and spoke to several residents near the bridges where many of the sensors were placed for easy access to download data periodically; Submitted an Interim and our Annual Financial Report to our Project Officer, *Arjeta Bajramaj*

### **Healing the Scars with ISI: Year 2 Iron Oxide Short Educational Outreach Video Production**

- EPCAMR is working with *Claudia* and ISI to review the completed work and budget breakdown for 2021 and scheduled a meeting to discuss how to proceed with the last year of the project into 2023; Submitted the second invoice for the project; Rescheduled a meeting in November until early December to talk further about the project; *Laura* is wrapping up the Final Report for December 2022 for ISI that will be reviewed and submitted

### **PA American Water Mill Creek/Gardner Creek Cleanups & Monitoring**

- Worked with *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist to coordinate a local cleanup in the Mill Creek watershed in Wilkes-Barre from N. Washington Street to N. Main Street; We were able to conduct the cleanup on November 12 from 9-12 on the N. Main Street side of the creek that was coordinated with the City of Wilkes-Barre and local Councilman John Marconi along Access Road (Biscontin Road) that was heavily littered and trashed; Partnered with the City of Wilkes-Barre, EPCAMR volunteers, and Luzerne County Blight Committee to conduct the cleanup; Despite the rainfall the night before, that affected both the streamflow along Mill Creek and the Laurel Run tributary in Wilkes-Barre, our volunteers were able to concentrate our cleanup efforts on the N. Main Street side of Mill Creek this morning; **8** dedicated volunteers spent **3** hours focused on both sides of the Access Road and over the bank pulling tires, trash, household waste, plastics, toilets, picnic tables, chairs, furniture, and recyclables from this particular stretch of road; The high water prevented us from getting too close to the streams and the culverts so we stayed away from that area for now and will come back another time to finish what we started; *John Marconi* - Wilkes-Barre City Councilman joined us this morning and got dirty with the rest of us and donated a few trays of Magda's Pizza and soda for lunch. We appreciate his help in coordinating with the City DPW; *Greg Griffin* brought his cans that we continued to fill and refill with heavy contractor bags throughout the morning as we continued to pick up the trash. *Joan*, *Rebecca*, and *Eric Bieski*, joined us as well; We were ambitious thinking we could get this entire stretch done in a few hours; We needed more volunteers; Nevertheless, we made a huge dent in the big items and trash that we did collect nearly up to the STOP sign along Access Road before it goes under the North Cross Valley; We will coordinate another clean up in the future; There is still more work to done; We're proud to have accomplished what we did in a relatively short period of time with the numbers we had; We discussed suggesting obtaining surveillance cameras to the City in the future at a Council Meeting; Students and school buses that use this road daily during the school week as well as travelers who cut over to N. Washington Street should see a noticeable difference in the roadside next week after DPW picks up the trash collected; **50** bags (~**2000** lbs) were estimated to be collected, **9** tires, and **3** piles of household furniture were also piled for removal

## MSI Program

- Coordinated with *Bobby Burns*, Keystone Anthracite, to try and find some available dates for EPCAMR to return the private collection of Girard Estates Anthracite Mine Maps that were provided to be included in the Mine Map Atlas; It's looking like sometime in December before we can return a few truckloads of bags of thousands of mine maps to the office in Girardville

