



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## October 2022 Progress Report

### Project Coordination

#### **Swoyersville Harry E. Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project**

- Received our renewal Contractor Operator License from PA DEP Bureau of Mining Programs; Received the September Invoice from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management and began working on the Progress Report and Request for Payment to PA DEP BAMR; Submitted the documentation; Followed up with *Hank Zielinski* about details needed for the request for the extension letter; Prepared, submitted, and signed an extension letter for the project through October 31, 2023 that was approved by PA DEP BAMR after being forwarded to *Riyad Barkawi* and *TJ Matinas*-PA DEP BAMR; Passed along a copy of the extension approval letter to our project partners; Coordinated a field tour of the project site on October 12<sup>th</sup>, with PA DEP BAMR for the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board that the EPCAMR Executive Director is also an active member of within the Commonwealth; Informed Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management that beginning in November 2022, there will be step down in the price/ton of hauled, excavated, and transported waste culm material according to the grant

#### **Bear Creek Mine Pool Study and Conceptual Design Project**

- Attended the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association (WCRA) Board Meeting at Lykens Glen Park with SRBC AMD Coordinator *Tom Clark* to provide an update on the project after meeting on site with Mr. *Teter* on his property on October 17<sup>th</sup> get a lay of the land prior to the meeting; WCRA sent a letter to their local Senator *Toomey* to encourage him to support and become a co-sponsor of the STREAM Act

#### **Just Transition Fund Cycle 2 Planning Grant for Capacity Building Expansion of EPCAMR Solar Project Development**

*Ron Celentano*, Celentano Energy Services asked EPCAMR if we knew if there would be an increase in property taxes on privately owned abandoned mine lands property if solar installations were placed on their properties; It is a question that we currently do not have an answer to, however, it will be one that we will bring up to the State agencies and have for municipalities and counties that make the decisions on zoning and property tax and real estate decisions; Tax Assessor's Offices are usually in charge of these types of decisions based on County resolutions and policy decisions; EPCAMR provided *Kathy Cook*-League of Women Voters of PA, with a contact at the Carbon County GIS Department to see if they charge a tax or a fee since EPCAMR was aware of a solar array on former abandoned mine lands in the county that was completed years ago outside of Lake Hauto; She followed up with EPCAMR and *Ron* and found out that they don't tax the solar array, but if there was a parking lot, it would be taxed; It can't be assumed however, that all Counties will not tax or charge a fee for solar arrays on

abandoned mine lands; Convened a Zoom call with *Steve Stroman* to discuss community solar legislation updates for PA; Steve has a small amount of funding from The Nature Conservancy's PA and Delaware Chapters to do some planning work in 2023; He's supportive of advocating for solar on abandoned mine lands, gray fields, and brownfields; EPCAMR informed him of our efforts over the last year with our planning and capacity building grant to expand solar partnerships across the Commonwealth and our anticipated upcoming work with the PA DEP Energy Office in 2023 and the facilitated listening sessions and Summit in the Summer of 2023; Reviewed a *PA Legal Scoping Document- Solar on Mines* from Evan Endres-The Nature Conservancy from the Environmental Law Institute; Convened a conference Zoom call with representatives from [RES](#) who are interested in getting more involved in PA developments, especially as regulators make it more friendly for renewables developments in former coal/mine communities

### **NFWF Small Watershed Grant for the Southern Wyoming Valley**

- Prepared a draft document and Table of Contents Outline for review by *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District and *Mike Hewitt* from EPCAMR to review as we begin to plan for the layout and design of the written portion of the plan for next year after receiving the extension until June 30, 2023; Called *John Levitsky* to inform him of our intentions to go out and begin to place the HOBO Temperature sensors throughout the watershed; EPCAMR will provide John a copy of the locations of the placement of the sensors to determine if there will be a need for additional ones to be set out for future monitoring in easily accessible locations; EPCAMR received a final copy of our approved QAPP from the US EPA from *Joe Toolan*, Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Programs for NFWF; Forwarded a copy to *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager; Completed a revision for a Request for payment after communicating with our Project Manager, *Arjeta Bajramaj* and uploaded it to EasyGrants site; Worked with *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist to map out the locations of the HOBO Temperature sensors that we will be installing in November 2022 around the watersheds in the project area

