



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, GISP
Program Manager

101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

Main Line: (570) 371-3522

E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

November 2021 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, an EJ call with FPW & PA DEP, & hosted the EPCAMR Board Meeting
- EPCAMR staff prepared **Aquarius Software Business Plan** with **Aqua Informatics**
- Sampled AMD Treatment System on **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, 3 on **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA**, a **new seep** along Route 6 in **Dunmore** & cleaned/DL/restart the **Old Forge Borehole** transducer
- Updated www.treatminewater.com and www.epcamr.org; administered G Suite for Nonprofits; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Met with Greg Price about a letter he received to sell his property where the Plainsville Discharge is partially treated. It seemed like a scam. Followed up later to report that it looks like they got all his information from the Luzerne County Parcel Database.
- Helped Anne Daymut at WPCAMR calculate Professional Development Hours (PDH) for PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference attendees who requested it ahead of time. She confirmed that 2 registrants who requested the evaluation did not attend based on Whova and Zoom exported spreadsheets of attendee activity. Began clipping and uploading AMR Conference recorded live sessions to EPCAMR's YouTube channel.
- Attended dedication ceremony for Dziak Drive entrance road to the Reclaimed Bliss Banks AML site being converted to building pads.
- Purchased Amazon card and sent to the winner of the PA AMR Conference Leader Board. Collected preferences from the other contest winners and sent the details via email to Andy McAllister at WPCAMR. Restart AMR post-conference registration on treatminewater.com and EPCAMR online store. Sent links to conference session recordings we had the panelist token error at request of Zoom tech support. Deleted the other video streams that were already downloaded and posted to Whova via YouTube link. Created a second fill-in PDH certificate for PA AMR Conference attendees watching the recorded videos. Aided Anne with calculating attendance at the Datashed Workshop the last day of the PA AMR Conference for Cliff Denholm at Stream Restoration Inc.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls to find out the status of AML related legislation moving through Congress.
- Completed Agenda for the board meeting, Minutes from last meeting, August to September EPCAMR Program Manager Board Reports and posted them to www.epcamr.org. EPCAMR staff virtually hosted the EPCAMR 4th Quarterly Board Meeting

- Received a call from a local concerned citizen picking up trash along Route 6 in Dunmore and found what could be a new AMD discharge. He was willing to collect a sample and bring it to us, but suggested he send along photos and EPCAMR will investigate.
- Sent “Effects of Historical Coal Mining and Drainage from Abandoned Mines on Streamflow and Water Quality in Newport and Nanticoke Creeks, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1999—2000” U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report to Wilkes Students wanting to understand the water flow paths in the mines under the Nanticoke Creek Watershed.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in a call with Branden Diehl at Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) and Allison Aceved, Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator for the PA DEP in relation President Biden’s Justice 40 Initiative.

Technical Assistance:

- EPCAMR management staff met with Tim Finnegan at Aqua Informatics regarding Aquarius Software Business Plan Part 1. The plan shows the Aqua informatics team how to upload EPCAMR’s historic data to their system and create placeholders for future data. Cleaned up and sent the Northern Field Boreholes dataset which is the most complete with locations and data in separate tabs. Received a template to create locations for our EPCAMR_Sampling_Data(FieldBook) google sheet.
- Updated QuickBooks (QB) on the intern desktop, but had issues with the update on EPCAMR Bookkeeper’s computer. Tried QB Tool Hub, updated windows (update stuck and fixed), ran Advanced SystemCare, finally uninstalled and reinstalled QB. Started a 2022 budget by exporting the QB account list to CSV and worked on it at home in Excel prior to inputting it back into QB. Fixed issue with QB incorrect data file on bookkeeper computer.
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift). Recorded data in a database for reporting to the Sullivan Conservation District (SCD) & Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association. [LCWA]
- Found out, after the fact, that the Whova mobile app can be downloaded by DEP staff to their state mobile phones which is good news. This will allow state attendees an option to use the mobile app if the desktop app does not work for access to the virtual PA AMR Conference.
- Submitted 24 AUX files to Mara after reviewing the maps on PHUMMIS to discover that we hadn’t taken credit for georeferencing them in March and December 2020. We have since updated staff reporting protocols so we do not miss reporting work completed. Discovered a filename typo and corrected, but also had to remove BMSA1039 from the Wilkes-Barre West Quadrangle Top Baltimore Vein mosaic and add the BMSA_1039 map (with the underscore). Moved EPCAMR_010901-02, 04, 06 to Nanticoke Quadrangle Cooper Vein mosaic and removed from Nanticoke Lo Hillman Vein mosaic. Added EPCAMR_010900-01, 02, 03, BLUE_TRU-09-05, 13-05 and BLUE_WAN-09-06-01 to Nanticoke Quadrangle Lo Hillman Vein mosaic. Added Avoca and Pittston Quadrangle mosaics delivered last month to ArcGIS Pro map to start evaluating. [MSI]
- Worked on the 2022 Budget in google sheets with EPCAMR Executive Director to balance income and expenses for the next year. Created a conservative budget which relies on current money/contracts and very little prospect funding.
- Completed percent raise tables for staff and forwarded to EPCAMR Executive Director for the Personnel Committee’s consideration. Added 2 sales orders to QuickBooks to complete Treasurer’s Report and 2022 Budget then sent to EPCAMR Treasurer for her input.
- EPCAMR management staff met with Tim Finnegan at Aqua Informatics regarding Aquarius Software Business Plan Part 2. Began adding locations to a new tab in the EPCAMR_Sampling_Data(FieldBook) google sheet. Figured out that USGS AMD Sampling locations were identified by combining Latitude and Longitude Degrees Decimal Minutes coordinates into a 15 digit location ID. Continued to use these IDs but prefaced with a "U" to signify it was created by USGS. When a new one had to be created we will name it by combining the first 7 digits each of Latitude and Longitude Decimal Degrees coordinates and prefaced with an "E" into a 15 digit location ID. Copied this identifier to the data pages to link them to the locations.

- Contacted Jim Eckenrode about a transducer Saint Frances University is building in-house on recommendation by Branden Diehl at FPW. The project is set to produce cost-effective transducers to place at remote sites to collect water stages to eventually convert to flows.
- Finished adding locations to a new tab in the EPCAMR_Sampling_Data(FieldBook) google sheet. Checked the sampling data records for completeness. Checked flows downloaded over the summer from the Swoffer Flow Meter for a flow of the Susquehanna #7 Seep that was not recorded. Still could not find it. Recorded the chemistry, but must not have taken the flow?
- Sampled Askam Boreholes, Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek and 2 flow sites in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed. Recorded data into sampling spreadsheet and delivered to Earth Conservancy. Pulled the Askam Stevens Recorder hydrograph paper and scanned 2020, 2021 and 2018 hydrographs on the map scanner in preparation for digitizing. [EC]
- Sampled a seep that was coming out from under the North American Warhorse building into a collection ditch along the Route 6 on-ramp and added to the Lackawanna Countywide Action Plan (CAP) AMD discharge list. Cleaned and restarted the Old Forge Borehole transducer. [LDG]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.