



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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November 2018 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 139 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 19 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Continued scanning and georeferencing maps for the **Luzerne County Rail Corporation**.
- EPCAMR staff participated in 2 AMR Conference calls, a project update call with **SRBC**, public meeting coordinated by DEP, and prepared for/hosted a quarterly EPCAMR board meeting.
- Began scientific report for **Rausch Creek** Minepool project; created one-page AMD/AML maps/statistics handouts by 2019 congressional districts for **FPW**.
- Received trout eggs from the **PA FB&C** for the **TIC** program and started livestream TIC EE videos on www.dailymotion.com; presented practical use of GIS at **Kings College**; participated in a **Reclaiming PA** video shoot with EPCAMR communications committee
- EPCAMR staff sampled minepool monitoring stations near **Mocanaqua** for the **SRBC** and 2 AMD treatment systems along the **Loyalsock Creek** for the **Sullivan Conservation District**.
- Updated www.epcamr.org; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAML P as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstations.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Participated in an AMR Conference call to make a decision on the amount we would like to provide for scholarships. Researched parking and other hotel prices in Pittsburgh for the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P) Conference. The prices seemed a little high and since we are working to provide scholarships, we would like to give recipients a set amount and let them shop around. Created a scholarship calculator spreadsheet to factor in all the variables.
- Estimated hours and expenses to run NAAML P registration and sent info to Executive Director.
- Worked on creating coupon codes for the EPCAMR online store. Used different prefixes to easily identify their use. Created 2 codes for conference scholarship recipients and one for EPCAMR members.
- Sent a reminder to board members for the EPCAMR 4th Quarterly Board Meeting and began to prepare the treasurer's report in QuickBooks with bookkeeper.
- Prepared the Program Manager progress report for the months of August and September. Submitted reimbursement paperwork to the PA DEP 319 program.
- Found 1-foot drawdowns of the first 20 feet of the Markson and Goodspring #1 mine pools completed last year and resubmitted to SRBC staff regarding the Rausch Creek Minepool Mapping project. [SRBC]
- Added crushed coral to the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) tank to help add some pH buffering capacity. Rapid fluctuations in water chemistry, especially pH, can stress out the fish and cause

die offs. Cleaned the tank, turned on chiller and prepared the redd baskets in preparation for the trout eggs.

- Organized maps and updated tags in the 100-200 range from the Shamokin Creek collection for the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office. The maps will be incorporated into their larger BMSA collection and needed an "8" prefix and company / location information. The maps were scanned, but tags were not corrected. [MSI]
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and American Energy Solutions (AES) staff to discuss progress in the Mocanaqua Tunnel Minepool Project and the Rausch Creek Minepool Project. [SRBC]
- Began writing the Rausch Creek Minepool Mapping report in scientific format as requested by the SRBC. The work and the final report was submitted in the spring. The report format was rejected in late October (about 5 months later). The contract deadline is the end of this month. Also, several tasks were being requested which were above and beyond the scope of work without additional compensation prompting our board to become involved. [SRBC]
- Trout eggs arrived from the PA Fish and Boat Commission. EPCAMR staff sorted out the dead eggs and placed 198 live eggs in the redd baskets at the top of the tank. Streamed and recorded the process on our dailymotion video channel (similar to YouTube, but much better for a nonprofit to deal with). Shared the video to social media so others could watch.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a public meeting coordinated by DEP and Keystone Reclamation related to the Harry E. Culm Pile Reclamation Project in Swoyersville. The project is generally seen as a good thing by the local community, but there are concerns as to the traffic problems and potential damage it could cause to streets and adjacent properties in the short term. Residents cited issues with a nearby quarry and some issues they have experienced. DEP took comments and agreed to hold a second meeting before the project starts to allow other residents to air their concerns.
- Completed an EPCAMR staff self-evaluation form for the 2018 year. The form allows staff to talk about strengths, weaknesses, obstacles and training they could benefit from. The form is used in their merit raise evaluation by management staff and the personnel committee.
- EPCAMR management staff sat down to review staff evaluations and give recommendations to the personnel committee.
- Fixed calculations on several staff timesheets and locked the excel worksheets so only certain areas can be changed.
- EPCAMR staff participated in another outdoor video shoot at the Solomon's Creek Boreholes of the Reclaiming Pennsylvania primer with EPCAMR's ad hoc communications committee of Joe Sapienza and John Welsh. They brought in a narrator Mark Clement to explain what was going on because the sound of the water splashing was too loud. They also brought in child actors to help interact in the shots while we collected mine drainage samples and explained why the boreholes existed.
- Communicated with Solinst, makers of the transducers installed at Mocanaqua, to troubleshoot the app reader interaction with my phone. It seems I can take data from the transducers, but cannot program them. Provided screenshots and data to the company so they could help. It seems to be a defect in the programming that they plan to fix.
- Signed up for multi-factor authentication related to the PHUMMIS access on the PA DEP VPN. In addition to providing the user name and password, the user will also need to confirm by phone, text message or mobile app when attempting to log in. [MSI]
- Responded to a quality control review of our work from July, August, and September by PA DEP Mine Mapping Grant project manager, Patrick Jaquay. Only a few issues were identified.
- Worked on updating the EPCAMR 2019 operating budget in QuickBooks with recommendations from the last board meeting and new income / expenses that cropped up within the last few months.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting. The personnel committee met to discuss potential merit raises for staff and the board approved the 2019 operational budget among other action items.

