



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Provided *Haley Schroeder*, Patagonia Action Works, with a Social Amplification Event detail listing of our upcoming **5th Annual Centralia Cleanup**; Met *Mark Lawrence*, WKOK Reporter-Sunbury down in Centralia to provide him with a tour of the cleanup areas and to conduct an on-air interview to promote the cleanup on October 20th; Worked with *John Welsh* and *Brandon Stivers* to create the t-shirt design for the EPCAMR Volunteers and sent them photos to work from and concept designs along with a list of nearly 100 relevant words that will resonate with people from Centralia in a word bank to be placed on the t-shirt; Some sponsors sent their logos for the t-shirts; Sent the design over to Moses Printing, Kingston, PA for production; Coordinated with *Roseann Weinrich* and *Jim Chappell*, Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association, who will be assisting with grilling for lunch at the event
- Received a thumb drive of photos from *Walt Zwierzycki*, a local photographer, who took pictures of the Huber Breaker in 2009 and wanted them to be preserved; EPCAMR forwarded them to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- Provided an EPCAMR overview to *Barrett Donna*-Wilkes-Barre Crew Leader - Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps [Student Conservation Association](#) and several of her Corps members so they could learn about workforce training opportunities with EPCAMR and or EC
- Received a welcome notification from the **Trout in the Classroom Program** through *Ashley Wilmot*-Program Officer; Completed our address verification process and year-end report from 2017-2018 and submitted it back to *Ashley*
- Applied for a **\$2000** RECLAIM Act Outreach mini-grant for field activities and to continue working on supporting the education of our local legislative staff and officials on importance of HR1731; Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, the BlueGreen Alliance, and Appalachian Voices are administering the funds that were made possible by the Just Transition Fund
- Reached out to *Peter Buckland*, Director of Academic Programs at PSU-State College Sustainability Institute, who was interested in connecting with EPCAMR
- Attended *Bosco's* Wilkes-Barre, PA Friends Helping Friends Event to increase the awareness of EPCAMR's work in the region and provide discount coupons to shoppers with *Denise* and *Rachael*
- Discussed with *Joe Sapienza* the 10-27-18 Shooting schedule for the 'RECLAIMING PA' trailer at several sites in the Wyoming Valley

- Several EPCAMR Staff registered for an **Advanced Watershed Educator Workshop** scheduled for February 12, 2019 at the Dauphin County Conservation District to become Meaningful Watershed Environmental Education Ambassadors; Trainers are from Stroud Water Research Center, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), DCNR-Bureau of PA State Parks, Penn State Extension, and Millersville University

Technical Assistance

- Provided *Jason Nark*, Reporter for the Philly Inquirer information on Shamokin, culm banks, and the Glen Burn mine fire for an [article](#) he was writing about the impacts of coal on the community and the return of a native son, *Henry Hynoski*, a former NY Giants Superbowl team member and now Shamokin Area Football Coach
- Facilitated getting *John Ackerman*, Twin Oaks Water Systems, Inc., an October 17th meeting with *Eric Cavazza*, PA DEP BAMR to discuss a project to possibly treat the Solomon Creek AMD boreholes utilizing his RainMaker patented technology for consideration under the PA AML Pilot Program
- Provided a Letter of Support to *Shandra Opshinsky*, Grant Manager for Lackawanna County Department of Planning & Development for their Lackawanna County Coalition Brownfields Task Force request for funds from the 2019 US EPA Brownfields Program and offered our technical assistance
- Provided *Meghan Lehman*, Environmental Community Relations Specialist, PA DEP Williamsport, with information on work done in the Shamokin Area, Mt. Carmel, Centralia, Mahanoy City related to Environmental Justice
- Met with *Clint LeRoy*, MARG Energy to provide him with a brief AMD Tour in the Wyoming Valley; He's in the consulting business looking at alternative energy projects and pairing up various energy sector businesses
- Provided *Mike Piersa*, Executive Director, National Museum of Industrial History with some donated iron oxide pigment for an iron ore smelting demonstration in Allentown, PA
- Met with *Mary Kuna*, Deputy Executive Director of the Pittston Redevelopment Authority, who was interested in finding out more about EPCAMR and how she might be able to pass along our work to other business partners that are approaching her related to economic development of abandoned mines and mine water reuse