### **Luzerne Foundation “As Above, So Not Below” Mine Mapping Video Project**

- Pitched the proposed grant at a Non-Profit Forum at the Woodlands Inn, Wilkes-Barre, along with 35 other potential grantees on October 5th; Awarded a **\$5,000** grant from the Luzerne Foundation to produce a short video production on how EPCAMR maps out the surface and underground mines for an educational video to be able to make available to the public on our YouTube channel and for schools to watch

### **Healing the Scars with ISI: Year 2 Iron Oxide Short Educational Outreach Video Production**

- Provided *Claudia Meglin*, ISI, with an update and recap of the filming and post production of the Iron Oxide Video short with *Annie Reiner* and the Staff that finished up on October 1<sup>st</sup> after 3 days of filming; Provided her with an update on some additional funding that we could apply some of it towards the post-production and editing costs of the video, if needed; EPCAMR had applied for two additional smaller grants to support the educational video shorts that we have been working on

### **PA American Water Mill Creek/Gardner Creek Cleanups & Monitoring**

- Worked with *Steve Cornia*-GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist to go and field investigate a few cleanup areas for the Fall to see what we can get done this season in the Mill Creek watershed; Investigated a few areas that were in our Coldwater Conservation Plan for Mill Creek and focused on the stretch from N. Washington Street to N. Main Street along Mill Creek and Access Road (Biscontini Road) that was heavily littered and trashed; Partnered with the City of Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne County Blight Committee to conduct the cleanup in November on the 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-12

## **MSI Program**

- Coordinated with *Bobby Burns*, Keystone Anthracite to see when it would be a good time to drop off and return the thousands of historic mine maps from the Girard Estate to his Office in Girardville on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; It's likely that Mike and the EPCAMR Executive Director will have to take two vehicles down with the number of bags of maps that have to be returned; The majority of them have been scanned, catalogued, and inventoried in the PHUMMIS catalog on the [Mine Map Atlas](#)

## **PA American Water Charitable Trust Foundation Environmental Education (EE) Grant on Iron Oxide**

- Coordinated a meeting with *Mike Corcoran*, Wilkes-Barre Area School District to meet with Art Teachers at the CAPPA Art Program in Wilkes-Barre to see if they would be interested in participating in creating some AMD Artwork for a calendar as a part of the EE Project; Met with 3 Art Teachers at the new school in Plains Township to discuss the project and will follow up with them after the Thanksgiving Holidays

## **Technical Assistance**

### **Loyalsock Creek Watershed AMD Treatment System Monitoring**

- Forwarded information from *Harvey Kratz*, biologist who had attended the LCWA and Susquehanna County Chapter TU joint meeting in September where the EPCAMR Executive Director and *Tom Clark* from the SRBC presented on our organization's analyses of water quality impacts in the Loyalsock Creek and where it might be necessary to get some additional monitoring data and water quality ; He followed up with some more insight into the bogs around Sullivan County at the headwaters of the Loyalsock based on his collection of water quality data that has not been published; EPCAMR is considering asking him if we might be able to utilize the data and publish it crediting him fully as we try and make heads or tails out of some of the areas that remain acidic for some reason throughout the watershed; Reviewed the second draft of the Yearly Monitoring Report Card for the Loyalsock Creek of the sampling areas and AMD Treatment systems that EPCAMR has been monitoring for the LCWA, Sullivan County Conservation District, and the White Ash Land Association (WALA) and provided comments to Mike before finalizing the report for distribution; Distributed the Final Report towards the end of October to all of our partners in Sullivan County, PA DEP BAMR, and the SRBC; PA DEP BAMR informed EPCAMR that they are going to be planning some upgrades for WALA Treatment Systems

### **Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance AMD Water Quality and Flow Monitoring**

- EPCAMR was informed by the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance that **\$200,000** in funding was included in the PA State Budget through PA DCED and *Senator John Gordner's* Office for a watershed assessment of the Shamokin Creek watershed and EPCAMR was a part of the initial drafting of the grant application to monitor 9 AMD discharges monthly for a year, for flow and chemistry that are significantly impacting the watershed; See PA Environmental Digest [article](#) that includes the Daily News reporting; Senator Gordner's [Press Release](#); *Tom Gerhard*, Deputy District Director and Director of Community Development for Congressman *Dan Meuser's* Office reached out to EPCAMR and thanked us for our continued support of the SCRA and partners; EPCAMR asked him if he would be able to speak to Congressman Meuser to see if he could reach out to Senator *Toomey* to become a co-sponsor of the STREAM Act

