



## 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)

### September 2020 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as some worked from home to georeference & digitize mosaic maps for the **PA DEP** MSI MMG program. 60 maps were scanned. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a Solar on AML project call to update **AC Power**, a weekly **PA AML Campaign** call, several **PA AMR Conference** calls and administered conference registration.
- Sampled the Askam TS along **Nanticoke Cr.** for **EC**, sampled 2 TS along **Loyalsock Cr.** for **LCWA**, installed the **EnviroDIY Mayfly** for **Lackawanna CD** and a transducer at **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; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server and workstation.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Updated to [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) to explain the Whova Virtual Conference platform and some helpful links. Started processing AMR Conference registrations again since opening it up for the virtual conference.
- Ordered reagent refills and test tubes for the YSI Photometer in preparation for field monitoring and Earth Conservancy's (EC) Environmental Workforce Training (EWT) next month.
- Updated AC Power on progress of the Solar on AML project.
- Checked in on tax exemption status with Zoom. Their communication back indicated they had never received the paperwork even though I followed explicit instructions from a customer service representative to send the paperwork over a month ago. Followed these new instructions and resubmitted the tax-exempt paperwork.
- Sampled Loyalsock Creek upstream, downstream and inflow/outflow of the two Connell Tunnel Treatment Systems. [LCWA]
- Verified contact and payment information with Go Daddy for our website domains. Realized that we have [epcamr.org](http://epcamr.org) for 18 years and 10 years for affiliated organization websites (ex. [schuylkillheadwaters.org](http://schuylkillheadwaters.org) and [friendsofthenscopeck.org](http://friendsofthenscopeck.org)).
- EPCAMR had language specific to the COVID restrictions placed in the contract with the Ramada Conference Center in State College. Since rescheduling the face-to-face AMR Conference to June 2020, we were required to put down a \$1,000 deposit which would be recouped at the time of payment. This was a precaution taken by the Ramada since our new contract was scheduled more than 180 days with no recourse if we decided to cancel before December.
- Received word from Sullivan County Conservation District that our longtime friend and esteemed colleague, Corey Richmond's Celebration of Life Ceremony was later this month. We accepted the invitation.

- Aided Anne Daymut with building the conference agenda into the Whova Dashboard. She assigned zoom meetings to the different sessions from her account and I added zoom meetings for the Track 2 concurrent sessions.
- Worked with DEP regarding AMR Conference sponsor profile and setup of the exhibit booth on Whova.
- EPCAMR past president, Ed Wytovich, shared his experience with a solar developer and their concerns regarding ground settling on a specific AML site to help inform our Solar on AML project.
- Reviewed an email from Executive Director regarding an event planning tool from Georgia Tech. The tool calculates a risk level which estimated chance (0-100%) that at least 1 COVID-19 positive individual will be present at an event in a county, given the size of the event. With a typical AMR Conference in State College (Centre County) we expect at least 100 individuals. The tool estimated an 88% chance that at least one individual would be positive. If we had a smaller even of 50 individuals, there would still be a 65% chance. Those percentages are simply too high to gamble with people's lives.
- Followed up from Brian Mangan, Kings College, to train his students to create bathymetric maps in ArcGIS.
- Received an email from Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA), in response to refurbishing the Insitu transducer and design specs for the installation of the stilling well at the Old Forge Borehole. Bernie had plans that were drawn up by PA Tectonics which were helpful in designing the retrofit of the new stilling well and transducer. Rediscovered that I was the one last in contact with Insitu to refurbish the probe in 2016. Made contact again with Insitu who said the probe could not be refurbished again so I asked about a quote on data extraction. They combined it with a quote for a new Level Troll 500.
- Took a week long vacation, but continued to process AMR Conference registrations via email.
- Correspondence from Cliff Denholm about beta testing a new version of Datashed. Asked for volunteers within the EPCAMR staff to do the testing as several of them have dealt with/ entered data into Datashed.
- Notified EC of their ARIPPA Award. Elizabeth Hughes sent a thank you message to ARIPPA.
- Ordered a Solinst Barologger Edge Barometric Pressure Logger, Levelogger Junior Edge Water Level Logger, and Direct Read Cable Assemblies from Fondreist Environmental for the OFBH stilling well retrofit.
- Correspondence from PA DEP regarding EPCAMR MMG Review of work for October 2019 - March 2020. Other than a few typos, 3 TIFF scan maps were missing on the drive and I submitted them over Google Drive. [MSI]
- 24 Tested out Zoom for AMR Conference with Cristy Sweeney from ARIPPA, Anne Daymut from WPCAMR and a few EPCAMR staff. We learned a lot but developed more questions on how a virtual conference would work. Enabled Whova Conference Gamification on the Dashboard as requested by AMR Conference Committee Members, but realized that this was only needed if we wanted to hand out prizes to the people who participated the most on the app (i.e. social butterfly). The winner would be automatically selected, but the points still accumulate if this is not enabled. Discussed prize options, but ultimately let the points just be the comparison of who won. Helped Anne setup an email through Whova that would send instructions for conference speakers to update their profile in the speaker center, best practices for presenting over zoom and other tips. Whova Dashboard notified me that 3 speakers updated their profiles. The automatic tools in the Whova Dashboard are helpful.
- Continued to process AMR Conference Registration and field questions about access to the Whova App. If there was something that I didn't know I asked customer support at Whova.
- EPCAMR staff sampled the inflow/outflow of the Askam Treatment System, upstream and downstream (below Espy Confluence) on the Nanticoke Creek. [EC]
- A conversation with Anne Daymut about editing videos for the AMR Conference Virtual Tour and shorts for the AML campaign revealed that Anne is swamped, but Laura could do EPCAMR's videos if she had the proper software. Purchased Adobe Photoshop Elements 2020 and Premiere Elements 2020 Bundle.

