



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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Dear Supporters, Existing Members, Lifetime Members, and Future Partners of EPCAMR,

What a productive year for 2024! While we still remain a small, but mighty and effective regional non-profit organization that has continued to show leadership and positive community impacts across PA on the subject of abandoned mine land reclamation and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) watershed restoration, much work remains to be done. Looking back at 2024, we are proud of our accomplishments and would like to continue to thank each of you for supporting us as active Board members, volunteers, advisors, technical assistance providers, sponsors, and community supporters. We continue to overcome hurdles, challenges, administrative grant changes, funding challenges, and our own community organizational capacity issues, and more recently federal government orders and memos that have caused us to pause and take stock on where we are with certain projects that are being looked at more closely by the current Administration.

We are a flexible Coalition and my Program Manager, Mike Hewitt, and I, along with our Staff, have been able to pivot and remain adaptable to change and are constantly adjusting to what lies before us and we continue to be creative in our approach to project management and thinking outside of the box when in times of uncertainty, we need to think on our feet and stay the course. We've climbed some high mountains (of culm) literally and waded through some turbulent orange waters of AMD this past year as we continue to advance our mission, goals, and objectives in the region. We remain steadfast in our efforts to support the reclamation of abandoned mine lands, cleanup of AMD, support the redevelopment of abandoned mine lands through renewable energy projects, and provide environmental education opportunities, tours, programs, and curriculum development to our community partners across the EPCAMR Region and State-wide.

We continue to have some great successes this past year that our Staff have worked very hard to accomplish with the guidance of our Board of Trustees and Committees throughout the year. Being back to in-person, face-to-face meetings and distancing ourselves from some of the earlier post-pandemic strategies that we had to have in place for safety reasons, has now allowed us to regroup, refocus, and create a stronger vision for where we are going over the next five years. Our in-person meetings, conferences, trainings, tours, outdoor environmental education learning experiences, STEM Camps, and face-to-face community meetings across the Northeastern, Northcentral, and Central PA Appalachian Coalfields have been very productive and fruitful.

EPCAMR (www.epcamr.org) has been working to reclaim abandoned mine lands, restore streams impacted by AMD, work with the private sector and government agencies, the coal industry, the co-generation industry, foundations, corporations, Universities and Colleges, municipal officials, artists, regional, state-wide, national non-profit organizations, community members throughout the coalfields, and students to improve the quality of life in our region impacted by past mining.

We just wanted to share some of our most significant accomplishments in 2024 below. The highlights will give you all a sense of all of the hard work that has been put forth by Staff, our Board, and our regional Community Partners, watershed associations, and Conservation Districts in the Commonwealth.

- Funded through the ARIPPA AMD/AML Reclamation Mini-Grant, the purchase of a safe accessible retractable walkway for placement over the Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System owned and operated by the Earth Conservancy for improved and safer operation and continued maintenance of the system along the Nanticoke Creek in Hanover Township, Luzerne County
- Completed a full hydrologic year of water quality and flow sampling of 27 sites in partnership with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, PA DEP, and Tetra Tech in the Shamokin Creek Watershed at 9 AMD discharge locations and provided technical assistance and further recommendations on future monitoring needs
- Co-authored a Community Watershed Organization and Conservation District Survey and Report with WPCAMR, Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI), the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers (POWR) and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) focused on the needs of community groups and partners working on AMD/AML issues in their watersheds that was presented with a Recommendations Report at the **26th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference**, State College, PA
- Completed the 2024 Loyalsock Creek Watershed AMD Treatment System Sampling Report and presented it to the Sullivan County Conservation District, White Ash Land Association, and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association
- Coordinated and celebrated our **26th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference**, the longest-running conference on abandoned mine reclamation in PA, that has been co-chaired by EPCAMR and WPCAMR, and planned by our PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Planning Committee; Our largest attendance and most number of sponsors in the history of the Conference were achieved in 2024 (<https://2024.treatminewater.com/>)
- Continue to populate the **PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program's Mine Map Atlas** with tens of thousands of maps that have been scanned, georeferenced, digitized, mosaicked, and reviewed for quality assurance and quality control for the entire Northern Anthracite Coal Field and will be continuing that work for the next 2 years with the hopes of beginning to create 3D models starting in the Northern Anthracite Coalfields as soon as the entire mosaicking of the mine maps are completed (<https://www.minemaps.psu.edu/>)
- Participated in the Junior Achievement Career Planning Event at Mohegan Sun and set up an educational exhibit on our work to reach out to 3000 students from 18 schools in the greater Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties
- Continue to work on the development of a Coldwater Conservation Plan and Watershed Assessment for the Shickshinny Creek Watershed in Shickshinny Borough, Luzerne County in partnership with the PA American Water Charitable Foundation, Luzerne Conservation District, Stanley Cooper Chapter and Columbia County Chapter TU, PA Game Commission NE Region (SGL 250, 55, 224), the PA Council of Trout Unlimited, and other local partners established by EPCAMR
- Continued water quality and flow monitoring of the Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System for the Earth Conservancy in Hanover Township, Luzerne County
- Participated in the Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper's Vernal Partnership School Environmental Expo at the Montour Nature Preserve, where 1000 attendees came through the event
- Participated in the 2024 PA Fish & Wildlife Diversity Forum with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and PA Game Commission to update the PA Wildlife Action Management Plan and provide valuable input and ideas related to watershed restoration and reclamation of abandoned mines and the potential for restoration and reclamation projects that could involve wildlife habitat and stream improvement projects
- Presented at the 2024 PA Recyclers of PA (PROP) Conference in the Lehigh Valley on EPCAMR's work on AMD/AML
- Continue to work with **Columbia University** to sample AMD throughout the Wyoming Valley and Lackawanna Valley for critical and rare earth elements and will be installing several pressure transducers in 2025 at targeted AMD sites
- Continued to work on a 3D mine pool model of the **Bear Creek** tributary to the Wiconisco Creek in Dauphin County
- Removed and recycled 1910 illegally dumped tires in the Sugar Notch Run watershed (a trout stream) in Hanover Township, Luzerne County that were found by EPCAMR Staff who secured funding with several partners to coordinate and remove the pile with 35 volunteers in partnership with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA), PEC, PA DCNR Pinchot State Forest, Nanticoke Conservation Club, Keep PA Beautiful NE PA, Earth Conservancy, and the municipality of Hanover Township
- Completed the Chesapeake Bay Program's Southern Wyoming Valley Watershed Assessment funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grant for the Solomon, Warrior, Nanticoke, and Newport Creek Watersheds