Project Coordination

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Provided *Ryan Pipan*, District Office Manager for Rep. *Aaron Kaufer* a status update on the project including EPCAMR's receipt of our fully executed contract agreement from the PA DEP; EPCAMR is waiting on the confirmation of a public informational meeting that will be led by PA DEP coming up in November 2018; Followed up with *Colleen Connelly* about coordinating the public informational meeting that would be forthcoming and offered assistance, if needed, in reaching out to local officials; Provided her with a summary list of questions from local residents and concerned citizens active on a social media page for people who grew up in Swoyersville that were compiled by EPCAMR Executive Director; Asked *Ryan* about contact information for West Wyoming Borough since EPCAMR would like

to have our final draft Abraham Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan meeting in the middle of October; He provided me with information on *Marie Pedley's*-Borough Administrator, to follow up; Talked with *Dean Baker*-PA DEP BAMR about the Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC); Had a meeting with *Bernie Walko* and *Kim Snyder*-PA DEP BAMR at EPCAMR to review the project expectations and communications plan going forward as to who would be the points of contact for various aspects of the project; Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management mentioned that now is the time to think about paving for the new driveway since it's the time of the year that asphalt plants will soon be coming to a halt due to the weather and having a paved driveway is essential to keeping debris off the public roads; The PA DOT Highway Occupancy Permit is approved to construct a driveway from SR1010 (Main Street, Swoyersville); It would make for a safer groundbreaking area and parking for attendees and local officials; However, the bond is not fully signed off yet; Provided Paul Golias, CV with information on EPCAMR's role to administer the grant for an article

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards

- The Citizens Voice placed an [article](#) in the newspaper on the project; Forwarded EPCAMR's news article to *Dave Hess* for his PA Environmental News Clips page; Convened a conference ZOOM call with *Pieter Hoff*, Executive Director of Groasis from the Netherlands, to discuss the project further and to answer any questions the Staff had about the Growboxx; Thanked Pieter following the call for choosing EPCAMR to represent Northern Appalachia in this international project; Reviewed *Claudia's* outline for the film shoots, locations, and topics to be covered; Directed Laura and Denise to follow up with the other school districts for the project to figure out what type of approval we need to get into each of the schools and into a 4th grade class for our environmental curriculum teaching and to distribute the Growboxxes in the Spring 2019; Met with *Mike Corcoran*, Wilkes-Barre Area School District Administrator, to fill him in on the project and to obtain a list of the 4th grade teachers at each of the Elementary Schools in the District; EPCAMR Executive Director is taking care of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District through a School Board Member, *Ned Evans* and *Mike Corcoran*, who is with the Administration; Provided *Mike Corcoran* with a copy of the approved project proposal following our meeting; The Pocono NE RC & D would like to become a future partner as well and a lunch meeting will be set up with Board Member *Wes Miller*, a PA DCNR District Forester from the Weiser State Forest District; *Wes* is going to be providing us with many different pepper seedlings from their greenhouse in the Spring 2019; *Liz Rosser*-PSU Extension Master Watershed Stewardship Coordinator provided us with costs and instructions on how to obtain soil sample test kits from PSU Extension; Talked with *Laura* and *Denise* on determining how many we want to order initially and when to place the order for the project and provided them with a list of the teachers that we would more than likely be working with in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; We decided to run a test on our soils first in the rear EPCAMR Office garden plot and ordered a kit for EPCAMR; EPCAMR Executive Director, *Laura Rinehimer*, and *Gavin Pellitteri* were interviewed by *John Welsh* for a short film being produced as a part of the project; Talked with *Keri Misson* about participating in the film with her family and she agreed; *Claudia* was going to follow up with *Keri* personally to fill her in on other details of the project and the film's purpose; Provided *Claudia* with *Keri's* contact information; *Liz Masi* -Graham Academy Environmental Education Coordinator sent EPCAMR a link to their social media [site](#) where they will be posting pictures and a release on our partnership with them in the project; Provided *Lindsay Dragon*, Public Relations Coordinator for the Graham Academy with EPCAMR's news [link](#) on the project; Talked with *Liz* about soil testing needs and she noted that she would follow

up after talking with PSU Extension; She planted her donated Growboxxes at the High School in Luzerne with her students on 10-29-18

Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration

- Received an updated quote and final proof from Fossil Industries that included the shipping and handling of the interpretive panel display and authorized them to proceed to production; Fossil sent EPCAMR a color proof of what the panel will look like and the quality of the panel that was approved by EPCAMR; Sent *Ben Lorson*, PA F & BC Project Officer, our amended Final Work Progress Report and the Final Invoice for the interpretive panel display and Final Payment to RiverLogic Solutions

Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project

- Held a Project Update Conference call with SRBC on 10-2-18 with SRBC; Updated *Nick Lylo*, PA DCNR District Forester on the status of the completed drilling of the four boreholes down within the project area; Requested the driller's log from Eichelberger's; Provided *Josh Hickman-AES*, with the borehole elevations; Sent *Pierre* and *Tom*-SRBC the updated Water Quality Data Sheet as well as the recently inputted monitoring boreholes with the elevations corrected for each of them and their locations; Mike sent down a latitude and longitude of where the Mocanaqua Tunnel intersects with Pool 1 to give everyone a general idea where another borehole could possibly be located for the treatment side of the project in the future; He sent a few screen shots and the approximate location and elevation of the Mocanaqua Tunnel portal elevation and the elevation of the approximate intersection of the Pool 1; Lab results from our 9-27-18 water quality sampling event in the field haven't come back yet from Hawk Mountain Labs; Pierre requested some of the shape files that we have for the project; *Mike* corrected the data for ambient barometric pressure from the dataloggers and forwarded them to *Tom Clark*-SRBC who suggested that we just continue to log data now; Received several pressure transducers from SRBC and installed them on 10-22 and 10-23-18 for future monitoring; Purchased some aluminum and sulfate reagents for testing to keep expenses lower for monitoring; Worked with Denise to submit an Invoice, receipts, and Progress Report from AES, for the drilling work completed by them and Eichelberger's to SRBC for the drilling of the 4 monitoring boreholes in Phase II of the project for \$27,113.49; Requested itemized drilling expenses based on feet drilled, casing, etc. for *Pierre*-SRBC from *John Pippy*, AES; Submitted EPCAMR's Progress Report and Invoice for reimbursement August through September 2018 to SRBC; Provided Hawk Mountain Labs with additional information for the Chain of Custody form for the 10-22-18 sampling of the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Began to download photos from 9-26-18 Field Reconnaissance with *Tom Maykas*, from the Dallas Area Municipal Authority within the watershed; Tom provided EPCAMR with .KMZ files from DAMA for our collection of data points and locations along with the points that were taken in the field; Sent Notes document and photos to *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist for his input on possible restoration recommendations and received comments to be incorporated later into the plan from the two days of initial recon; John has additional contact information on the former Stegmaier Estate for us to follow up with by the name of *Jon Sordoni*, who is interested in the protection of the Toby Creek Watershed

Laurel Run Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- *Ashley Wilmot*-Program Manager for PA Council of Trout Unlimited requested the PDF of our completed Laurel Run CHP and our TU Electroshocking Survey Report; Provided her with the reports for her files and the PA Trout CHP website

Abraham Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Worked with *Marie Pedley*, West Wyoming Borough to secure the meeting location for the final draft plan meeting for the project; Provided contacts to Gavin to assist in reaching out to for the final plan review; Requested an additionally insured certificate naming West Wyoming Borough from POWR and provided it to Marie to use the facility on October 17th from 6-8pm; Forwarded an invite to local municipalities and to project supporters within the watershed; Paul Golias, CV Writer couldn't attend the meeting, but requested information following the event; Reviewed the draft presentation, made comments, and worked with *Gavin* to finalize and forwarded it to municipalities, partners, and *Ashley Wilmot*-CHP Program Manager for comments and approval

Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design Project

- Worked with *Tammy Nicholas*-PA DEP Grants Center Administrative Officer, on making some adjustments to the reimbursements and totals related to the matching funds and requests for funds to close out the project; Resubmitted any necessary documents to *Tammy* for approval including some copies of receipts for invoices