## PA American Water Charitable Trust Foundation Environmental Education (EE) Grant on Iron Oxide

- Convened a meeting with *Mike Corcoran*, Wilkes-Barre Area School District and 3 Art Teachers, 2 of which were associated with at the CAPPa Art Program in Wilkes-Barre; They are interested in participating in creating some AMD Artwork for a calendar creation as a part of the EE Project and EPCAMR outreach; EPCAMR will provide the teachers with the iron oxide pigment; Provided them with a copy of the [AMD & Art Curriculum](#) that was co-authored by the EPCAMR Executive Director with a few other partners; Provided them with an [article](#) on a similar project we completed with Wyoming Seminary's STEM School and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*; EPCAMR is Looking forward to seeing if are interested in participating in this effort to create some artwork in iron oxide with our recycled pigment; We are looking to set up a few classroom presentations before they start after the Thanksgiving Day Holidays and in early December 2022 to get them engaged and to learn about EPCAMR's work; A few examples of artwork with iron oxide pigment will be brought into the school to show them some of the possibilities that have already been created with the iron oxide pigment; Mentioned to the teachers another opportunity for the students to submit their artwork to another exhibit with another partner of ours, called the [Hexagon Project](#) for 2023, where the theme of the art is going to be Environmental Justice; The International Art Magazine through International Society for Education through Art (InSEA), eBook has been published and released that we will share with the teachers and the students and details are found at the Hexagon Project [press release](#); The eBook is divided into the following four sections: age groups 3-7, 8-11 and 12-18, and the fourth section addresses key issues of art-infused inclusive education. The Hexagon Project's chapter is featured in Section 3 (ages 12-18) on pages 176-180 of the PDF of the [book](#)

## ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-Grant AMD/AML Program

- Reviewed updates to the application process and document completed by *Cristy Sweeney*, ARIPPA before EPCAMR and WPCAMR announce a future round of mini-grant funds that are available to our community partners in our respective regions; Provided some input into minor changes to dates with the application process

## Just Transition Fund Federal Access Center Organizational Capacity Building Grant (proposed)

- Communicated with *Natalie Roper*, Director of Special Projects, with [The Just Transition Fund](#) (JTF), to set up a time to have a call to discuss future grant applications through the Fund the kinds of support JTF can offer to organizations working on economic development in coal impacted communities; With a recent announcement by JTF fiscal sponsor, EPCAMR was informed that they were looking at a very quick turnaround on grant applications before the end of the year; EPCAMR Executive Director decided to apply for a **\$25,000** organizational

capacity grant to assist with the development of a proposed application for federal funds to work on rare earth elements and critical mineral resources project; Prepared the application, pulled together the requested documentation and draft budget for submission and submitted it through their online portal

## **Technical Assistance**

### **Loyalsock Creek Watershed AMD Treatment System Monitoring**

- On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sullivan County Conservation District held their Board Meeting and approved the 2022-2023 AMD Treatment System Monitoring and the Single Sampling Event Assessment of the 11 suspected pollution sources in the watershed from other headwater tributaries and ponds/waterbodies; Coordinated with *Quinn Hartung*, Watershed Specialist to let him know that when we go out sampling on the 11 sites that we will let him know in case he would like to come along for the day

### **Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance AMD Water Quality and Flow Monitoring**

- Reviewed the ad that ran in the Daily News Item on the PA DCED RFQ put out by Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) for the overall watershed assessment and restoration plan development; EPCAMR Executive Director attended the Site Meeting with a number of the consultants considering applying and the SCRA in Kulpmont on November 17<sup>th</sup> and provided insight into some of the AMD monitoring sites

### **Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership**

- Reached out to *Christopher Breisch*, Pottsville, Schuylkill County, who was interested in ordering bare root seedlings for his abandoned mine land property; Provided him with an order form to review and add the number and species that he'd like for the Spring 2023 order that will be submitted to PA DCNR; Coordination of the pickup of the tree seedlings, depending on the delivery date will be communicated in the Spring of 2023 and EPCAMR will connect him up with the Schuylkill Conservation District

### **Datashed Technical Assistance to Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI)**

- EPCAMR invoiced SRI for work completed on the database by EPCAMR Staff from May through October 2022; *Cliff Denholm* checked on what remaining available funds in his grant would be available for EPCAMR to work on the project going into 2023 and informed us that there was **\$3200**
- Informed *Krista Schneider*, Technical Advisor for PA Technical Assistance Program (TAP) that EPCAMR would be willing to be a partner in the National Science Foundation Engine Phase 2 proposal that is being put forward by Penn-State University to take a closer look at rare earth elements (REE) sampling provided that there is a role for us to play and funding to support our efforts; Provided her with a link to several GIS layers of AMD discharges and AML Problem Areas from our Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) Community Tool since she was tasked with developing a high level map of priority areas since REE sampling has been few and far between in PA; Communicated with *Sarma V. Pisupati*, Professor of [Energy and Mineral Engineering](#) and [Chemical Engineering](#), Director, [Center for Critical Minerals, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences](#) who would like to include EPCAMR in on some future meetings; He presented at our June 2022 PA AMR Conference

