



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2019 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- *Lauren Perry*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern created a Macro Sampling Location Map for the Upper Toby Creek Watershed Conservation Plan; Conducted additional culvert assessments in the watershed

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Confirmed with *Gerard Schmidt*, Project Officer, that the EPCAMR Invoice 6 for July had been paid to Keystone Reclamation's; Received the Keystone Reclamation Payroll Certificates for the operators working on the project and filed them; Received and reviewed the PA DEP Pottsville DMO Inspection Report for October and filed it with the project

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards in the Coalfields Project

- Directed *Denise* to create our 3d Quarter Invoice to submit to ISI, Inc. for the project and submitted to *Claudia Meglin*-Program Manager following the receipt of some bullet points on the update on the project for the quarter from Laura a Progress Report; Sent *Claudia* an outline for the Apple Tree Planting Initiative for Spring 2020 following spending a considerable amount of time putting the proposal together with a tentative draft budget; Sent *Claudia* the [2018](#), [2019](#) Indicators Report from [The Institute](#) and a report on [Healthy Food: Environment, Access and Literacy](#); Convened a conference call with *Laura* and *Claudia* on the "Apple-achian" Tree Planting Initiative for 2020 that will include Centralia, in addition to the Wyoming Valley; Received the additional Growboxxes and plant protectors for the 2020 plantings from Groasis on 10-29-19

Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Consumptive Use Feasibility Report Project

- *Tom Clark*-SRBC provided EPCAMR with the Mocanaqua Borehole 1 Water Quality Data at varying depths that were sampled back in May 2019 to incorporate into our mine pool model; Communicated with Pierre and Tom from SRBC about a conference call to outline the final draft of the Plan Report prior to completion; Followed up with AES to request some additional support in pulling together some final details on AMD Treatment options for the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel; scheduled a meeting with AES's *John Pippy* and *Brad Domitrovitsch* to review our outline and final plan preparations to submit to SRBC

Technical Assistance

- Provided *Liz Feinberg*, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) with information on Spring Run in the Solomon Creek Watershed, in case there were any funding priorities for small watershed restoration projects through NFWF under the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Funding in the future; This information was a follow up to the AMD tour that EPCAMR had provided her on her recent visit to the EPCAMR Region; It was also information completed under a previous NFWF grant with Clauser Environmental for the City of Wilkes-Barre
- Communicated with *Earl Tulley-Navajo Nation* to discuss producing some AML Maps by Congressional District for the “4 Corners” in the West for him under the RECLAIM Mini-Grant; Forwarded information to *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Specialist to assist with creating the maps for the Navajo Nation; Communicated with *Adam Hughes*, Organizer with the Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment ([SOCM](#)) in Tennessee, who is also in need of some AML Maps for Congressional Districts TN-02, TN-03, TN-04 and a priority on TN-06; Talked with *Trevor Martin*, AML Program Manager and *Brook Erreger*-GIS Specialist, both with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation; Communicated with *Michael Hansen*, Executive Director for the Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution ([GASP](#)) in Alabama for similar AML Maps who put EPCAMR in touch with *Dustin Morin*-AL AML Program Supervisor; Connected with Dustin and offered to create some maps with layers that he can provide EPCAMR from Alabama; Dustin provided EPCAMR with any available data that he had in KMZ files; *Amanda Pitzer*-Executive Director for Friends of the Cheat asked for assistance with creating some AML Maps and Statistics for West Virginia; Forwarded her request for information to *Steve Cornia*-EPCAMR to work on; Provided *Dana Kuhnline*-RECLAIM Campaign Coordinator for Appalachian Voices, with an update on the mapping efforts and technical assistance and requested the ability to put forth another proposal to complete additional maps in 2020; She had agreed that EPCAMR should submit again in the next open round of mini-grants; EPCAMR Executive Director applied for **\$5000** since there is a demand for the maps and a sense of urgency for groups to obtain the data to help them convince their legislators in their States to support both RECLAIM and Reauthorization
- Provided *Russ Collins*-President of the Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited with a link to WPCAMR's [Quick Response Program](#) to assist with funding and repairs to the Rausch Creek Diversion Wells in Dauphin County
- Followed up with *Kathy Snavely*, President of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association's Board of Directors; *Carol Parenzan*, MSRKA Riverkeeper had given her two week notice to take another job that she couldn't refuse in NY and the MSRKA was looking for guidance and suggestions on how best to move forward with their strategic partnerships in the region

