



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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

Once again this has been a very productive year despite a few grants not coming our way for 2025! We can't win them all, but we sure try to for the benefit of our community groups and Conservation Districts as well as our internal organizational capacity of EPCAMR. We are a small, but mighty and effective regional non-profit organization that has continued to show leadership and positive community impacts across PA about abandoned mine land reclamation and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) watershed restoration that has added a few Staff this year to help us meet our goals and mission. There is still a lot of work that remains to be done.

Looking back at 2025, 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 more hurdles to jump through to obtain federal grant assistance. We've changed our focus and priorities this past year.

We are a flexible Coalition and my Program Manager, Mike Hewitt, and I, along with our Staff, have been able to remain flexible and have adapted to the changes and are constantly adjusting to the shifting administrative policies of the current Administration at both the Federal and State level. However, we continue to be creative in our approach to project management and thinking outside of the box. We have found workarounds and paths forward. 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. We've created a Development Committee within the Board chaired by our Vice-President/Treasurer, Cristy Sweeney and have accomplished some great strides in a relatively short period over the last 6 months, including a reprioritization on how to continue to seek funding to support the Coalition and our growing Staff and the needs of our community organizations within the Coalition. We are planning for our 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 19th, 2026 at Sand Springs Report, White Haven. We're looking into how to create and establish an Endowment for EPCAMR. We're continuing to focus on ways to be sure to take care of our organization internally, so that we can better provide technical assistance, services, grant administration, project management, professional services to the private sector, and educational outreach programs to our underserved coalfield communities across our region. We have refocused our attention on ourselves as we enter our 30th year of public service to our communities and Coalition partners, and have recreated a stronger vision for where we are going over the next five years. We are always looking for more active involvement from our regional Board of Trustees.

Our in-person meetings, conferences, trainings, tours, outdoor environmental education learning experiences, STEM programs and personal community meetings across the Northeastern, Northcentral, and the Central PA Appalachian Coalfields have been very productive and worthwhile.

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 2025 below. The highlights will give you all a sense of all 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 Lackawanna River Conservation Association: \$1,945 for conducting historical research and developing information about the cessation of underground mining and pumping operations in the Lackawanna Basin of the Northern Anthracite Field in 1961, the subsequent inundation of the mine void system causing a public safety emergency, and the construction of the Old Forge Borehole to stabilize the mine pool flooding in 1962 • Friends of the Nescopeck: \$950 for updating water quality testing equipment and purchasing chemicals for 2 years of testing • Huber Breaker Preservation Society: \$1,950 for an info kiosk at the Miners' Memorial Park detailing the history and use of a Vulcan Steam Locomotive used at many Glen Alden Mines
- Assisted Tetra-Tech in the development of a Watershed Assessment Plan for the Shamokin Creek Watershed in partnership with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and the PA DEP of 9 AMD discharge locations and provided technical assistance and further recommendations on future monitoring needs
- Completed the 2025 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 **27th 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; (<https://2025.treatminewater.com/>)
- Continued 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/>)
- Continued 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
- Continued water quality and flow monitoring of the Askam AMD Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System for the Earth Conservancy in Hanover Township, Luzerne County
- Provided technical assistance to the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited, Luzerne Conservation District, Wyoming County Conservation District, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PA Game Commission NE Region (SGL 57), several townships and boroughs, Noxen-Monroe Sportsmen Association, and other location partners, conducted field work on culvert assessments, macroinvertebrate sampling, and installation of HOBO monitoring units for long-term monitoring of the effects of acid deposition and snow melt in the Bowman's Creek watershed
- Awarded a \$10,000 Amazon Community Foundation grant to conduct watershed cleanups and the removal of illegal tire piles throughout the EPCAMR Region and to become a Keep PA Beautiful Affiliate Partner
- Continued to work with **Columbia University** to sample AMD throughout the Wyoming Valley and Lackawanna Valley for critical rare earth elements and installed several pressure transducers at targeted AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley
- Participated in the 2025 Choose Clean Water Coalition and presented our finding on the Community Water shed Organization Survey Results with WPCAMR's Anne Daymut in Harrisonburg, VA

- Sponsored and hosted 2 additional OSMRE AmeriCorps positions for 6-month terms (Maria Gereda and Dennis Dukinas) with EPCAMR administered by the Stewards Individual Placement Program and Conservation Legacy
- Hosted the PA Council of Professional Geologists Field Geology Camp and provided them with a Watershed Field Tour of the Anthracite Region on AMD/AML Projects throughout the Wyoming Valley in the Fall of 2026
- Conducted an AMD Educational Presentation and AMD Tie Dye Workshop with special needs youth and students from PA Inclusive in Pittson, PA
- Awarded a grant from the Kelsey Ever After Memorial Fund at The Luzerne Foundation, to purchase a 3D printer to print 3D macros and mining artifacts
- Sponsored and hosted a third OSMRE AmeriCorps position for a 1-year term (Mark Jones) as our Community Development Coordinator to assist with grant research and writing, media outreach, coordination with the EPCAMR Development Committee, storytelling, and organizational capacity building
- Hired one of our Staff, Frank Sindaco, to full-time, funded by the Foundation for PA Watersheds, to be our Media & Community Systems Specialist to lead the development of an information hub called AML Connect and to strengthen community capacity and 1 of our former AmeriCorps, Maria Gereda, to a full-time MSI Watershed Outreach Specialist
- Completed 4/5 Open Your Eyes to Litter Activity Books in partnership with Keep PA Beautiful and Graphics Designer, Brady Mock
- Completed the reclamation of 7 acres of former abandoned mine lands at the historic Harry E. Colliery grounds in Swoyersville Borough that was reclaimed by Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management, LLC and Northampton Generating and donated to Swoyersville Borough for a community athletic recreational greenspace after the removal of nearly 500,000 tons of waste culm and silts
- Started a joint Podcast Series developed hosted by myself, and co-hosted by WPCAMR's Andy McAllister and Anne Daymut, every month on the first Friday at Noon, called the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles, that can be viewed on our YouTube channels; [EPCAMR](#); [WPCAMR](#)

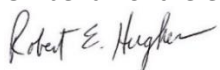
The list above is a brief synopsis of some of the wonderful work that we've accomplished in 2025. We continue to develop programs and events to provide professional services to the private sector to generate revenue to support our organization's Staff and the capacity building that is needed to support 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 WPCAMR that was held in November 2024, facilitated by the Foundation for PA Watersheds. We are 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.

I encourage you all to renew your membership or become new members. We would like nothing more than to have you working with us. We want 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 large army of volunteers and supporters locally. 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 to 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 2026.

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 19th, May 21st, August 20th (Annual) & Nov. 19th, 2026th