- Took the EPCAMR Suburban to Kost Tire for an inspection and worked on a language for a Harry E. Culm Pile in Swoyersville Reclamation Project page for www.epcamr.org while waiting in the lobby.
- EPCAMR program manager and Watershed GIS Specialist, Rachael Grube, presented to a Kings College GIS class. Updated the class on practical uses of GIS such as processing of underground mine maps for the Mine Mapping Grant, the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) and let them know about our internship program.
- Continued to monitor chemistry in the TIC tank a few times a week. Fixed the lid to the TIC Tank by adding a plastic clip on each side to stop it from falling in the tank. It was broken in half in shipping, but had always been too short and only allowed for a ¼ inch overhang on each side of the tank.
- Dropped off and picked up new maps at the Luzerne County Rail Corporation in West Pittston.
- Continued writing the Rausch Creek Minepool Mapping scientific report. Took snapshots of the earthVision 3D model and produced maps in ArcGIS to include in the report. Circulated a draft of the report to colleagues including other EPCAMR staff and John Levitsky at the Luzerne Conservation District.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a second NAAMLPA AMR Conference call to discuss adjusting the amount to give as a scholarship. This call was coordinated after the committee had a chance to look at all the potential costs in a spreadsheet.

Technical Assistance:

- Rechecked transducers in the newly drilled boreholes for the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. We won't be out until the end of the month to download the data and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) staff wanted us to make sure they were functioning. [SRBC]
- Aided staff with mine map mosaics. Suggested looking at OSM Mine Map Folio cross sections and index files to aide in name correlations as they get into veins with splits. [MSI]
- Added graphics to NAAMLPA registration items in the EPCAMR online store.
- Communicated with DEP staff regarding the EPCAMR store and a potential need for it to be more protected with Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology. Explained that the site is not equipped, but credit card payments were accepted through PayPal which is SSL protected.
- Helped scan Luzerne County Rail Corporation maps, batch processed several of those TIFF maps to a lower quality JPEG format for georeferencing. Georeferenced several railroad maps and explained the process to staff. [LuzRR]
- Field sampled flow and chemistry at 2 sites along the Black Creek for the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Project. Collected water samples at the tunnel discharge and sent them to Hawk Mountain Labs for analysis. Took water levels and transducer readings at 3 strip pits, and 4 boreholes and 3 water quality monitoring sites. Recorded results in a google spreadsheet shared with the SRBC. [SRBC]
- Sampled flow and chemistry on 2 treatment systems (WALA Connel B and C Tunnel AMD treatment systems), upstream and downstream on the Loyalsock Creek to judge the effectiveness of the upgrades to the Connel B Tunnel AMD treatment system. [LCWA]
- Created one-page handouts of maps and statistics regarding abandoned mine land (AML) and water impacts by congressional district and sent them to Branden Diehl at the Foundation for PA Watersheds. [FPW]
- Georeferenced several more railroad maps for the Luzerne County Rail Corporation. [LuzRR]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.