## **Earth Conservancy Nanticoke Creek Watershed Transducer Data Collection/Monitoring**

- Analyzed the flow and precipitation charts and graphs data provided by *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR Program Manager for the Nanticoke Creek watershed below the Askam AMD Treatment System from June through September 2021 to show how the mine pool reacts to varying weather conditions in this area within just a few hours' time

## **PA DEP Energy Office Solar on AML Stakeholder Outreach Assessment Project**

- EPCAMR Staff finished up a cost estimate for Solar on AML Stakeholder Outreach Assessment and submitted it to *Robert Young*, PA DEP Energy Office; EPCAMR Staff awarded a procurement agreement from the PA DEP Energy Office to facilitate 3 listening sessions across the Commonwealth and a 1 Day Summit in State College, PA to produce a Summary Presentation of comments and suggestions gathered by various invited stakeholders who are interested in developing solar on abandoned mine lands in PA to help the Commonwealth develop a strategy for implementation in 2023
- Received files and folders to access to be able to download the latest version of the [AMD Treat](#) software to beta test with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE) Pittsburgh Field Office; EPCAMR to download the software, read the tutorials, and then install the application before testing it out; OSMRE sent a corrected link to the shared files to be downloaded
- Followed up with *Mike Gondell*, Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited after his inquiry into the classification of the streams around Penrose Swamp; *Todd Burns* of the Brodhead Chapter of TU suggested an updated fishery study and electroshocking survey by either the PA Fish & Boat Commission to see if the streams could become classified as Class A trout fisheries; Hazle Creek is a Wild Trout Waters and not a Class A designation; *Brian Wagner*-PA Council of TU informed Mike that the PA Fish & Boat Commission were planning on electroshocking and survey 70 unassessed waters in the Delaware River watershed and hopefully, Hazle Creek could be one of them; EPCAMR reached out to *Kathleen Lavelle*, TU to see if she could get it on the list of streams to be surveyed
- Provided *John Vargo*, a consultant who works in mine water treatment, with links to resources on AMD and EPCAMR suggested network that he might want to follow up with if he's interested in talking with other reclamation groups and watershed groups working on AMD treatment across the Commonwealth
- Provided some references, website links to local community groups, and AMD resource links to *Faith Groody*, student at Notre Dame University, who was doing a research paper on AMD in the Schuylkill Watershed; She is originally from Schuylkill County

## **Education & Outreach**

- Promoted the National Wildlife Federation's [Degraded Lands Policy Report](#); Coordinated with Staff from the National Wildlife Federation on the AMD, AML, and Stream Restoration Tour at several locations within the Southern Wyoming Valley in the Nanticoke Creek watershed on October 3, 2022 with the Earth Conservancy and hosted their effort to release their Policy Report; An [article](#) was written in the Citizen's Voice and Scranton Times newspapers placed behind a paywall; [Fox56 WOLF TV](#) covered the tour as well; PennFuture, the PA Foundation for Fair Contracting, U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region, North Branch Land Trust, and

Congressman *Matt Cartwright's* office had representatives attend the tour; ReImagina Appalachia's created a [TikTok](#) of the visit; Passed along the links to our regional and national partners in reclamation to help spread the word on the positive attention this presser received including NWF's blog [post](#)

