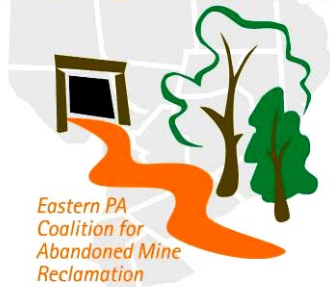


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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November 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Finished the 319 Program FYs 2009-2013 Grant Final Report
- Continued processing maps and honing our method for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant
- Sampled one treatment system in the **Nanticoke Creek Watershed** for the **Earth Conservancy**
- EPCAMR staff participated in 2 MSI Mine Map Processing Trainings; prepared for and hosted an EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting
- Created 2 RAMLIS GIS CDs, conducted one RAMLIS investigation in the **Catawissa Creek Wshd.**, and presented to an impromptu gathering of college students at **Kings College GIS Day**
- EPCAMR staff worked on updates to QuickBooks based on grant budgets and reimbursements and posted updated information to www.GuideStar.org.
- Updated www.epcamr.org and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Met with AMR Conference Committee and ARIPPA Director, Jeff McNelly, at the Ramada Inn in State College to discuss the 2014 joint AMR and ARIPPA Conference.
- Worked on the EPCAMR website to transfer photo galleries away from Cincopa, an \$80 a year service for which EPCAMR was paying. Last year, Program Manager, requested a cancellation of the service, but it was shortly after the service was automatically renewed. The paid year was up recently and the service reverted back to a free account with limitations which manifest on our homepage as big red "X" with a message regarding non-payment for the service. This is one of the many reasons that drove the Program Manager to find a different way to display photo galleries and get away from this "impolite" (to say it nicely) company. The gallery displayed on the homepage was replaced by a "WOW slider", a combination program and plug-in for WordPress in which you place several photos in a gallery to cycle through with transitions. The gallery is then stored on the local directory instead of coming from a cloud server like Cincopa. Other plug-in gallery apps were discovered and installed to bring photos in from Facebook and Picasa albums. Some Cincopa albums were kept on other gallery pages (except for the homepage, which obviously gets more traffic), but if monthly quotas for the free service are exceeded and service is stopped, we will get rid of Cincopa galleries all together.
- Packaged 1lb of Iron Oxide for Green Dog Pottery.
- Completed EPCAMR Program Manager Staff Self Evaluation as requested by the Executive Director and Personnel Committee.
- Sent a reminder to the EPCAMR Board, using MailChimp, regarding the upcoming board meeting in one week. Updated and included the agenda, media relations policy and other board packet information. E-mailed the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee, created at the last board meeting, the portions of the Bylaws that pertained to membership, nominations and voting.

- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous months, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- Worked with EPCAMR Executive Director to create and update sales orders and invoices in QuickBooks from grants and reimbursement paperwork to create a Treasurers Report for the upcoming board meeting. In the future, hopefully, this work will be given to the EPCAMR Bookkeeper to work on periodically.
- Created 2 RAMLIS CDs for Kings College GIS Day and took them to setup a live demo of the GIS tool at the request of LRCA board member Kathleen Cullinane (Searfoss). Met the Kings College IT Department Chair, Jayne Klenner, who requested an impromptu demonstration and presentation on the tool for several students in one of their computer labs and would like to schedule a talk in one of her classes in the spring.
- Invited and sat in on a presentation by Jim Andrews about Underground Mine Map Interpretation to EPCAMR and DEP staff dealing with the Mine Map Processing Grant. The presentation was first given at the PA Geologists Meeting at Kings Gap earlier in the fall. EPCAMR staff realized it would be a very helpful presentation when it came to digitizing underground mine maps, since none of the maps have legends and some maps have conflicting symbology [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the 4th Quarter 2013 EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Worked with EPCAMR Bookkeeper to make invoices of reimbursements for the Lewis AMD Rehabilitation Grant and the MSI Grant. Also created a sales order from the remaining budget for the Hicks Creek NSCD Grant and reconciled petty cash.
- Completed a final report for the 319 Program Fiscal Years 2009-2013 Grants including how deliverables were met, what streams were suggested for reassessment, what geospatial data standards were developed, what groups were worked with and how those groups were helped.
- Continued to work on the 2012 EPCAMR Annual Report.
- Notified by Todd Wood, PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration (BCR), that there was a report done for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) by A. W. Martin Associates regarding Mine Pools and Subsidence in the Anthracite Region. A search for the publication online turned up copies in 2 universities. Worked with a local library to try to get the publication through an inter-library loan program [SRBC].
- Updated financial information, posted 990's and annual reports to GuideStar.org. As a result, GuideStar upgraded our Exchange Partner status to [Silver Level](#), which comes with some interesting free benefits such as free webhosting, marketing and administrative tools.
- EPCAMR staff snail mailed 11 EPCAMR Membership Renewal Packages to Conservation Districts within our 16 county service area. The paperwork included a renewal form and a reaffirmation letter explaining the benefits of membership and their status in our organization as a nominating body for board members as we have been struggling to make quorums at meetings recently.