- Aided EPCAMR VISTA, Kyle Argenziano, in submitting a grant to get us our own DIY Mayfly. Sent along the budget for the one we installed on the Upper Lackawanna. Followed up with Campbell Scientific, the company that supplies the OBS 3+ Turbidity sensor, but they still don't have the replacement one available. They said by the end of the year. Evaluated a new training webinar video from EnviroDIY that literally shows you how to build a Mayfly monitoring station from start to finish.
- Discussion with EC and BF Environmental regarding the EWT next week where students will learn about collecting water samples. Suggested locations to take flow and collect samples as the Askam borehole is not flowing at that time.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Stopped copying over EPCAMR Online Store items from the Magento 1 to the Magento 2 store when the automatic emails that notified staff and purchaser of an item were not being sent. Decided Magento 2 was a lost cause and reverted back to using Magento 1 knowing it will work for a limited time (hopefully long enough to finish AMR Conference registration). Re-created items on the old EPCAMR store for the AMR conference registration and updated [www.treatminwater.com](http://www.treatminwater.com) with the old links.
- Reviewed digitizing work for the Chauncey and Red Ash vein mosaics in the Nanticoke Quadrangle from Frank Sindaco, EPCAMR GIS Technician, and suggested edits.
- Quality controlled and assured (QA/QC) several Nanticoke mine map mosaics. Discovered an issue with several maps in the Glen Lyon Colliery that were used in the surface mosaic but the georeferencing was way off. Re-georeferenced these maps but discovered that several underground mine maps were also georeferenced off these maps and placed into mosaics. Worked to correct those maps and mosaics. [MSI]
- Installed DIY Mayfly monitoring station on the Upper Lackawanna. I installed the Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) sensor and staff gauge in the stream while Lackawanna County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, Cheryl Nolan and EPCAMR GIS Specialist, Steve Cornia installed the datalogger and solar panel on the stream bank. Took a flow with our Swiffer Flow meter to begin to establish a water depth to flow curve. A few days later, Cheryl reported she was able to download data from the DIY Mayfly.
- Corresponded with PA DEP regarding EPCAMR Mine Mapping Grant review of work for April - June 2020. Only 1 question for the work submitted. [MSI]
- Aided AMR Conference planning committee members with an ongoing issue in accessing the pyritebad listserv. New email settings were recently rolled out by many ISPs which disallow spoofed emails, which essentially is what a listserv is, the pyritebad email receives the email and reflects it to emails on the listserv. A spoof is the change in IP and/or sender. We have taken all the actions we can to send along tags that legitimize the listserve. Some ISPs have a hair-trigger when it comes to SPAM and some are more distinguishing. It's a crapshoot to figure out which ISPs have the most updated policies.
- Sent Lower Baltimore, Upper Ross, Lower Ross, Chauncey, Upper Red Ash, Lower Red Ash and Surface mosaics for the Nanticoke Quadrangle after the Glen Lyon maps were re-georeferenced. Asked Mara Evans at DEP about completed mosaics she received. She responded with a table listing all the mosaics we submitted and she reviewed to date, this matched my records.
- Removed old Insitu transducer at the Old Forge Borehole with great difficulty as the pipe was plugged and rusted off below the water level. Placed the new Solinst transducer, but it seemed to be wobbling around a lot in the flow. Sent old Insitu probe to the manufacturer to see if the data could be extracted from the probe. [OFBH]
- Took flow at Upper Lackawanna and tinkered with the DIY Mayfly as it had gone unresponsive a few days prior. Got it working again.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.