- *Cody Benkoski*-student at Lehigh University followed up with EPCAMR on his research project to detect AMD via aerial photography; Over the Summer 2019, he was to make some progress on optimizing the run time of his analysis, so it's definitely much more manageable to run now; Ultimately, his biggest roadblock has been in improving the accuracy of the detection; He just wanted to provide EPCAMR an update
- Provided *Lyndsay Taurus*, Alliance for Appalachia with some guidance on how to encourage legislators to be a part of community projects or tours in the region to promote AML Reauthorization and the support for AMD remediation and economic development projects; She will be working with partners in WV to do the same thing in the Fall 2019
- Forwarded the 2018 Integrated List of Non-Attaining Streams that are AMD impacted and their Lost Recreational Use Value Updated calculations from the PA Fish & Boat Commission to *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager for his review of the data; **\$145.8** million in annual lost recreational value has been calculated
- Provided *Ron Rohal*-NACD with a link to our RECLAIM Folder for information on the RECLAIM Act for NACD to pass a resolution in support of it and Reauthorization
- Assisted with setting up 3 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Tanks at the Greater Nanticoke Area High School with *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager

Education & Outreach

- Participated in the National RECLAIM Working Group Conference call and discussed EPCAMR's technical assistance and ability to help other States pull together their AML statistics for their Congressional Districts
- Received our Welcome Email from the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited about the arrival of the Trout in the Classroom rainbow trout eggs that will be delivered
- Attended an Environmental Bonds for AMD Technical Advisory Group Meeting at the PA Fish & Boat Commission in Harrisburg, hosted by the Foundation for PA Watersheds and the Headwaters Charitable Trust
- *Dr. Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Upper School is developing a virtual exercise for her students to explore Solomon Creek incorporating EPCAMR's photo essay and information from the Coldwater Conservation Plan; Coordinated a field trip with her Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) Class on 10-29-19 in the Wyoming Valley
- Participated in 4 PA AML Conference calls to discuss Reauthorization during the month

- EPCAMR was requested to review the Federal Mine Affected Community Energy Act (HR 4735) draft language review with *Congressman Dan Meuser's Office-Patrick Rooney*, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, *Congressman Matt Cartwright's Office-Jeremy Marcus*, ARIPPA, and Olympus Power; The bill was introduced on 10-18-19 with the following [press release](#) announcing it as well as an [article](#) in the Times-Leader newspaper locally
- *Abigail Thomas*, Environmental Programs Coordinator, Patagonia Inc.-Patagonia Action Works, followed up with EPCAMR to show us how to utilize the tools on the website to promote community events through social amplification, fundraise, and get petitions signed; Created several event pages for social media amplification through paid advertising by Patagonia Action Works that EPCAMR approved for posting with the help of *Amanda Powell*, Digital Advocacy Coordinator
- Attended the PA Fish & Boat Commission Quarterly Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on 10-21-19 to present before the Legislative & Public Outreach Committee on Reauthorization and other bills important to EPCAMR and our abandoned mine land reclamation community State-wide and to request that they pass a resolution in support of Reauthorization at their January 2020 Meeting
- Provided *Melvin Felix*-Press Secretary for *Congressman Matt Cartwright's* DC Office with a few quotes for his press release on the Reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands Trust Fund (HR 4248)
- Reached out to *Representative Scott Perry's* Office and his Chief of Staff-*Jay Ostrich* to schedule a meeting to discuss Reauthorization of the AML Fund and to provide them with information on AML and AMD in their Congressional District in Dauphin County in the EPCAMR Region
- Reached out to *Harold Dauber*-Executive Director with the PA Federation of Sportman's Club to see if his organization would be interested in passing a resolution in support of Reauthorization; EPCAMR Executive Director caught up with Harold briefly following the PA Fish & Boat Commission Meeting where he was also a presenter
- Reached out to some of our partners in *Congressman Fred Keller's* District to see if they can prepare a letter in support of Reauthorization (HR 4248) and to encourage him to co-sponsor the legislation as well
- *Senator John Yudichak* passed a [resolution](#) (SR 191) through the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee in support of Reauthorization; PA Environmental Digest [article](#)
- Citizens Voice chosen the EPCAMR Executive Director for an in-depth article entitled, "[10 Minutes with Bobby Hughes](#)", to discuss the work of EPCAMR and background as a native son of the Wyoming Valley
- *Steve Felgus*, Ph.D., Deputy Staff Director & Senior Energy & Minerals Policy Advisor for the House Natural Resources Committee requested that the EPCAMR Executive Director once