Technical Assistance:

- Purchased scrapbooking tape for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Processing Grant to tape tears in maps before sending them through the scanner. The tape is acid free and will not harm the maps over the years as other tape could. EPCAMR was not contracted to restore the maps, but it was in the interest of DEP to take steps to preserve them and not add to a problem by using regular scotch tape, which would need to be removed later, should they decide to preserve them. EPCAMR has also promised to be as careful possible when transporting them and scanning them [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff participated in a training to learn and process maps through the Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Map Information System (PHUMMIS) database. Tyler Brown and Zach Bell, PA DEP Cambria District Mining Office (DMO), lead the training to help staff determine information that can be taken from maps and placed into the database. EPCAMR

still did not have access to the state intranet at this point, but it was a work in progress. EPCAMR staff handed over the hard drive of maps scanned and georeferenced in October. They brought a roll of mylar, which we created document carrier envelopes to send heavily deteriorated maps through the scanner with minimal taping. We were also recently notified that our new Grant Project Manager is Tyler Brown [MSI].

- Reconciled files in the inventory control sheets and on the network drive. Found a discrepancy and notified PA DEP Cambria DMO staff. Tyler Brown responded and said the missing files were on the external drive. In the future, reconciliation will be done before the external hard drive is sent, but this time, to save on postage, it was given to staff when they came to the office for the training. Also, daily transfers of scans to the network drive will be done by GIS Technicians and checked by Program Manager in an effort to make sure the files make it and are not sent off into cyberspace [MSI].
- Followed up on a question from EPCAMR Past President, Ed Wytovich, about a possible mine fire near Jeansville. Researched the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) and found little to no reference of a mine fire. One incidence of a refuse pile fire was found.
- Found a book at the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office that referenced a short description of the maps referenced to the local identification number in their inventory. This document was scanned and will be used to help fill out the PHUMMIS database [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call with PA DEP California DMO staff to discuss the most recent inventory control sheet sent. DEP staff asked when they could expect an invoice. As per previous conversations, the hard drives were to be sent without an invoice, but now they felt it would be more clean-cut to send them in tandem. DEP staff sent some revised instructions on georeferencing and digitizing with a geodatabase template file. Worked with EPCAMR GIS Specialist, Justyna, to trial digitize a map and time how long it would take to gather all the data needed by the grant. The time set by the grant contract will be sufficient to gather all the data. EPCAMR and DEP staff are still in a learning phase with this grant as we both figure out the best way to efficiently process the maps [MSI].
- Poured through monthly staff reports and timesheets to distribute time over several grants. EPCAMR staff began creating invoices for the MSI Mine Map Processing grant, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Mine Pool Mapping Initiative, the Espy Run Treatment System Field Monitoring work, the Lewis AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation, the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design (NSCD) project and the 319 Program.
- Received word from PA DEP California DMO Information Technology (IT) staff to try accessing the PHUMMIS database again. This time the credentials worked and we were able to get into the DEP intranet and begin making updates to the database. GIS Technicians began adding the backlog of scanned map information to the database [MSI].
- Created request e-mail to transfer ~\$11K from the indirect to the equipment category in the grant budget to cover the cost of the 56" scanner [MSI].
- Continued to troubleshoot local area network problems here in the EPCAMR office with the network testing tools. Found that all the wiring in the office is unshielded, which will continue to add "noise" to transfers and interfere with scanning maps over the network. Discontinued the effort to scan over the network to avert an expensive network overhaul and recommended continued use of USB 3.0 direct connection to the computers. Also attempted to troubleshoot the data loss problem when transferring scanned maps from the computers to the network drive. The problems were 2 fold. The first problem was that the computers are connected to the network wirelessly. There is an innate packet loss problem with a wireless connection that makes it often unreliable for a business environment. The wireless signal uses only 2 ports on the router and which is shared by all wireless computers and devices. The router acts as a traffic cop and data streams like a road intersection. Only one data-stream can cross the intersection at a time, at times of heavy use, the router holds data in queue to wait until the intersection is

