



## 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](mailto:hardcoal@epcamr.org)

### October 2020 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned 47, georeferenced, mosaic & digitize mosaicked mine maps for the **PA DEP MSI MMG** program. QA/QC checked work.
- Setup the PA AMR Conference on the Whova Virtual Conference Platform with WPCAMR and processed a total of 180 registrations.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a cleanup at **Centralia**, in a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, several **PA AMR Conference** calls, and a call with **Library Company of Philadelphia**.
- Investigated sampling sites in **Nanticoke Watershed** with **EC**, sampled **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA** and **OFBH** for **Tetra Tech**.
- Updated [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) and [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org); administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts (for NAAMLPA as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Sent out another invite for people to register for the PA AMR Conference. Continued to process registrations and correspond with folks on how to access the Whova Virtual Conference Platform as number of attendees surpass the 100 mark.
- Followed up with Anne Daymut at WPCAMR regarding an AMD Lesson Plan for one of her watershed groups. They wanted ideas on how to do experiments with AMD that are cool for school students and educational to how mine drainage is treated.
- Sent a balance sheet to Kyle as he needed it for a grant he was submitting.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in weekly PA AML Campaign call.
- Met with Brain Oram to show him how to use our sampling equipment and took him to several AMD sampling sites as he is preparing a curriculum for Earth Conservancy's (EC) Environmental Workforce Training (EWT) program next week.
- EPCAMR staff participated on a discussion with EC and AC Power regarding solar power on AML. EPCAMR staff previewed the site selection tool in ArcGIS for the Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition (RAC). Tagged along in the afternoon as EC showed AC Power several of their sites that could be suitable for solar power. EC followed up with some data on electrical power substations that may help in development of the ArcGIS solar site tool. [RAC]
- Participated in a PA AMR Conference call to coordinate efforts for the conference later this month.
- Sent a message to several PA AMR Conference attendees from PA DEP and other state agencies to let them know that Whova does not work in Internet Explorer, but their computers should have Microsoft Edge preinstalled. Google Chrome is actually the preferred browser, or they may be able to use Whova on their mobile devices if they cannot get it working on their work computers.

- Worked on guides for Whova for different roles at the conference (i.e. Attendees, Speakers, Moderators and Hosts) as there weren't a lot of virtual only conference guides. We also added in some things we have learned about Zoom and Whova interactions with specific internet connections, browsers and mobile devices.
- Handed over login credentials to Kyle for the [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) website.
- Worked with DEP to setup their Exhibit Booth on the Whova Virtual Conference Platform. Apparently, the info they added through the web form was submitted and lost. Yet another glitch we reported to the Whova Technical Support Team.
- Attempted to export the agenda from Whova with the Zoom livestream links to give to speakers and moderators who are recommended to join through Zoom as opposed to Whova. It worked, but we will need to schedule more live streams before exporting the final version.
- Participated in a PA AMR Conference call followed by a Moderator training over Zoom and Whova. This was a slight disaster, but we learned a lot and were able to make adjustments moving forward. Something about WPCAMR Regional Coordinator, Andy McAllister's internet connection made his video and audio come through delayed and garbled.
- Provided links to the PA AMR Conference listserve for several EPCAMR informational videos on our daily motion site. Contacted Branden Diehl at Foundation for PA Watersheds to ask if their Little Conemaugh Project Video would be completed and if they wanted an exhibit booth at the Conference. He said it wouldn't be complete and they declined a booth.
- Worked with Anne Daymut on the Whova Dashboard to continue setting up the virtual conference, contacted Whova customer support for guidance when we couldn't figure out a specific setting.
- EPCAMR was off for Columbus/Indigenous People's Day but I spoke with Andrea Krupp at the Library Company of Philadelphia. She has been looking at the materials in their historic collections having to do with PA anthracite, books and maps that will form the core of an exhibition in 2021 - "Seeing Coal - time, material and scale". She would like EPCAMR to participate.
- Provided images of coloring book characters in our EPCAMR coloring book to Kyle so he could create a fundraising board to benefit parts for the ATV (i.e. a roof and windshield).
- Reviewed a list of videos that Cristy Sweeney evaluated for use in the virtual conference tour.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a second PA AMR Conference Moderator training over Zoom and Whova. This session was a lot more productive as we had audience members (EPCAMR staff) to act as regular attendees and conference committee members were able to assume different roles as hosts, speakers and moderators. Helped Anne develop instructions for Economic Panel and Coffee Breaks (break out sessions in zoom as opposed to the webinar format of the other sessions).
- Sampled the downstream on the Loyalsock Creek and in/out of 3 treatment systems in the watershed (Connell B Vein Tunnel, Connell C Vein Tunnel and the Lewis Gutten Drift treatment systems). We also cut down trees on the berm, cleared the intake and attempted to fix the plywood weir at the Lewis Treatment System. As a result we ran out of time and could not sample upstream on the Loyalsock Creek. [LCWA]
- Received word that EPCAMR got both our 319 program grant and the Bear Creek Grant from Growing Greener!
- Worked with Anne to register our speakers that are still not registered for the PA AMR Conference and are not getting information from Whova regarding their speaking engagement.
- Discovered that a delay on Andy McAllister's internet connection was being caused by the fact that he was using satellite internet. Since we had this type of internet briefly when we were at the Luzerne Conservation District office (over a decade ago), I knew there was a delay that essentially rendered live streaming applications useless. Researched this type of connection with Zoom and Whova. Not much information was available, but we discovered that it was best that he should not show video for moderating the PA AMR Conference, but audio seemed to come through fine in Zoom.