- Worked with *Mike Hewitt* to develop a write up for a blog post on our use of [Solinst](#) data loggers on a previously completed project in partnership with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission on a Consumptive Use Feasibility Study of mine pools connected to the Mocanaqua Tunnel in the southern Wyoming Valley; The [blog release](#) published November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Followed up with *Andrew DeSantis* on EPCAMR's previously submitted invoice to BWC Stony Creek, LLC for our professional services provided on a project in Luzerne County
- Provided *James Pagnotti*, Pagnotti Enterprises, with a [link](#) (the last presentation) to information on the [AMLER federal funding](#) and infrastructure bill that was presented at our PA AMR Conference for his review following a phone call with him in early November and a request for the information; He may be interested in having some abandoned mine lands reclaimed on properties that might qualify for funding
- Provided *Randall Ross*, with WIN Recyclers, a company that works with Food Processors and other waste generators to remove and recycle waste products into useful nutrients for mainly agricultural uses with information on some who to contact within the State as they look to branch out and work on some mine reclamation sites with some of the products they have; They have a generator of lime treated human waste residue that they think might work on these types of reclamation projects; Directed him to many of the biosolids application sites and to the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) for more direction and resources
- Provided *Jake Smith*, student at Wilkes University with some resources on where to obtain some data for a school research project on the Route 309 AMD discharge that just outside of Tamaqua that drains into the Schuylkill River from a mine pool that is in the Panther Valley; Suggested that he contact *Todd Wood*-PA DEP BAMR and *Dan Koury*-PA DEP Pottsville DMO
- Provided *Todd Burns*, NE Regional Vice President of PA Council of Trout Unlimited details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill funding as it relates to the types of projects that could be funded for reclamation and AMD work in mining impacted watersheds; More could be done IF the STREAM Act in the Senate that is still Committee passes; [BIL AML Guidance Document](#); There are other Federal agencies that have funding as well. Too many to list, but they are all a part of the [Interagency Working Group \(IWG\) in Coal and Energy Communities.](#); EPCAMR hasn't specifically located trout stream restoration funding, but if stream channel restoration, flooding reduction, sediment removal, and habitat restoration can be a part of efforts where infrastructure such as bridges and culverts will affect or are affected by negative conditions that exist in the watershed already, they may be eligible projects; If an economic benefit can be shown, we think the projects will be more palatable to consider funding, from an outdoor recreational tourism perspective.

## **Education & Outreach**

### **Keep PA Beautiful-Open Your Eyes to Litter EE Project**

- EPCAMR received the first invoice from *Brady Mock*, graphics designer for the project for work on the 1<sup>st</sup> OYEL Book and sent along his payment; *Brady* will be providing access to his shared Google drive with the graphics and pages that are completed with the EPCAMR Executive Director

### **PA Trout in the Classroom EE Project**

- EPCAMR received word that the rainbow trout eggs for our tank will be shipped on January 9th, 2023 and in the Office by the 10th or 11th; 68 rainbow trout fingerlings were released earlier this year in Harvey's Creek as a part of the program; EPCAMR has begun to set up the aquarium to initiate the pre-cycling process to ensure a well-established bacterial community prior to egg arrival
- Convened a Teams Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> with *Isaiah Lasche*, Sales Representative for [Dutchland Inc.](#) that specializes in engineering, manufacturing, and constructing circular, rectangular and elliptical precast post-tensioned concrete tanks, custom designed wastewater treatment plants and other specialized concrete products for water and wastewater, including AMD Treatment Plants in West Virginia that they have constructed for the WV DEP; He followed up with a visit in late November to the office with a co-worker to learn more about our work and insight on the Bipartisan Infrastructure funding
- Participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls to receive updates on Friday mornings in November; Forwarded around an [Appalachian Voices press release](#) where EPCAMR was quoted giving reasons to support the STREAM Act; Worked with *Trey Pollard*, Pollard Communications, to provide input into the press release; Provided a Federal/State big picture update from the Choose Clean Water Coalition to the PA AML Campaign on the recent changes in leadership and elections across the country and in PA; The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is holding a [hearing](#) on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10AM to consider the [STREAM Act](#), along with a number of other pending legislation; Passed along the information on the hearing to the National RECLAIM Coalition partners
- Provided *Matt MacConnell*, PE and Chair of the Lehigh Valley Sierra Club with updated contact information for PA TU
- Reviewed *Kelly Williams*, Clearfield County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist article on the STREAM Act in the PA DEP Healthy Waters November newsletter
- Followed up with *Ronnie Vesnaver* and *Mel Skirkanich*, Science Instructors, at the Gunston School, with the Chesapeake Watershed Semester after they got back to Virginia to see how the rest of their week of tours went with *Ed Wytovich* and *Wayne Lehman* in the Catawissa Creek watershed
- Followed up with Patagonia through two email addresses provided to EPCAMR by their website customer service to see if EPCAMR can be taken off of the pause for Patagonia Action Works to become eligible for future grant opportunities
- Reached out to *Mary Firestone*, Executive Director or the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association ([MABA](#)) to request that EPCAMR continue to be an Associate Member to be able to advocate for the land application of biosolids on abandoned mine lands