clear. Sometimes, if the wait is too long, it can cause packet loss errors. This situation can be avoided by simply using a direct wired connection. Now that the GIS Technicians transfer the data daily, this has ceased to be a problem. It was more of a problem when the data was being transferred over weekly. The second problem was the actual network drive and how it accepts data. As recommended by the documentation, there is an alternate “better” USB port to directly transfer data to the hard drive, but it still requires a computer on the network to direct the transfer. This USB transfer, after looking at community forum information, is much less reliable and even slower than transferring through the network (which is counter-intuitive to the network situation described above). This can be avoided by just transferring over the network connection and avoiding the USB direct connect feature.

- After review of scanned and georeferenced maps, PA DEP staff recommended that we count scans of big maps, that need to be done in 2 or more image files, separately for each image. The images are of the same map, but due to technical limits of the scanner, the map has to be scanned once from one end and again from the other end, therefore it should be counted as 2 scans, for example. Then A & B will be appended to the name of the images to indicate that these maps should be combined later by DEP staff with imaging software before converting to SID and returning to EPCAMR for georeferencing. This caused a problem in the Inventory Control Numbering and associated Local Identification naming scheme and numbers had to be adjusted. It should not be a problem going forward now that EPCAMR staff are aware of the change. EPCAMR and DEP staff are still in a learning phase with this grant as we both figure out the best way to efficiently process the maps [MSI].
- Ran across several “maps, documents and other files” in the PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Mine Map Inventory that did not necessarily pertain to underground mining. Asked for guidance from the California DMO staff, who reminded us that the goal for the grant is to scan underground mine maps. They requested that we scan all underground mine maps first and if there is time later; we can scan these other files. They also requested that we separate the images into ones that contain information that they would like digitized, such as underground mine workings and openings. Those files should be placed in to a separate folder indicating they need to be converted to SID format. Things like surface mine reclamation maps, aerial photos and topographic maps are being scanned, but not georeferenced unless they contain underground workings [MSI].
- Sampled the Espy Run Treatment System to assess the efficiency of the modifications to the new ponds. Under the new sampling agreement, EPCAMR will be sampling flow and chemistry quarterly at 3 inflow points, 2 points within the treatment system, 1 outflow point and 1 downstream point to determine metals and acid load reductions to Espy Run. Recorded field notes into a spreadsheet, calculated loadings, and reported assessment via e-mail [EC].
- Returned maps and picked up several more shelves at the PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office with EPCAMR GIS Technician [MSI].
- Modified portions of the Northwest Wyoming Valley Mine Pool Complex between Exeter and Lorree Collieries to show boundaries displayed on a Swoyersville Mine Fire Map from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Wilkes-Barre Office. Georeferenced a map showing Mine Pool Boundaries in the Wyoming Valley in 1968 [SRBC].
- Received the external hard drive back from PA DEP California DMO and went through the files to see which scanned maps were processed to SID files for georeferencing. Also took the TIFF files that were missing on the network drive and transferred them back to complete the archived collection locally. The Inventory Control was not returned with the “final data” column filled in this time and I requested the list of files that were to be rescanned [MSI].
- Updated the www.epcamr.org website with 5 plugins and an update of WordPress to 3.7. The update failed and locked up our website. Luckily after an hour the process was automatically reversed. Thank you WordPress for fixing its own mistake... not bad for a free content management service (CMS).

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.