- Followed up with *David Bakter*- Bakter Consulting LLC, after a referral from *Susan McDonald*, since his specialty is measuring benefits including property value, wage and income generation to ecosystem services in coal impacted areas; He was formerly the President and Co-Founder for Earth Economics for 21 years before going into consulting; Provided him with an overview of EPCAMR's work in the region
- EPCAMR Executive Director was interviewed by two Wilkes University Environmental Science students for a class project to learn about our work and chosen career paths of Staff
- The Citizens Voice Editorial printed an [Op-Ed](#) on the STREAM Act, written by EPCAMR's Executive Director, however, it was placed behind a paywall
- Reviewed *Mike Hewitt's* comments and suggestions to *Kathy Lin*, Wyoming Seminary student in *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi's* STEM Class that did some initial research and a poster on correlations between impaired waterways from AMD and income, poverty, and educational levels in Luzerne County; Provided a copy of the poster to *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR for her review; Provided *Anne* with information from the PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice related to AML GIS layers and comments that EPCAMR provided to their Office and EJAB to include coalfield communities and the layers provided in their future decision making process for funding grants in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities; *Anne* will be presenting to the [Southwestern PA Water Network](#)
- Attended the PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting on October 20, 2022
- Informed *Robin Broder*-Deputy Director for the [Waterkeepers Chesapeake](#) of some of EPCAMR's outreach activities that are related to the celebration of the [Clean Water Act's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#); EPCAMR Executive Director participated in a Clean Water Panel Discussion on October 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss EPCAMR's work in Northeastern and Northcentral PA helping community groups in AMD and abandoned mine land impacted legacy coal mining watersheds at the premiere of Scott Morris's [American River](#) documentary screening in Lewisburg, PA hosted by the [Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper](#); [Blog post from MSRK](#); Followed up with *Scott* following the screening of the film and complimented him on the great storyline and cinematography in his documentary on the Passaic River in New Jersey
- EPCAMR was informed by the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited that the rainbow trout eggs will be shipped on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the [Trout in the Classroom Program](#) to partners across the State
- Planned a Teams Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> with *Isaiah Lasche*, Sales Representative for [Dutchland Inc.](#) that specializes in engineering, manufacturing, and constructing circular, rectangular and elliptical precast post-tensioned concrete tanks, custom designed wastewater treatment plants and other specialized concrete products for water and wastewater, including AMD Treatment Plants in West Virginia that they have constructed for the WV DEP; Introduced him to EPCAMR and our work in the region and a rundown on funding programs

- Presented virtually to two 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes (**32** students) of a former EPCAMR Staff member, *Samantha Addler*, who is teaching in Alaska now; Made a presentation on EPCAMR's work in the region related to Anthracite Coal and renewable and non-renewable resources; Students from her classes submitted questions beforehand that were answered during the virtual presentation via Zoom; Sent her a Library of Congress Exhibit [Link](#) on Coal that EPCAMR helped provide some maps and information on to the artist that created the exhibit on coal, coal mining, and the history and impacts of legacy mining practices through artistic representations and use of mine maps; Provided her with the EPCAMR Kids Corner [link](#) to our website for additional resources and educational materials; There is mining in Alaska in Fairbanks, with the Usibelli Coal Mine
- Presented to 7 7<sup>th</sup> grade science classes (**252** students) over a 2-day period at the Greater Nanticoke Area School for Mrs. *Miranda Neely*, on EPCAMR's work in the region and focused on the work in the Nanticoke and Newport Creek watersheds that are located within the school district
- EPCAMR will provide a copy of the *Brookie Braves a Storm* Educational Video to the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU for inclusion of their final report to the Forever WILD mini-grant program with the PA Council of Trout Unlimited
- EPCAMR Executive Director spoke to *Michelle Giles*, Policy Analyst for the Conservation Voters of PA to inform her of how she can reach out to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board to get an item placed on the agenda for consideration
- Participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls to receive updates on Friday mornings in October
- Reached out to *Monica Allison* from Patagonia to see if EPCAMR can be taken off of the pause for Patagonia Action Works to become eligible for future grant opportunities
- Communicated with *Rebecca Shelton*, ACLC and other regional partners on a discussion around the RENEW Act ([H.R. 7937](#)) legislation that was produced through the summits on bankruptcy and reclamation; The Act was introduced in the House a few months ago and was included in a House Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing, however it has not moved to the Senate with any sponsors or co-sponsors at this point and is unlikely to move in this legislative session; There is a question as to whether or not PA has any feedback or comments on the legislation; EPCAMR inquired to see if there has been any policy position taken by the current Governor's Administration and suggested that Rebecca reach out to the PA DEP BAMR Director, *Brian Bradley* and *John Stefanko* and *Sam Robinson*, Liaison to the Governor's Office and PA DEP for some insight if they have any information on the legislation
- The PA DEP will begin accepting applications for [abandoned mine reclamation and mine drainage treatment project grants](#) on October 24, 2022; The deadline for applications is January 13, 2023; PA DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation has a total of **\$103.4** million in federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding
- Networked with *James Schmid*, who works on wetlands and water quality, along with general environmental impact assessments as a consultant for [Schmid & Co., Inc.](#), Consulting