- EPCAMR staff conducted the 7th Annual Centralia Cleanup. Brought the side by side ATV to run supplies to volunteers, coordinate efforts and carry some smaller piles of collected trash to the dumpster. Repaired trailer taillight.
- Received historical project photo slides from Ed Wytovich. The slides will be scanned and cataloged by our intern.
- Cleaned up office a little in preparation for the PA AMR Conference and after a busy summer.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the 3rd AMR Conference Moderator Training. We learned a ton more about Whova, Zoom and the interaction between the two. Asked several follow-up questions to Whova Tech Support. Updated [treatminewater.com](http://treatminewater.com) website and Whova dashboard.
- Sent out first page of 990s and e-file signature page to EPCAMR president for signature.
- Processed a running tally of 165 registrants by the advertised "Last day for AMR Conference Registrations". Worked on Whova Dashboard with Anne Daymut. Made a spreadsheet of the presentations with zoom links and sent them to speakers and moderators. Continued adding Loyalsock data to sampling spreadsheet.
- Hosted the 1st AMR Conference Attendee Training with only 11 people in attendance. Provided an exhibit booth for Headwaters Charitable Trust on the Whova Virtual Conference Platform. Aided Tom Clark with a password reset on his Whova account through Whova tech support.
- Replied to an email from John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist, looking for Nitrogen and Phosphorous results in Luzerne County AMD sampling and asking specifically why we don't sample these parameters typically in AMD as he needed an answer for their Watershed Implementation Plan meeting with PA DEP. I answered that the tests add ½ hour extra time to each sampling site and historically those parameters were not sampled by cooperating agencies because they are considered chemicals produced by organic processes. While the drainage is from coal (mostly carbon) mines formation of AMD is an inorganic geochemical process.
- Hosted a 2nd AMR Conference Attendee Training and this time more attended. This was the actual last day for registrations. Shut down the registration items on the EPCAMR Store and made updates to [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) website at close of business. 180 attendees is the final count.
- Finalized videos list for Virtual Tour with Anne Daymut. Received word that Lanny Erdos, OSMRE Director, was no longer available to speak at the AMR Conference. Quickly strategized with the AMR Conference Committee to find a replacement and make the necessary changes in Whova. Tom Shope from OSMRE volunteered to pinch hit. Added an exhibit booth to Whova for Wilkes University and converted Ken Klemow's poster presentation into a video for the booth.
- Co-hosted day 1 of the AMR Conference with Anne Daymut on Zoom. Snapshot statistics: 125 at the OM&R Panel presentation, 60 in Conservation Planning, 76 in North Fork presentation, 71 in 25 Years of Cheat, 111 in Greg Conrad's AML Legislative update, 72 in Protect Clean Water, 110 for Dave Hess' PA Legislative Update. All these number seemed low as I was jotting them down at random times during the presentations. Actual numbers of total attendees in each presentation can be found in attendee activity statistics in Whova Dashboard. Took a snapshot of attendee activity in Whova Dashboard at the end of the day. Recordings weren't starting automatically (another Whova glitch from their integrated live stream tool). Caught it early, but as a result I only recorded 1/2 of the North Fork and none of the Protect Clean Water presentation (luckily there was a pre-recorded one for Protect Clean Water). Fielded issues with sound on Microsoft Edge (basically refresh browser till you get sound) due to yet another glitch in Whova.
- Co-hosted day 2 of the AMR Conference with Anne Daymut on Zoom. Snapshot statistics: 118 in Virtual Tour, 54 in Drones presentation, 110 in OSMRE presentation, 72 in the Farewell Photo. Took snapshots of 3 screens worth of attendees, many was just their name if they did not have video streams.
- Took a second snapshot of attendee activity in Whova Dashboard. Discovered that Whova was not recording times for some attendees. Their name was on the list but were given all 0's for attendance in sessions. Anne and I actually saw these people in sessions, another Whova

