

# EPCAMR 2013 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – February 21<sup>st</sup>

## EPCAMR / Earth Conservancy Office Conference Room

6:00PM	<b>Call to Order</b> Bernie McGurl, Cheryl Brobst, Mary Wagner, Irvil Kear, Paul Lohin, Bruno Najaka, Peter Haentjens, Tim Ference, Christine Haldeman, Jim Koharski, Samantha Ennis, Cheryl Nolan, Ed Zinser, Mel Talmadge, Robert Hughes & Michael Hewitt	Bernie
	<b>Minutes from Last Mgt. (November 15<sup>th</sup>):</b> <u>Motion</u> to accept & approve (Paul, Irvil and All)	Christine
	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Motion</u> to file Checking &amp; PA Invest Account Balances for audit (Paul Irvil and All) Earning only ~\$1 per month on Invest accounts, doesn't hurt for staff to shop around as recommended by board.*</li></ul>	Cheryl
	<b>AMR Program Reports</b> (See highlights at the end of this Document)	Staff
	<b>Committee Reports</b> (Personnel, Budget, Strategic Planning & Dinner/Fundraiser) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personnel: review of EPCAMR employee evaluations and merit raise wording in policy manual. COLA will be awarded at 1.7% on January 1, 2013. Merit at the boards discretion on July 1 of each year (staff hire date). Details in "Notes from meeting with Bernie, Paul, Al, and Irvil at Perkin's Restaurant in Hazleton on 2/18/2013" document as provided. **The committee may be looking to amend the manual. *Look into alternative Health Care Packages for next meeting.</li></ul>	Respective Comm. Chairs
	<b>Old Business</b>	
	<b>New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Motioned</u> to approve Personnel Committee Recommendations (Al, Tim &amp; All)</li><li>• <u>Discussed</u> PA Senate Bill 196: PENNVEST to direct federal CWA State Revolving Fund for NPS – What does this mean? *Find out more information from 319 program.</li><li>• <u>Discussed</u> President's Proposal to Reform the AML Program: state/tribal primacy vs. national competitive grant – **Need to talk to Bob Casey and Matt Cartwright; Toomey?</li><li>• <u>Motioned</u> to sign the AML Trust Fund Resolution of 2013 (Irvil, Cheryl and All) *Forward to Board Members, County Commissioners and Conservation District Managers Electronically. Suggested Press Release and work with BAMR.</li><li>• <u>Motioned</u> to approve Illicit Discharges Reporting Policy as per CWA &amp; PA Laws (Irvil, Paul and All 12 counted)</li><li>• <u>Motioned</u> to purchase \$8K Coltrac Map Scanner equipment for Mine Map Grant contingent on getting grant (Mary, Paul and All)</li><li>• <u>Motioned</u> to sign the contract for the Lewis Mine GG grant (Mary, Cheryl &amp; All, Bruno and Ed Z. Abstain)</li></ul>	Personnel Com. Robert Tim Bernie Mike
	<b>Correspondence and Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2013 EPCAMR Membership Renewal Application *will send out electronically to District Managers.</li><li>• 3 Growing Greener Grants Awarded: EPCAMR Abandoned Mine Program Coordination (1 year), Lewis Mine Discharge Treatment System Revamp (Board suggested a swale to divert any stormwater away from the Treatment System) &amp; Datashed.</li><li>• Datashed Survey and class openings (April 12 @ EPCAMR Office)</li></ul>	Robert Mike

## Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **Act 13 and Growing Greener Grants Applications** Due June (Ideas?) Robert
- **ARIPPA AMD/AML Award Application** Due June (\$2,500 per coal region)
- **2013 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress** March 9th, at the Montgomery County Community College-West Campus in Pottstown, PA.
- **PAEE Annual Conference** March 15-16<sup>th</sup> Bushkill Inn, Bushkill, PA
- **PA Watershed Conference** April 5-6<sup>th</sup> Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA
- **Bear Creek Festival** May 19<sup>th</sup> Schuylkill Co. Fairgrounds, Summit Station
- **2013 PA EnviroThon** May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at Juniata College
- **AMD-AML-ASH Reclamation Talks and Fundraiser** June 11 at Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA
- **2013 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference** August 8-10 at Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA.
- **ARIPPA Annual Convention** August 20-22 at Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey

## Watershed Reports

- Schuylkill:** Silver Creek AMD TS effectiveness study and trail design completed. Mary D. AMD TS under construction, but moving slowly with weather. Bell Colliery Phase 3 bids due March 15<sup>th</sup>. GG Grant awards: \$69K for Schuylkill River Slush Dams Project, Oak Hill Boreholes Alternative Treatment Site Study, Swatara Watershed Coal Bank Reclamation and Silt in Stream. Christine
- EMARR:** Study to Harness energy from the Jeddo Tunnel by Taylor Alt. Energy & Penn Tech. 300KW. Pete has details and web link. Prototype developed by Radon Remediation. Peter
- Catawissa:** Audenreid AMD TS to purchase test dye to see if the plumbing is leaking and resolve sinkholes in tanks. Design evaluation to see flow through the system can really accommodate. Need more sampling at the Phinneyville Bridge (downstream of the TS). Cheryl
- Luzerne Co:** GG grants for Ag BMPS in county. Iron Bridges along the Nescopeck Booklet. Friends of the Nescopeck Cleanup in Black Creek Township with PEC. Very fine silt creating sand bars as a result of Jeddo Tunnel “black water” episodes... DEP to place another monitoring well and have 4 existing. Tim
- Northumberland Co:** Asked if EPCAMR would apply for a Growing Greener or other source (SRBC) grant for western middle field to finish up Shamokin Creek Mine Pool study? Jim
- Sullivan Co:** Watersheds in 4 directions off the mountain. 8 gas wells in Dushore alone, 44 new well pads proposed. Watching Ag areas diminish. Thanks for the Lewis Mine Revamp project. Bruno
- Lackawanna:** Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Action Plan completed. Almost complete with a hydrologic year on discharges for QHUP development soon. Bernie

8:30PM **Next Meeting:** *Tentatively* May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm and Adjournment

\*For staff follow-up and \*\*For Board follow-up.

## AMR Program Staff 3rd Quarter Highlights (December 2012 – February 2013)

### Executive Director and General Staff Highlights

- Presented the Mine Pool Mapping (MPM) Initiative to the Scranton Rotary. EPCAMR staff presented the Western Middle MPM Report to the SCRA and Solomon Creek CHP Report at public meetings.
- EPCAMR was partially awarded the ARIPPA Reclaimed Areas GIS Proposal at a \$3,000 Pilot Study level with the potential to continue the project. Recently the study was put on hold.
- Wilkes-Barre Career & Technology Center was awarded an additional \$2500 through the Future Farmers of America (FFA) via the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) for FY2012-2013 to continue working on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park. EPCAMR helped write the grant and helps coordinate the project.
- Completed the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan (SCCCP) and presented it at a public meeting. Completed a \$15,000 Cora Brooks Foundation grant proposal for the Solomon Creek Implementation Habitat Improvement Project (SCIHP). Submitted a very similar grant application for \$10,000 to the Foundation for PA Watersheds for match.
- EPCAMR staff prepared draft Mine Map Grant application package to the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Fund for ~\$255,000 to scan, georeference, and digitize GIS files from a backlog of thousands of maps that the state has in its possession. The MSI would like to update their website, especially for the Anthracite Region, to aide homeowners in knowing the abandoned underground mine subsidence potential under their home and purchasing insurance if their home could potentially be affected. The grant is due March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- EPCAMR and LRCA staff completed the Lower Lackawanna Watershed Restoration Action Plan (LLWRAP) and executive summary. Began distribution of the summary to key legislators and DEP to begin an implementation strategy.
- EPCAMR staff participated in AMR Conference Calls, monthly, to coordinate the AMR Conference with the conference planning committee and built up the [treatminewater.com](http://treatminewater.com) website with details on the conference as they are sorted out.
- EPCAMR Executive Director completed a \$25,000 Shale Gas Innovation Contest Proposal to continue to work on our 3D Underground Mine Pool Mapping Initiative throughout Northeastern PA and potentially rest of PA's mining impacted areas.

Robert Hughes

*Full Monthly Reports for all staff are [available online](#) for your review*

### Program Manager Highlights

- Continued to update mine pool GIS files in the Northern & Western Middle Anthracite Fields and began a 3D Mine Pool Model for the Lackawanna Valley.
- Created 1 published map file, 4 maps, 2 GIS, and 5 statistical databases for partners.
- EPCAMR staff sampled 16 boreholes in the Lackawanna Valley, 26 boreholes in the Wyoming Valley, monitored 1 treatment system, and measured flow on 4 discharges monthly.
- Measured flow and chemistry on 2 more discharges, treatment systems, & upstream and downstream points on the Loyalsock Creek with Sullivan CCD as part of a tour for conservation officials. Presented info on the Bernice Mine Pool.
- Updated 2 GIS and 2 statistical databases for partners. Continued to update and produce figures for the LLWRAP and SCCC.
- Filled 2 iron oxide orders from EPCAMR Online Store.
- Provided an EPCAMR Program Review for the Non Point Source Liaison Workgroup: Resource Extraction Sub-Committee for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012) and submitted it to Donna Carnahan, PA DEP 319 Program. This also serves as a start for the 2012 EPCAMR Annual Report.
- Suggested to the PA DEP 319 Program that a section of Solomon Creek (Sugar Notch Run Headwaters) be removed from the Impaired Waters List.
- Updated [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org), [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com). Administered the EPCAMR facebook page and Google Apps for Nonprofits account.

Michael Hewitt