Ecologists the last 40 years; His mining assessment work goes back to the late 1970s, when he was preparing environmental inventories for USEPA Region III on bituminous coal mining permits in the coal watersheds of WV, for other regions on bituminous mines in eastern KY, and on lignite mines in TX; He has been helping the Citizens Coal Council (CCC) and the Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ), along with local watershed organizations, to address the ongoing environmental damages by noncoal surface and coal longwall mining operations in southwestern PA; In eastern PA, he's worked with groups in the Poconos and landowners seeking to limit damage from proposed pipelines, power lines, and solar facilities; He provided EPCAMR with a recent USGS analysis of methodology for analyzing (surface) hydrology and detecting mine damage in small headwater streams; The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) and CCC are pushing PA DEP Bureau of Mining Programs to incorporate this procedure into the currently underway revision of the 2005 technical guidance document on stream protection from underground mining when analyzing current mining permits; The other document was commentary on PA DEP's latest 5 year report on longwall mining, which doesn't impact the Anthracite Region, but it interesting information to review because it references several of his company's analyses and compares to how we experience stream loss and infiltration of clean water above the coal measures into fractured rock and stream channels that have been moved or completely undermined in the room and pillar method of mining out here in the Anthracite Region

- Conducted a phone interview with *Christian Piccioni*, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering student at Penn State also pursuing a minor in journalism; He's developed an interest in the utility industry after working for Ameren in St. Louis in 2021 and is researching utilities in PA and the Co-Gen industry's use of coal refuse for generation of electricity and reclamation of abandoned mine lands
- Followed up with *Matt Wilson*, Susquehanna University's [Freshwater Institute](#) to provide him with resources on EPCAMR and our work in the region; Matt was a part of the panel discussion at the American River documentary in Lewisburg, PA due to his work and research with students on the West Branch Susquehanna and tributaries
- *Patti Monahan*, US Senator Casey's Office reached out to EPCAMR to inform us that she is the new NE PA Outreach Manager in the Scranton Office covering 11 counties in Northeastern PA and the Northern Tier, where many of the counties are overlapping with the EPCAMR coverage area; She was just introducing herself to stakeholders and constituents in the region; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with her and provided her with our contact information and a general overview of our work in the region; Provided her contact information to the PA AML Campaign
- Forwarded information from the US EPA [Office of Land and Emergency Management](#) to Justin Dula, PA DEP EJ Director on the finalized ***EJ Action Plan: Building Up Environmental Justice in EPA's Land Protection and Cleanup Programs***; The plan is a working document that highlights projects, tools, and practices to be applied to the Superfund, Brownfields,

Emergency Response, Solid Waste Management, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action, and Underground Storage Tank programs;

The plan includes four main goals:

- Strengthening compliance with cornerstone environmental statutes.
  - Incorporating environmental justice considerations during the regulatory development process.
  - Improving community engagement in rulemaking, permitting decisions, and policies.
  - Implementing President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#)
- EPCAMR and [The Interdependence Hexagon Project](#) were informed that our chapter work will be published on October 23 in the [InSEA](#) eBook that will highlight our collective work with *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary's STEM Program and students who worked with iron oxide pigment recycled from AMD for an art project and toured watershed impacts in a legacy mining impacted watershed in the Wyoming Valley called Solomon Creek, and *Beth Burkhauser*, M. Ed., Adjunct, Keystone College Art Education; 2016 NAEA Art Educator Emerita; PAEA Fellow Founder, The Interdependence Hexagon Project; EPCAMR provided a quote for the news release; A [news release](#) on *The Interdependence Hexagon Project: Art into Action Two Arts-based Projects which Illustrate Community Service and Environmental Issues* has gone out
  - Connected *Beth Burkhauser* from The Interdependence Hexagon Project with the PA DEP Environmental Justice Director, *Justin Dula* and Regional Coordinator, *Juan Serrata* to discuss publicizing the 2023 Theme of Environmental Justice around to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board Members through their newsletter to see if groups might be interested in submitting artwork or schools and other community groups that they might be working with across the Commonwealth; Provided them with a link to the [Call for Exhibits/Art poster](#) and a [Fall 2023 Newsletter](#)
  - Participated in the PA American Water's Huntsville/Ceasetown/Watres Systems annual Source Water Protection Meeting to learn about local source water supplies and to provide updates on EPCAMR's work in their service area; Reviewed the Source Water Protection Plans for the PAWC Huntsville Region/Ceasetown/Watres Systems that are provided to the PA DEP and received updates from regional partners of EPCAMR's that also work in the region