glitch. Also downloaded statistics from Zoom, which is not formatted as well but helped us audit Whoova's statistics. They seemed to fill in most of the gaps.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- On-site evaluation of the Old Forge Borehole (OFBH) stilling well situation and revamp with Jon Dietz, Tetra Tech. Came up with a proposal to install a larger 4" diameter stilling well and submitted it to Tetra Tech in addition to the sampling work being completed at OFBH. [OFBH]
- EPCAMR staff tore out old stilling well at OFBH and installed new one. Sent photos to Tetra Tech. [OFBH]
- Evaluated data from old In-Situ transducer and passed it on to Tetra Tech. Spoke with technicians about the failure date past which data cannot be trusted. [OFBH]
- Fondriest Environmental Supply Company reported that the Solinst Junior Edge Loggers were no longer in supply because they were being replaced with another version and recommended that EC purchase these because of faster data transfer speeds. There is an adapter that can be purchased for the older app readers.
- Recorded some Loyalsock Creek sampling data in spreadsheet in preparation for report writing later. [LCWA]
- Sent Upper, Lower Ross and Lower Baltimore Vein Mosaics to Frank so he could continue to digitize underground mine features. [MSI]
- Called Swoffer to ask about strange flow meter readings, suggested I clean and calibrate it. Also bought another prop assembly.
- Spoke with Jon Dietz about setting up sample analysis at Hawk Mountain Labs, EPCAMR will pay and be reimbursed by Tetra Tech. Jon notified us that there would be a delay shipping in automatic sampler due to COVID. Sent In-Situ tax exempt paperwork to invoice us for the data recovery expenses. [OFBH]
- Evaluated 4 sites in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed for flow monitoring stations with EC staff as a follow up to their ARIPPA award. Took photos and notes to ascertain what needs to be done to place transducers/stilling wells. Drew up some plans to scale and shared with EC. Also sent along snapshots of georeferenced underground mine maps in headwater locations to help determine flow losses to the mines and what could potentially be done. Aided EC in purchasing the correct Solinst transducers from Fondriest Environmental Suppliers.
- Asked Kathleen Lavelle for their data from sampling the Loyalsock Creek last month as we are trying to track down issues with sampling equipment.
- Sampled OFBH for the first bi-weekly event and sent samples to lab. Discovered an issue with the stilling well wobbling around in the flow. Downloaded transducer data to see if the wobble was affecting the results. The wobble was actually less than the graphed data from the old transducer data in the 2" diameter stilling well. [OFBH]
- Steve replaced pH/ORP probe on YSI Pro Plus multiparameter probe.
- Sampled OFBH and sent samples to lab. Sent preliminary OFBH chemistry and flow data to Jon Dietz at TetraTech. Observed the same issues with stilling well wobbling around. Thought about sticking a smaller diameter metal pipe down the stilling well to stabilize or figure out a way to strap it down against the rock wall. Discussed ideas with Jon Dietz.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.