- Convened a Zoom call with *David Bakter*, Bakter Consulting ,LLC; He started his career as a geologist in Centralia, Washington, at what was the 5<sup>th</sup> largest coal mine in the US; He works now on economics and the benefits of natural systems and restoration and founded Earth Economics for 21 years of his career; His current specialty in consulting is measuring the economic benefits including property value, wage, and income generation to ecosystem services; We discussed several funding sources that might be available for this type of work on a watershed microcosm scale in the future and he was going to look into funding sources for consideration in 2023
- Provided *Alan Stout's*-Luzerne County Visitor's Bureau Executive Director contact information to *Don Kane Jr.*-volunteer with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HPBS) and a local railroad group; *Alan* was interested in visiting the Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley to highlight the work going on within it by the HBPS
- Attended the PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting virtually, which was a joint meeting with the PA DEP's Citizens Advisory Committee; Provided dates for availability for 2023 planning and quarterly meetings to *Jennifer McLuckie*, PA DEP OEJ
- Set up an initial introductory call with *Brooke Hall Allen*, CEO of [What Works Studio](#) on December 1, 2022; Informed her of our familiarity with Mr. Trash Wheel in the Baltimore Inner Harbor Area and our partnership with the Ocean Conservancy on many illegal dump site cleanups and stream cleanups over the years; Informed her initially through an email that marketing, outreach, funding of that type of social media outreach and website presence is a challenge; Funding is definitely necessary to make those important pieces of the puzzle in our work to have those stories told; EPCAMR don't have a marketing and advertising budget; They are very difficult to fund in the grants that we've applied for in the past; Much of our outreach is organic and through word of mouth, our limited social media abilities and posts, and through the stories that are told by our very own volunteers across the region and our partners in the regional and local media
- *Jerome Whittington*, Associate Professor and *Dr. Zeynep Oguz*, from New York University, are working on a collaborative academic research project related to clean energy transitions and recently received a small grant to look into whether former and active coal mining communities are able to access renewable energy financing; They were requesting EPCAMR's input and insight on this issue; They are both social anthropologists and are working to understand how people relate to different energy sources, especially at sites of production; Based on their familiarity with the collaborative work EPCAMR has been involved with they want an informational interview to understand some of our experiences in this field; *Mr. Whittington* has former experience with southern West Virginia legacy mining communities struggling with AMD and AML in the Morris Creek watershed dating back to 2010 and a long-standing interest in overlapping energy regimes; *Dr. Oguz* is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universite de Lausanne in Switzerland with intensive experience with the national petroleum industry in Turkey; She will be involved with the US-based research as well as investigating similar renewable energy projects in Turkey and Cyprus; They feel that the cross-national dimensions are not only academically interesting but could also provide intriguing ways to connect people in active energy production sites from around the world; They are especially interested in finding ways that their research could contribute to equitable energy investment in the places that we work and in developing ongoing working relationships with communities and community organizations; They are interested in a possible field trip in 2023 to PA that EPCAMR offered to provide; EPCAMR set up a Zoom call with them on December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Reviewed the [Mosaic Grant](#) opportunity provided by *Rebecca Shelton*, Director of Policy & Organizing for the Appalachian Citizen's Law Center; It is seeking to support coalitions that are working on implementation related to the BIL, IRA, Justice40 and/or 30x30; Coalitions can apply for **\$50-\$300k**; EPCAMR is interested in being a partner in an application with ACLC as the lead applicant, if there is a sub agreement process to groups that can join; If there is an opportunity for funding organizational capacity to participate, it would allow EPCAMR to continue to dedicate some time and resources to some of the highlighted areas mentioned in the Mosaic grant and follow PA's efforts going forward; EPCAMR still sees landowner outreach and access being a major hurdle to implementation and successful projects in AMD impacted watersheds and on AML lands where's the landowners are risk-averse due to liability concerns and protections they may already have under certain laws like SMCRA and long term concerns with operation, maintenance, and repairs and trust fund establishments, in the example of AMD Treatment; The STREAM Act passage is so critical in this instance
- Reviewed *Chuck A. Cravotta III*, Ph.D. P.G., Research Hydrologist/Geochemist, USGS information and attachments on "*Mine Pool Stratification*" based on recent research and work presented by *Elke Mugova* and *Chris Wolkersdorfer* on mine pool density stratification and by *Joe Donovan* on ongoing mine closure and subsurface flooding in the Pittsburgh Coal basin; Followed up with *Elke* directly because the time of the webinar was at the same time as our EPCAMR 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting and was a direct conflict

