



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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September 2019 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 201 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 5 & digitized mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in the NAAMLPL Conference in Pittsburgh, a **PA AML Campaign** call, and a PA AMR Conference call
- Sampled the **Askam** treatment system and downstream on **Nanticoke Creek** for **EC**
- Collected **NAAMLPL** registration information from online orders, processed them for **DEP BAMR**
- Finished mine pool mapping of the **West End Colliery** near **Mocanaqua** for **SRBC**
- 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 NAAMLPL as well); maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Spoke with Congressman Cartwright's staffer Jeremy Marcus regarding the Waste Coal Tax Credit. They were working with Congressman Meuser's staff to figure out language that would be amenable to both the industry and environmental groups. Aside from the benefits to land and water, the waste coal power plants are still burning a fossil fuel and emissions aren't as clean as renewable energy. The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) suggested creation of riparian buffers on the streams near waste coal piles as a sort of carbon sequestration and stream habitat benefit. We relayed the information and supported the language addition.
- Renewed out tax exempt status with Office Depot. Every company deals with tax exempt status differently and it is something that must be monitored on every sales receipt.
- EPCAMR staff attended the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLPL) Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Assisted PA DEP BAMR staff over the 3-day conference with several aspects from scholarship payouts and payment processing to shuttling folks to the boat cruise and honoring two individuals with the MayFly Award. Over 400 people were in attendance, which is the largest attendance at a NAAMLPL conference and certainly the largest attendance at an AMR Conference. On top of the dozens of AML related presentations, Congressman Thompson (in person) and Congressman Cartwright (via video) announced they were traveling to DC that day to introduce the Reauthorization of the AML Trust Fund legislation in the House of Representatives.
- Sorted out scholarships paid at the NAAMLPL conference and those that needed to be mailed.
- Prepared EPCAMR reimbursement paperwork for the months of May and June to submit to the PA DEP 319 program.
- Aided EPCAMR Education Specialist select supplies for an upcoming GrowBoxx program.

- Continued to work on language with Congressman Meuser's staff and ARIPPA on a conference call after the language was sent to their legislative council who had confused the issue of a riparian buffer into language that no longer made sense to either party. Agreed upon the creation of a fund per ton of waste coal processed to be set aside for riparian buffer enhancement.
- Added a footer to the PA AML Campaign and RECLAIM Working Group listserv emails to link to the shared google drive folders with all the documents and information that EPCAMR and WPCAMR have been gathering.
- Updated Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) on progress on the Mocanaqua Tunnel Project. Prepared a draft outline for the final report and awaited input. [SRBC]
- EPCAMR staff participated in a PA AML Campaign call.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a PA AMR Conference call to talk about scholarships that still needed to be paid out after EPCAMR AMR Conference Scholarship funds were depleted. WPCAMR paid the rest of the scholarships with the funding they were holding.
- Finished up with conference registration holdovers and disputes. Notified PA DEP BAMR of the balance on the Pay Pal account. Figured out which expenses to be deducted from the AMR Conference account to reimburse EPCAMR for conference related expenses.
- Corresponded with Jayne Klenner from Kings College to participate in GIS day, make a presentation at her GIS class and take students on a field trip to show the practical use of GIS in the field. EPCAMR staff met internally to figure out who will participate and what will be done on those days.
- Discovered the SRBC still owed us an unpaid invoice for work done to complete the Rausch Creek Mine Pool Mapping project. Resubmitted the invoice for payment.

Technical Assistance:

- Shut down online registration for the NAAMLPP Conference as it was literally a week away. Created a report of online registration orders by status for PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) staff to troubleshoot some registrations that "didn't go through". The online store records failed attempts to fill out the registration form. Some folks thought they had registered, but did not pay, and contacted EPCAMR or DEP staff to complain now that they had to pay extra. This "misunderstanding" was expected, planned for and continued even after the conference was over. I was happy to work with the specific staff members at PA DEP BAMR who were very understanding and willing to do what it took to resolve issues as they arose. Transferred a second amount of money collected in PayPal for registrations to PA DEP BAMR.
- EPCAMR staff continued to calculate mine pool volumes by vein in 1-foot increments in the West End Colliery in EarthVision's instant volumetrics tool and ArcGIS' storage capacity tool. [SRBC]
- Sampled the Askam Treatment System and downstream on the Nanticoke Creek. Sent results to the Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Spoke with PA DEP MSI staff regarding holes in mosaics representing missing maps from the state collection. Essentially all the state collection of maps has been scanned and the maps do not exist in the state collection. EPCAMR staff has access to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's National Mine Map Repository (OSMRE NMMR) and have found several maps that could be placed in mosaics to fill gaps. The map images needed to be converted from 8-bit grayscale to 24-bit RGB color, processed into SID format and georeferenced, but MSI staff okayed the substitution. Placed a batch of converted maps for the Nanticoke and Wilkes-Barre West quads on the travel drive for processing into SIDs. [MSI]
- Worked on flattening a "bubble" in the Bottom Ross vein that was caused by a mismatch of cloud point data from mine maps to cross sections from the Black Creek Report. Typically, this would be dealt with in the raw data, but since the interpolated raster was developed first in ArcGIS it would have to be reprocessed in ArcGIS and exported again creating additional time-consuming steps. Learned a new method to fix the interpolated raster in EarthVision's graphic editor program before going through the stratigraphic sequence model. [SRBC]

- Quality control analyzed the work done in May and June for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant program. Prepared and sent the reimbursement and work on the travel drive. [MSI]
- Began getting questions as MSI staff review mosaic work that had been submitted in previous months and worked to resolve specific issues. Removed, added different maps, and adjusted boundaries in mine map mosaics which required georeferencing some maps. Exported the mosaic footprint and resubmitted the corrections to the PA DEP MSI staff via email. [MSI]
- Installed a new version of IrfanView (4.53), a free image processing program that has some of the same capabilities of Photoshop. It also has a plugin for SID format viewing and is very helpful in GIS work.
- Attempted to repair a network port in Executive Director's office, but no matter the combination of wiring, the network signal would not relay through the Cat 5 10/100 mbps ethernet lines. Looked into the cost of upgrading the wiring to Cat 5e gigabit or Cat 6 10 gigabit lines which would increase data transfer speeds by 10x or 100x respectively. The cost of materials is reasonable, and I could do the wiring work, but when to fit it into a busy schedule with minimal internet/network downtime is another issue.
- Completed the 1-foot interval mine pool volumes from 850-750 ft. above mean sea level (AMSL) for the eastern portion of the Priscilla Lee basin in the West End Colliery and reported the results to SRBC. [SRBC]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.