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Steffen Horwath*, Doylestown, PA and Wilkes University student signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and is the President of the University's Students for Environmental Sustainability Club
- *Kathleen Quinn-Farber*, Tamaqua, PA, *Peter Oswald*, Girardville, PA and *Jennifer Deterick*, (interested in Community Development) signed up to become EPCAMR volunteers
- *Brandon Stivers*, Hanover Township, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer through his online newspaper, [Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Sentinel, LLC](#)
- Conducted the 5th Annual Centralia Cleanup on October 20th, 2018; Over **100** volunteers in attendance; **161** tires removed and **24** Tons of trash collected in **3 40** cubic yard dumpsters; Coordinated with Bridgestone's Tires4ward Recycling Program to coordinate the pickup of the tires; Reported the numbers to the International Coastal Cleanup website for Keep PA Beautiful
- *Shaunna Barnhart*, Director of the Place Studies Program at Bucknell University's Center for Sustainability and the Environment, is interested in working with EPCAMR in 2019 on the Centralia Cleanup; She also coordinates Bucknell's [Coal Region Field Station](#); The field station coordinates projects with community partners related to community revitalization, local histories and heritage, and future directions; The [Mother Maria Kaupas Center](#) in Mount Carmel, a center for volunteerism and community revitalization, is their anchor partnership; Forwarded her information on our Growboxx Project as well since she had requested information on it; Reached out to *Claudia Meglin*, ISI, Inc. to let her know there is interest in other parts of the Coal Region to do similar

- Provided some iron oxide pigment to *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Upper School for her students to work on The Hexagon Art Banner Painting Project for EPCAMR

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Participated in the PA AMR Conference call to discuss the **2019 PA AMR Joint Conference** Planning with NAAMLPA and NASLR; A planned meeting is going to be held in Pittsburgh in early November; Met with Eric Cavazza and Brian Bradley-PA DEP BAMR about online registration setup for the NAAMLPA Conference in 2019; Informed members of our PA AMR Conference Committee all of the previous sponsors and vendors that EPCAMR has reached out to for solicitation of sponsorships and exhibits for 2019 and forwarded the information to *Eugene Trio* and *Eric Cavazza*-PA DEP BAMR; Participated in a PA AMR Conference call on 10-30-18
- Provide *Tarsha Scovens*, PAEE SE Regional Director with last year's Venue Comparison spreadsheet to assist her with developing comparable costs for the **2019 Urban EE PAEE Conference** in Philadelphia
- Accepted being a participant in the "Provider Roundtable" for the **PEC NE Watershed Workshop** in Scranton, PA on November 7th; Most EPCAMR Staff attended to provide input to the programs we offer to the region and to network with other organizations in the region
- Provided an hour-long Grassroots to Global Webinar for Cornell University online students participating in a Online Course on Civic Ecology about EPCAMR's work in NE & NC PA

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Provided *Basil Lynch*, Kovalchik & Kollar, CPA, our 2017 Accountant's Copy of our Quickbooks for completion of our 990 Filing, 2017 W-2s, and our 4th Quarter 2017 Payroll Form
- Completed the October 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Filled out a series of new forms for *Jessica Barbose*- OneSource from ADP who will be providing a new payroll system for them to operate with for payroll services; Initially, the forms had the incorrect EIN number on them and had to be resubmitted to EPCAMR before sending to ADP; Completed the online registration information for EPCAMR to be able to submit payroll hours going forward
- Directed all Staff to a PA Environmental Digest [link](#) to where many Grant Application Sources and Deadlines are listed for their review
- Received some paperwork from the PA Department of General Services to complete if EPCAMR wants to remain included in the Department of Supplies and Surplus Operations
- Received all EPCAMR Staff Self-Evaluations on 10-12-18 and began reviewing each of them and preparing a Management Review of each position with assistance from the Program Manager;

- Communicated with *Janice Perry*, First National Bank, on EPCAMR's IRA Contributions for newly hired Staff
- Received word from Community Aid that our proposed **\$5000** Cleanup Grant Proposal was not able to be funded in this latest round