### **Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops\**

- Participated in a PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Zoom call on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to begin thinking about 2023 and our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference; Provided a suggested theme for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference ("*Finding the Silver Lining in PA's Legacy Abandoned Mines*"); Reached out to *Brenda Stambaugh*, *Matt Miller*, and *Shannon Wehinger*-PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) to let them know that we are very much in support of encouraging Watershed Specialists to attend the 2023 PA AMR Conference in the Fall; We discussed various schedules, including the PACD Watershed Specialists Training that occur in early October 2023; We have a long history of great partnership efforts with PACD on the National and State level in support of Reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund and we think there are going to be plenty of opportunities for Districts to work with their community leaders and groups to take a look at more abandoned mine land reclamation, stream restoration, watershed restoration, and AMD treatment as well as monitoring, now that infrastructure funding is out there; *Andy McAllister*-WPCAMR will follow up with *Jill Whitcomb*-Director for the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management since the Watershed Managers fall under her programs; *Amy Berrios*-PA DEP BAMR informed us that the NAAML Conference will be in Chicago, IL from September 24-27<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Asked *Dave Hess* if he was interested in being a speaker for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference so that he can recap the many years of work that he has been involved with our community since he has been a staunch advocate of our work across PA in many capacities starting from an intern with the PA DEP to becoming a former PA DEP Secretary; *Dave* agreed to be a speaker; The Ramada Conference Center in State College informed the Committee that they aren't able to accommodate our original dates in October and that we need to look at other dates or other venues; We're looking into the Blair County Convention Center and another location in Altoona, PA; Researched the Blair County Convention Center and provided materials to the PA AMR Conference Committee ahead of our planning call; Followed up with *Allie Doran*, [Arrow Studio & Events](#) in Pottsville, PA to let her know that we would at least let the Committee know of her facility availability in 2024 in downtown Pottsville; She will have many renovations completed by



then, however, we didn't feel the venue space is large enough to accommodate our entire conference over a period of a few days to consider for 2023 and surrounding hotels since there is only the Ramada Inn

- [Rachel Bacon](#) and her colleague and friend *Meredith Davenport* from the UK and are affiliated with the [Deipenheim Drawing Centre](#), Diepenheim NL, and [Ecologies of Drawing: In Situ](#), Loughborough University, UK requested an AMD watershed tour and field trip with EPCAMR on December 14th; They are both photographers and artists, and are doing research on PA's coal mining landscapes and would like to learn more about the region's history and culture; Provided the two of them with lots of reference links and resources prior to their visit; A few places in the Mahanoy Creek were suggested and areas in the Wyoming Valley; Looped *John Welsh* into the tour to see if he was interested in attending
- *Michael Edelman*, Project Director with [TRC Companies](#), and member of the [American Institute of Professional Geologists](#), PA Chapter, has requested that EPCAMR Executive Director be a speaker at their Annual Meeting on May 5, 2023 in Middletown, PA; They would like EPCAMR to highlight work that is going on in PA on abandoned mine reclamation and AMD treatment projects, recent legislation, and new funding opportunities; EPCAMR can also inform them of our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual PA AMR Conference that is tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2023