- Participated in the 2024 International Mine Water Association Congress Organizing Committee Conference and W. VA AMD Task Force Symposium
- Sponsored 2 OSMRE AmeriCorps positions with EPCAMR as a part of their Energy Community Program administered by the Stewards Individual Placement Program and Conservation Legacy
- Hosted the Kutztown University Field Geology Camp and provided them with a Watershed Field Tour of the Anthracite Region on AMD/AML Projects throughout the Wyoming Valley
- Hosted the Environmental Literacy Partnership (ELP) with PA DCNR and the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 (LIU#18) at the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) Workshop including the topic of AMD, Reclamation, and Watershed Restoration, in addition to promoting our EPCAMR Educational website (www.education.epcamr.org)
- Coordinated and removed 750 illegally dumped tires from the PA Game Commission's State Game Lands 224 in Glen Lyon Borough, Luzerne County, with our partners, the Nanticoke Conservation Club, and the Back Country Hunters & Anglers Eastern PA Chapter
- Conducted an AMD Educational Presentation and AMD Tie Dye Workshop with the entire Shamokin Creek Elementary 52 2nd graders, in partnership with Bucknell University and the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance
- Received the infographics from Dr. Margarita Rose's King's College Environmental Economics Class on rare earth elements EPCAMR used to provide educational information and resources to our followers on social media
- Sponsored and hosted the AMD Passive Treatment Course Training with the OSMRE for Conservation Districts and Community Watershed Organizations in the Fall of 2024 with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and WPCAMR with 25 attendees

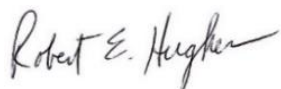
The list above is a brief synopsis of some of the wonderful work that we've accomplished in 2024. We continue to develop programs and events to provide professional services to the private sector to generate revenue to support our organization's Staff and the capacity building that is needed within the region to support our grassroots efforts to reclaim our abandoned mine lands, assess, cleanup, and restore our mining impacted watersheds. We continue to seek additional foundation and state grant support and have been successful in securing funds for organizational capacity to be able to reach out to additional stakeholders throughout our region. We are turning our attention to some suggestions that have come out of our recent Joint Visioning Session with the Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) that was held in November 2024, facilitated by the Foundation for PA Watersheds. Our full Board will be getting an opportunity to review and comment on those notes at the first quarter Board Meeting of 2025. We are also prioritizing how we will be looking at ways to narrow down specific community foundations, family foundations, and corporate philanthropy to look to other funding sources for our organization as well as to think about setting up an Endowment Fund for EPCAMR through The Luzerne Foundation.

I encourage you all to renew your membership or become new members. We would like nothing more than to have you working with us and to be able to support you in your region, county, watershed, and local area. Student memberships and Individual memberships will go a long way to show funders that we have a dynamic and large army of volunteers and supporters at the local level. Normally, we haven't asked for those types of membership because we value your volunteer time and efforts in helping us on the ground. However, we are encouraging you to donate to support your local environmental organization that is in your region to help develop positive connections and relationships with us.