### **Keep PA Beautiful-Open Your Eyes to Litter EE Project**

- EPCAMR worked with Staff to submit an invoice for payment of work on the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 Open Your Eyes to Litter booklets that are being updated and revised and produced in both English and Spanish by Staff; Forwarded *Stephanie Larson-KPB* a W-9 for EPCAMR at their request; New graphics and interactive online games are being created by EPCAMR; *Brady Mock* is completing the graphics design work for the books throughout the project



## Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops\

- Hosted *Ronnie Vesnaver*, Director of the [Chesapeake Watershed Semester](#) and Sustainability Environmental Humanities Teacher and *Mel Skirkanich*, Teacher, for a full day watershed and AMD/AML Reclamation tour for Gunston High School students from Virginia on October 31<sup>st</sup>; Networked them with other regional partners in the Catawissa Creek watershed and Mahanoy Creek watershed for additional tours on the following day during their camp stay at Hickory Run State Park; Coordinated with *Ed Wytovich*-CCRA and Pioneer Tunnel Board member and *Wayne Lehman*-Schuylkill Conservation District
- Attended a WWSA Clean Water Advisory Committee Tour on October 17<sup>th</sup>, to provide details and insights on the Spring Run tributary in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, (*Spring Run 2 Restoration Project*) that is mining impacted in the Solomon Creek Watershed that was a recommended stream restoration project undertaken by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority that was recommended in EPCAMR's Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan from 2012 that was recently completed; Suggested offering to host site tours to AMD locations in the Wyoming Valley for future tours to the WWSA
- Reviewed some new potential artwork plaque designs for the 2023 Mayfly Award from a new artist *Andy McAllister*-WPCAMR connected with in Bozeman, Montana; Participated in a PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Zoom call to begin thinking about 2023 and our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference; *Jon Smoyer*-PA DEP BAMR would like to be able to again present on the SubAward Program at the 2023 PA AMR Conference and EPCAMR and WPCAMR are looking to help get the word out on the grant program to support PA DEP BAMR
- Promoted Clean Energy on Mine Land Workshops from the Office of Community and Economic Development that have planned three workshops to further inform the [Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land](#) in preparation for a future funding opportunity announcement; Two workshops have been held in the Eastern and Western U.S. and one will be held virtually; The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included **\$500 million** for demonstrating the technical and economic viability of carrying out clean energy projects on [current and former mine land](#) across America; The funding for this program includes up to five clean energy demonstration projects in geographically diverse regions, two of which must be solar, with a goal of replication across the country and the creation of jobs and economic opportunity for current and former mining communities

These workshops will:

- Provide a detailed overview of the Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land to interested stakeholders
- Collect feedback from stakeholders on drivers, challenges and potential impacts of mine land demonstrations
- Offer a forum for stakeholder networking in preparation for the funding opportunity announcement

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for October 2022 with Highmark; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Made deposits to FNB for incoming reimbursements, checks, and accounts receivables; Provided *Denise* with a copy of the October 2022 FNB Statement and Payroll Details for October 2022 for the 319 Program Reimbursements
- Completed the October 2022 Monthly Report for both the 319 Program and for the Board Reporting and forwarded it to *Mike*
- EPCAMR Executive Director worked on revisions and budget changes to the Section 319 Grant ***Conservation District Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program – East*** Work Plan following a request from *Trish Attardo*, PA DEP and submitted them for review and consideration for a 2-year grant of **\$260,000**