again testify on AML Reauthorization (HR 4248) at the Legislative Hearing on 11-14-19 in DC; EPCAMR Executive Director accepted and began to prepare testimony

- Provided several articles on hemp on abandoned mine lands to *Paul Golias*, Citizens Voice reporter, who had inquired if EPCAMR knew of any projects in PA; [Lackawanna Research](#), [Penn-State Undergraduate Research](#), and Erica McBride's [presentation](#) at our 2017 PA AMR Conference
- Participated in a monthly Mining Reclamation & Advisory Board Meeting via conference call

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Coordinated with PSU Extension, WVSA, PEC, and the PSU Master Watershed Stewards on the Spring Run Cleanup in the Wyoming Valley and another backup location in Plymouth Township on Earth Conservancy property; Followed up with the W-B Area School District to obtain approval to access the property for the Spring Run Cleanup in the Solomon Creek watershed; Created an EPCAMR Facebook [Event](#) Page
- Created another EPCAMR Facebook [Event](#) Page for another cleanup in Hanover Township with our partners, the PEC NE Office, Nanticoke Conservation Club, Warrior Run Borough, and New Roots Resource Recovery to be held on 11-9-19
- Coordinated with Joe Sapienza, II on providing some funding for the **6th Annual Centralia Cleanup** on October 19, 2019 for some food at Wegmans and supplies from Lowe's; Prepared a letter to confirm *Bruce Forsyth's* from Ontario, Canada, attendance at the Annual Centralia Cleanup and that we don't compensate volunteers any financial reward for participation; Bruce prepared his annual blog post following the cleanup on his [page](#); Submitted additional logos for sponsors on the new t-shirts for the cleanup to MOZIP; Flagged out the areas for the cleanup following a reconnaissance trip to Centralia on 10-10-19 for the day; Received a small donation from *Joanne Russell* all the way from England towards the Centralia Cleanup because of her family's mining Welsh heritage; Spoke to *Rob Dubas*-Keep PA Beautiful about the Camera Surveillance in Centralia; Created the Photo/Liability Waiver form for the cleanup; Confirmed *Congressman Dan Meuser's* attendance at the Cleanup who offered to help and say a few encouraging words over lunch; Put some [press](#) out on the event through www.Centraliapa.org and created an EPCAMR Facebook [Event](#) Page; Provided information as a follow up to Chris Grego, Reporter, with the News Item in Shamokin about the Centralia Cleanup; Coordinated the Centralia Cleanup with **114** volunteers in attendance; We collected over **300** tires, a dozen televisions, **50** bags at least of recyclable spray cans, and over **50** cubic yards of trash; Submitted a summary to Paul Golias with the Citizens Voice who published an article with some photos of the cleanup

- Signed *Mohammed Almoumin*, King's College student and EPCAMR Volunteer up to take the NAACC AOP Certification and Online Training for Culvert Assessments

