

EPCAMR 2013 3rd Quarter (Annual) Board Meeting

Minutes – August 15th

EPCAMR / Earth Conservancy Office Conference Room

6:00PM	Call to Order Bernie McGurl, Cheryl Brobst, Mary Wagner, Ed Wytovich, Bruno Najaka, Peter Haentjens, Christine Haldeman, Jim Koharski, Leigh Ann Kemmerer, Robert Hughes & Michael Hewitt	Bernie
	Minutes from Last Mgt. (February 21st): <u>Motion to</u> accept & approve (Mary, Pete and All)	Christine
	Treasurer's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> file Checking & PA Invest Account Balances for audit (Al, Ed and All)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Motion to pay Kovalchek & Kollar for preparation of 2012 990s (Mary, Ed and All)	Cheryl
	AMR Program Reports (See highlights at the end of this Document)	Staff
	Committee Reports (Personnel, Budget, Strategic Planning & Dinner/Fundraiser)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personnel: **Review of Personnel Policy, but did not convene (tabled)• Budget: New Financial Reports by Staff & possible on-staff Bookkeeper limited to work 8 hours a week and hourly wage between \$12-15/hour to be paid out of “admin” or “overhead” category in grants. *Robert to work on a job description and e-mail to board for approval.• Strategic Plan: **Board recommended this committee to meet to review by laws on the ability of watershed representatives (not appointed by a conservation district) to vote and/or allow voting community members at large.	Respective Comm. Chairs
	Old Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Update on</u> PA Senate Bill 196 on PennVest: Passed by PA Senate.	Robert
	New Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> nominate and elect EPCAMR Executive Committee. All were re-elected, Al requested to be replaced soon due to increasing work obligations.• <u>Moved to</u> approve Budget Committee Recommendations (Pete, Ed and All)• <u>Discussion to</u> adopt a Media Relations Spokesperson Policy as recommended at the recent ACT Conference.*Board instructed Mike to draft a policy for next mtg• <u>Moved to</u> approve ARIPPA Reclamation Awardees (Mary, Cheryl and All, Bernie Abstains)• <u>Discussion on</u> “looking forward” attitude for future agendas. Referenced a PACD presentation “Looking Ahead for Collaboration”. Rather than dwelling on what was done (which is written and provided ahead of the board meeting to read), it is best to look future plans at meetings in order to collaborate better with the Board and their respective organizations. **Suggested a change in the way meetings are structured and what will be discussed.• <u>Discussion on</u> proposals submitted for Act 13 & other future grant work• <u>Discussion on</u> Legislative “Hot Topics” related to AMR (A. McAllister Handout)• <u>Discussion on</u> nominees for PA Governor and other political positions to be filled• <u>Discussion on</u> request for Technical Assistance in the Fishing Creek Wshd. Heberly Run and East Branch still have acidity issues (probably acid rain, but can be treated similar to AMD). SRBC was recently sampling with stream data loggers and sampling for macros.	Al Bernie Mike Robert Cheryl Robert Ed Cheryl
*For staff follow-up		
**For Board follow-up.		
	Correspondence and Information	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AML Trust Fund Resolutions (5): EPCAMR, North Branch Land Trust, Friends of the Nescopeck, EMARR, and Luzerne Conservation District.	Robert

Hotlinks in this document will take you to more related info.

- Leadership Lackawanna and Growing Greener Coalition Thank Yous.
- Mini Mohawks Donation to Abe Coolbaugh Fund for Stream Restoration
- PA Dept. of Revenue Sales Tax Exemption Renewal Approved through 2018
- Gas Development in the Loyalsock State Forest Letter to DCNR Sec. Allan
- "Revitalize Appalachia" Letter from April Trent-ACCT
- William Penn Upper Lehigh River Watershed Advisory Committee Invitation
- Denial Letter from Cora L. Brooks Foundation...(booo)
- Letter from the Governor on our Mine Map Project Grant Award
- Carbon Copy Letter from PA DEP on Water Quality Monitoring Permit Application #3513403 (American Rock Salt Co., LLC), Scranton City, Lackawanna County
- PA EnviroThon Thank You Letter from William Kahler-Chair
- Newspaper articles (3)

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- **2013 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference** August 8-10 at Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA. Robert
- **ARIPPA Annual Convention** August 20-22 at Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey
- **NAAMLPA Conference** Sept. 21-25 The Resort at Glade Springs Daniels, WV
- **SRBC Water Science Forum** Oct. 7-8 Radisson Hotel, Harrisburg-Camp Hill
- **8th Annual NW PA GIS Conference** October 17-18 Clarion University

Watershed Reports

Columbia County – Bloomsburg Children’s Museum now featuring an interactive Coal Mining Exhibit Mary

Schuylkill County – Pioneer Day is coming up at the Pioneer Tunnel. Upgrades are being considered to automate Onieda #3 Treatment System. QHUP is being developed for Catawissa Creek Watershed and will hopefully allow AML Set Aside Money to be spent for ongoing repairs to Oneida #1. Ed

Mary D. AMD Treatment System is online and almost complete (adding more limestone very soon to complete the system). Bell Phase III removing berm and converting the system from downflow to an upflow for better treatment. Christine

Northumberland County – Thanked EPCAMR for the letters of support for the Act 13 Shamokin Creek Headwaters Proposal and the Site 42 Growing Greener Proposal. The \$500 from ARIPPA Award will be used as match. Remining permits increasing in the Carbon Run Watershed. Remining below Berniside should affect the Sterling Discharge. Projects planned to put in a Bat Cave and Highwall Reclamation on the AOA Park Property. Jim

Lackawanna County – EPCAMR and SRBC aided the LRCA in putting together an Act 13 Proposal for the Old Forge Borehole through the LVC. The proposal will secure land downstream of the OFBH for treatment and allow for studies to propose several treatment scenarios as well as an overall feasibility study for improving the Lower Lackawanna. Bernie

8:30PM **Next Meeting: Tentatively November 21 @ 6:00pm** and Adjournment
Maybe at Columbia CCD?