### **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for November 2022 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Made deposits to FNB for incoming reimbursements, checks, and accounts receivables; Provided *Denise* with a copy of the November 2022 FNB Statement and Payroll Details for November 2022 for the 319 Program Reimbursements; Mailed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter IRA contributions and match deposits to First National Bank for Staff
- Completed the November 2022 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for the Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike*
- Prepared for EPCAMR's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting; Developed a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board on our projects and grants; Developed a draft 2023 Operating Budget and worked on it with Mike to present to the Board for consideration and approval; Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting and updated our regional board members of progress made on our various projects and programs over the last quarter and future proposed projects and grant submissions
- Provided *Robert Capral*, CPA for EPCAMR with the two grants that we have that were federally funded for him to include with his review and completion of our 2021 990s; Sent him along our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 941 for 2021 that was requested from our payroll servicer, OneSource; Sent him along our CDFA Number for the two grants; EPCAMR President signed the 8879-TE Form for electronic tax filing of our 990s for 2021 and it was forwarded to the CPA

- *Emily Tyszko*, student at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA provided EPCAMR with a copy of her resume as she is seeking an internship in the Spring of 2023; EPCAMR to review after the New Year; EPCAMR has worked with Emily previously who coordinated an outreach event on campus where we conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop; She's currently the Environmental Club President
- Worked with *Mike* to replace the Neat Receipt Scanner in the Office
- Discussed with *John Dawes*, Foundation for PA Watersheds about how to go about negotiating fringe benefits above the federal de minimus rate for potential infrastructure grants proposals; EPCAMR isn't sure who to contact just yet to discuss it at the various federal agencies
- Downloaded a Study Guide from Drone Launch Academy for the Executive Director to utilize to prepare for taking the FAA 107 Knowledge Test for an Unmanned UAS Drone Pilot Certification; Downloaded additional FAA Guideline documents for review; Participated in several online trainings through the Federal Aviation Administration and obtained several certificates in preparation for the FAA Part 107 Knowledge Test and License; Studied and obtained the *TRUST Certificate* for recreational use of drones from the Drone Launch Academy; Completed the FAA Safety Team Aviation Learning Center Online Course *Airman Certification Standards (ACS)* Course Number ALC-449; Received a Certificate of Graduation from the Drone Prone Academy *FAA Part 107 Bootcamp Training*; Received a Certificate of Achievement from the FAA Safety Team Aviation Learning Center Online Course *10 Decision-Making Concepts For UAS Pilots* Course Number ALC-723; Received a Certificate of Achievement from the FAA Safety Team Aviation Learning Center Online Course *SUAS: Regulations, Laws, Airspace Ownership And FAA Enforcement* Course Number ALC-803; Received a Certificate of Achievement from the FAA Safety Team Aviation Learning Center Online Course *SUAS Crew Resource Management* Course Number ALC-704; Received a Certificate of Graduation from the Drone Pilot Academy *Ultimate Drone Pilot Course*
- Inquired to the PA Department of Revenue about EPCAMR's Sales Tax Exemption Certification to ensure that we knew when we had to submit our renewal application; EPCAMR received a response that the renewal letters didn't go out yet and that our Exemption Certificate doesn't expire until April 2023; *Nadine Davis*, Legal Assistant with the PA DofR informed EPCAMR that we can reapply online at the end of November and submit all documents necessary and would be able to receive our certificate online
- Submitted EPCAMR's renewal application to the PA Department of General Services for surplus equipment and supplies; EPCAMR was informed that we need two updated letters from two school district superintendents that we work with to provide educational programming to within the region before it can be approved; EPCAMR will work on acquiring these two letters from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Nanticoke Area School District and then submit them in December