Conferences, Training, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

- Provided WPCAMR with addresses for a few of the scholarship recipients for the PA AMR Conference to send their reimbursements through the mail; Participated in a monthly PA AMR Conference Call to begin planning for next Annual [PA AMR Conference](#) in State College on June 24th-25th, 2020
- Attended the Luzerne County Litter Cleanup Summit at the Woodlands, Wilkes-Barre as an invited participant, supporter, and partner with the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors' Bureau; Mentioned EPCAMR's grant from the PA American Water Charitable Trust to conduct cleanups in the PA American Water service area
- Reviewed the final poster from Wyoming Seminary on our joint AMD & Art STEM Education Project with the Maslow STEM School and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*; "*Changing Perspectives of Waterways*" is the theme for the Art Exhibit that will be displayed at the KCC Art Museum in Kingston, PA from October 4th through November 4th, 2019; EPCAMR and Wyoming Seminary have won a 2019 International Art Community Partnership Project Award for our efforts from The International Interdependence Hexagon Project in Scranton; Invited Congressman Cartwright to visit the Art Show at some point during the month of October; Here is an article that was recently posted yesterday to promote the Exhibit. [STEM Art Wyoming Seminary Students to Showcase Hexagon Project](#) and our Facebook [Event Page](#)
- EPCAMR sponsored the Keystone Coldwater Conference with a \$100 sponsorship for a student presentation on February 28-29, 2020; EPCAMR Executive Director also submitted an abstract entitled, "*To Connect, or Not Connect, That is the Question!*" to discuss the genetic isolation of native brook trout populations above the coal measures in the Wyoming Valley that have been noted during the completion of our Coldwater Conservation Plans funded by the Coldwater Heritage Partnership over the last decade; EPCAMR Staff were asked by *Rachel Kester*-PA Trout Unlimited Program Manager to be mentors for college students at the Conference due to our involvement in NAACC Culvert Assessments and our long history of working on CHP Coldwater Conservation Planning and Implementation Projects
- Received 18.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH) credits earned at the 2019 National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Conference in Pittsburgh, September 8-11
- Conducted an AMD Field Tour with *Dr. Cosima Weiss* from Misericordia University's Environmental Science Class in the Wyoming Valley

- Provided the *Dr. Jayne Klenner* (Associate Professor of Computers & Information Systems) GIS Class from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA with an AMD Field Tour to the Askam AMD Treatment System on EC property in Hanover Township in the Nanticoke Creek watershed and a chance to watch EPCAMR demonstrate how to collect data for the NAACC Culvert Assessments in the Nanticoke Creek watershed along Clarks Cross, Hanover Township

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for October 2019 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register; Made a deposit to FNB for incoming reimbursements and accounts receivable; Paid into EPCAMR's 3rd Quarter IRAs for Staff
- Entered the EPCAMR bi-weekly payroll into ADP online to release it and provide Denise with a link to obtain the health care expenses to be reimbursed through our PA DEP 319 Grant
- Worked with EPCAMR Staff to complete their evaluations for 2019 and held meetings with them to review their annual work and work plan for 2020
- Interviewed by *Kara McGrane*, a Research Assistant at the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development; The Luzerne Foundation has decided to prepare a strategic plan and asked the Institute to help with the process; As a grantee of the Foundation, EPCAMR was requested to participate in a phone interview to collect data that will be anonymized and only the aggregate will be analyzed and presented in the final report
- Welcomed *Terry Ostrowski*, newly hired CEO, for the Earth Conservancy to his new position and offered to meet with him to solidify and continue our strong relationship with them going forward into the future
- Informed the EPCAMR Staff about the newly opened round of PA DEP Environmental Education Grants and the Youth Allocation Committee Grant Awards Program through the Luzerne Foundation, that only consider funding 20 applications a year; EPCAMR is considering seeking a drone to utilize for some of our work
- Completed the October 2019 Board Report