AMR Program Staff Highlights since last Meeting (March – May & June – August)

Partners and Places in bold

Executive Director and General Staff Highlights

Robert Hughes

- EPCAMR staff participated in **Rail Riders** Community Organization Promotional Day, the ACT Conference by Foundation for PA Watersheds, GIS Discovery Day at **Kings College**, hosted a Dashed Workshop, and hosted EPCAMR Quarterly Board Mtg.
- Worked with EPCAMR Volunteer Coordinator to compile volunteer request forms. The forms indicate interest in 17 different volunteer descriptions posted to VolunteerMatch and other sites that solicit volunteers. To date EPCAMR has a base of 53 volunteers that we can call on for various tasks.
- Provided PA AML Resolution template to Mike to forward along to our Conservation Districts, watershed groups, and reclamation-related partners in the EPCAMR Region to encourage them to pass a resolution; EPCAMR Intern compiled a database all of County Officials in the EPCAMR Region and sent the resolution to this list as well.
- EPCAMR Staff sat in on AMR Conference Calls, monthly, to coordinate the AMR Conference with the conference planning committee and built up the treatminewater.com website with details on the conference as they are sorted out.
- EPCAMR staff submitted 3 grants: ~\$342K Mine Mapping Program to the **DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund**, \$8K **PA American Water Company** for **Solomon Creek** Habitat Improvement Project and \$2K for 2 Year Waterboxx Research on AML Grant to the **ACCT**.
- EPCAMR staff collaborated to transition our Grant Tracking System into QuickBooks for Nonprofits 2013. Several hours were spent learning the software and applying it to specific programs and situations. Setup the accounting program to mirror our 990's.
- Coordinated with the **Hicks Creek** Watershed Association, Exeter Borough, and all partners involved with the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Design & Construction Project;
- Designed a webpage on EPCAMR.org for our **PA Fish & Boat Commission** Tackle Loaner Program and some updates to posts and pages on TreatMineWater.com
- Requested a letter from the Superintendent of the **Wilkes-Barre** Area School District, Dr. Bernie Prevuznak to support EPCAMR's renewal as an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) under the PA DCED Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)
- Signed on to a letter, along with several other partnering organizations to preserve a special part of Penn's Woods from gas development; The tract of the Loyalsock State Forest in **Lycoming County** includes places of ecological and recreational significance.
- Attended a QuickBooks for Non Profits Training put on by the **Baer Center** in Pittsburgh.
- Worked with a consultant for a large **Southern California** Clothing Company to provide him with 3 pounds of iron oxide pigment as a trial run. Results were good and he asked for enormous quantities. EPCAMR was working with him to provide capital to purchase processing equipment that could speed up the processing.
- EPCAMR staff coordinated 2 cleanups of Nockley's Tributary to **Solomon Creek**.
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR staff coordinated ARIPPA Reclamation Presentations and Fundraiser and attended a **Luzerne Co.** Council Meeting to benefit AMD Cleanup in **Lackawanna River**.
- EPCAMR staff met with several **legislators** to inform them of EPCAMR's efforts and **SRBC** and **LVC**'s intentions to submit Act 13 proposals to the **CFA**.
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR staff prepared for and coordinated the 15th Annual AMR Conference at the Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel in **State College, PA**. Approximately 100 attendees with 25 presentations over 2.5 days including a pre-conference advocacy workshop and Mayfly Award Winner, Bruce Leavitt.

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

Program Manager Highlights

Michael Hewitt

- Participated in an Anthracite Region CDWS Meeting at the **Pottsville DMO**, an Audenreid Treatment System Technical Assistance Meeting, and provided historical statistics on AMD Treatment costs in the **Schuylkill River Watershed**.
- Installed QuickBooks on 2 EPCAMR computers, learned the program via a volunteer "crash course" and tested new "e-mail campaign" app to find some sobering results
- Sampled 1 treatment system in the **Wyoming Valley** monthly, downloaded transducer data for the OFB discharge bi-weekly, researched base WQ for the Lewis AMD Treatment System, **Sullivan Co.**, & visited the **Silver Creek** AMD Treatment System, **Schuylkill Co.**
- Finished a 3D Mine Pool Model for the Upper **Lackawanna** Valley and calculated mine pool

volumes for the Upper Lackawanna Valley of ~13 billion gallons.

- Started digitizing cross-sections for the Lower **Lackawanna** Valley (Aka. SMMP) and updated 3 GIS shapefiles.
- Provided feedback to Jim Wetzel as he continues to prepare a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan for the **Hazle Creek** Watershed near **Weatherly**, PA.
- Created instructions for processing Iron Oxide from Sludge to Pigment and filled 2 Orders.
- Updated www.huberbreaker.org, www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com . Administered the www.schuylkillheadwaters.org, www.freindsofthenscopeck.org, EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.
- Attended the **Lackawanna** RiverFest, Participated in several AMR Conference Calls
- Downloaded transducer data 4x for the OFB discharge and continued to process cross section data for Lower Lackawanna Mine Pool Model. Processed cross sections under **Pottsville** in preparation for a **Heckscherville Valley** Mine Pool Model.
- Sampled one treatment system in the **Wyoming Valley**.
- Created 8 maps and accompanying statistics for EPCAMR partners.
- Purchasing equipment/supplies and preparing for the **PA DEP** MSI Mine Mapping Grant.
- Calculated ~130 billion gallons of mine water in the **Scranton** Metro Mine Pool which discharges to the Old Forge Borehole.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.treatminewater.com and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.