Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2019 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff presented to the Kings College GIS class, participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, and a PA AMR Conference call
- Sampled the **Askam** treatment system and upstream on **Nanticoke Creek** with **Kings College**
- Finished **NAAMLP** registration and disputed online orders, processed them for **DEP BAMR**
- Began writing the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Mitigation report for **SRBC**
- Setup and added trout egs/fry to 4 TIC tanks for **EPCAMR** and **GNA**. Provided technical assistance to Schuylkill Haven teacher and several more through a Facebook forum. Started a live stream video service on www.dailymotion.com/epcamr
- EPCAMR staff submitted a grant to the **Luzerne Foundation YAC** program
- Updated www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com; updated items on the EPCAMR online store; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAMLP as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Continued to sort out registrations and payments related to last month's National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLP) conference. One confirmed attendee disputed the payment with his credit card company. I submitted information to show that he was registered and did attend, but PayPal judged in favor of the payee. PA DEP staff had to settle the matter directly with the attendee.
- Corresponded with Jenn West from the Ramada Conference Center in State College regarding them hosting our 2020 AMR Conference in June. Robert signed the contract and I sent it back to her locking in the dates.
- Aided Greater Nanticoke Area (GNA) School District science teacher, Amanda Schaffer, in setting up 3 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) tanks. Created 12 redd baskets for the GNA tanks to place their eggs once they arrive.
- Participated in weekly AML campaign calls to get updates on cosponsors to the different bills related to abandoned mine lands.
- Answering questions on the TIC Facebook forum in advance of and after egg arrival. Configured a Google form to collect TIC data and shared it with the forum. The idea came originally from GNA teacher Amanda Schaffer.
- Added redd baskets to the EPCAMR TIC tank and setup live video stream to record the process. Started a playlist of 2019-2020 EPCAMR TIC videos on dailymotion.com.
- Completed the EPCAMR Program Manager 2019 self-evaluation for the EPCAMR personnel committee.

- Received rainbow trout eggs/fry in the mail, removed the dead eggs, counted and added the live ones to the EPCAMR TIC tank. Recorded the process with the video cam mounted to the top of the tank and streamed it live. Robert added the fish to one of the GNA TIC tanks and we both checked in with addition of fish to the other 2 GNA TIC tanks.
- Setup google drive links on PA AMR Conference and AML Campaign listserves. Aided folks as they were having trouble accessing or understanding where to find the documents.
- Follow up on an email last month to contact Keller's office to find the right legislative assistant related to environmental and energy issues in the local and DC offices. Contacted Perry's office for the same information. Both are newly elected representatives within the EPCAMR Region with staff that do not know much about AML issues.
- EPCAMR staff participated AMR conference call to review the NAAMLP Conference and begin to talk about the 2020 AMR Conference.
- Participated in a conference call with ARIPPA and staff from Congressman Cartwright's and Congressman Meuser's staff regarding the waste coal to power tax credit.
- Picked up a used 2013 Ricoh Multifunction Copier for $800 from Town Business Center in Hanover Township. Our copier has been out of commission for months and options to fix it were going to be too expensive.
- Conference call with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to brainstorm the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report. [SRBC]
- Worked on a proposal to sample the Old Forge Borehole weekly for 2 month (10 times) as requested by Tetra Tech. EPCAMR would test for the volatile parameters with our field equipment and send samples to the lab.
- Issues with the EPCAMR Suburban related to the battery draining and not charging. The battery was still under warranty, so we took it back to Sams Club. They tested it and confirmed it was dead and would not take a charge. They replaced the battery for free.
- Made a presentation to Kings College GIS Class with Steve, EPCAMR Watershed GIS Specialist. The presentation was related to the practical use of GIS with a heavy focus on how EPCAMR uses GIS to map abandoned mines. We typically get a few interns from this class each year.
- Completed EPCAMR Program Manager report for the months of May and June.
- Followed up with Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) on Datashed 2018 snapshot notes regarding functionality of the treatment systems and especially with the Buck Mountain #2 Tunnel treatment system in Carbon County. It was clogged when we sampled it in 2018. The clog was reported to PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office. We haven't revisited it since.
- Took students from the Kings College GIS class on a tour of a few sampling sites in the Nanticoke Creek watershed (Askam Treatment System and an upstream culvert) to show how we gather data in the field and put it in a geodatabase.
- Aided a teacher from Schuylkill Haven Area School District with her TIC tank. She had a high mortality rate with the eggs/fry that were delivered to her. It seems that the nitrogen cycle is not taking off and it could be her tap water source (similar to issues EPCAMR had our first year in the program). Looked into recommendations for her. Reached out to colleagues in the area to see if there were any free spring water sources of which she could take advantage. Forwarded photos of the dead fry to PA Fish and Boat Commission to try to get some answers.
- Research on drones for remote sensing AML to help with a grant application that Laura, Shawnese and Steve were working on for the Luzerne Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Reached out to Lukus Monette at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to ask about potential drone models that could carry remote sensing equipment such as cameras and infrared instruments. Electronically signed the grant form before submission.

Technical Assistance:

- Discussed the possibility of web apps for Datashed.org with SRI. It would be great if we could record treatment system information on a tablet or smart phone in the field. I think it would make the site more user friendly. Offered to help with development in the next grant round.
- Started to compile information and write the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Report based off the approved draft outline. [SRBC]
- Consulted with the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) after some difficulty in using FreeConferenceCall.com for conference calls and if there are any similar free services. We discovered that WPCAMR needed to update their account to unlock some newer free services. Google Hangouts is another option, but they would need to go through the Google Apps for Nonprofits application process like we did to get the package to manage their domain and email services.
- Signed up all our EPCAMR phone numbers for the PA Do Not Call service in hopes being on this additional list will curve the number of spam and robo calls we get on our phones. We are already on the National Do Not Call List.
- Worked on a PA TU chapters database to identify the representative for each chapter based off their address.
- Posted the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMILS) ArcGIS Online web app to EPCAMR website and Facebook. It still has some kinks to work out but seems promising to provide RAMLIS through an online web service.
- Updated several years of AMR Conference websites (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) to the newest version of WordPress to keep their security intact and the subdomain running.
- Found and read the online manual for our new Ricoh copier to program the scan to USB function and other presets.
- Prepped for field trip with Kings College GIS students. Printed operation and maintenance (O&M) forms from Datashed.org and culvert sampling forms from StreamContinuity.org. Attempted to load the online culvert sampling forms to our Lenovo tablets, but the offline versions would not take pictures or record GPS coordinates as they used to do a few months ago. Without those abilities, it's relatively worthless to use the tablets.
- Corresponded with Mara Evans at the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) regarding georeferenced mine maps and mosaic work she was quality controlling for the Mine Mapping Grant (MMG). [MSI]
- Installed Global Mapper 21 on two computers in the office to update them to the newest version.
- Upload SIDs to X Drive from travel drive that came back from the PA DEP California DMO. [MSI]
- EPCAMR staff came up with a naming system in the Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS) for the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) aperture cards used in mosaics. Sent the information on to Patrick Jaquay, PA DEP California DMO for comments. [MSI]
- Spoke with Jayne Klenner, Kings College professor that teaches the GIS class, about another possible field day with their field equipment and use of ArcGIS collector or Google Forms. Maybe the students can teach us a thing or two about how to collect data in the field with GIS enabled tablets.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.