Please check out our social media outlets, follow us, and share our pages with your friends and family that will allow us to organically reach more people than we can ever imagine helping to spread the work and word of EPCAMR's efforts.

We will continue to support you and your communities by seeking funds, projects, and programs to improve the land, air, and water quality within our region. We would like your continued support in 2025. Please consider donating to our organization through your new membership or renewal membership today.

On behalf of the entire EPCAMR Staff and Board of Trustees, we respectfully request your financial support,



Robert "Bobby" Hughes-EPCAMR Executive Director

Category: The list below represents the EPCAMR membership categories: (Please Check One)

- ☐ **STUDENT (INDIVIDUAL) -** \$5.00
 Open to all individuals; Student Members shall serve in an advisory (non-voting) capacity to the board of trustees of EPCAMR and may serve on committees of the coalition.
- ☐ **GENERAL (INDIVIDUAL) -** \$10.00 ☐ **LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL- \$100.00**
 Open to all individuals; Individual Members shall serve in an advisory (non-voting) capacity to the Board of Trustees of EPCAMR and may serve on committees of the coalition. EPCAMR Board may appoint a general member as an “at-large” voting member*.
- ☐ **WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS -** \$50.00
 Open to all groups within the EPCAMR Region who would like to become involved with EPCAMR. Groups that join will be considered affiliate organizations and their chosen representatives shall serve in an advisory (non-voting) capacity to the board of trustees of EPCAMR and may serve on committees of the coalition. EPCAMR Board may appoint a group member as an “at-large” voting member*.
- ☐ **CONSERVATION DISTRICTS-** \$50.00
 Open to all conservation districts within the 16-County EPCAMR Region; CDs that join may appoint three (3) representatives to the general membership, shall be considered a sponsoring (nominating) organization & nominate may up to three (3) of those representatives to the Board*.
- ☐ **BUSINESS / INDUSTRY -** \$100.00
 Open to all industries and business (preferably mining and reclamation-related); A business that decides to join may appoint one (1) representative to the general membership, shall be considered a sponsoring (nominating) organization & may nominate that one (1) representative to the Board*.

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Please KEEP this bottom portion for your records

Membership, for all who are interested in joining, includes access to:

- Invitations and notices of upcoming EPCAMR meetings, workshops, trainings, environmental education programs, field tours and conferences
- Legislative updates and action notices, liaison services to government (state, federal or local) abandoned mine reclamation and clean water programs
- Technical grant writing assistance, regional coordination of projects
- E-mail accounts (“yourname”@epcamr.org), organizational links, funding opportunities for projects and access to over 200 AMR related links in 20 categories through our website
- Access to preferred services** such as technical computer/networking and GIS/GPS Mapping assistance or administrative services such as grant pass-through and website hosting.
- EPCAMR News and Updates via EPCAMR Newsletter on our website or our Facebook Page.
- Membership contributions to EPCAMR are also tax-deductible

* EPCAMR expects voting members to commit to: attend all four (4) Quarterly Meetings throughout the year or coordinate with another representative from their organization to maintain fair representation on the Board. In an effort to reduce paper waste, a section of our website is dedicated to information about upcoming Board Meetings and related documentation called [“Board”](#) (found at the top menu of the EPCAMR website). Nominees are approved by EPCAMR Board at the annual meeting (and as needed).

** Preferred services may be assessed a fee to EPCAMR Members at the discretion of the Board and/or Executive Director.

Representative(s) and Contact Information:

Date of Application: ____/____/____

Please provide EPCAMR with your organization's (or individual) contact information to complete the membership form below. If individual, you may leave the organization / business name line blank.

Name of Organization / Business:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

e-mail:

Fax:

Website:

Representative 1:

Title:

(If Conservation District within EPCAMR 16 County Region, fill in this section below)

Representative 2:

Title:

Representative 3:

Title:

Please clip and SEND the top portion of this membership application with dues in the form of a check, payable to "EPCAMR" to:

*EPCAMR
101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706*

Please KEEP this bottom portion for your records... Thank You for Supporting EPCAMR!

Copy your Membership Category here:

☐ STUDENT (INDIVIDUAL) \$5.00☐ GENERAL (INDIVIDUAL) \$10.00☐ LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL \$100.00☐ WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS \$ 50.00☐ CONSERVATION DISTRICT \$50.00☐ INDUSTRY / BUSINESS \$100.00

Copy your Date of Application here: ____/____/____

Memberships to the EPCAMR organization (other than lifetime individual) remain current for one (1) year after the date of application. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, 100% of your membership to EPCAMR can be considered a tax deductible donation.

Quarterly meetings are *tentatively* scheduled for:
February 27th, May 15th, August 21st (Annual) & Nov. 20th, 2025