

EPCAMR 2017 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – November 16th

EPCAMR Office

11:00AM
Info.
Portion of
Meeting

Discussion and Correspondence

- Handouts: Minutes, Treasurer’s Report and corresponding documents
- Discussion on: RECLAIM Act (House vote soon, strategy for Senate); board asked that staff draft a “sign-on” letter and send it around. Bernie can sign on behalf of EPCAMR. PA AML Campaign created a resolution instead.
- Discussion on: Amending the conflict of interest policy; board recommended that staff work with the proper committee to merge policy with the existing one and bring it to the board for a vote.
- EPCAMR seeking a full-time GIS Technician (salary based on experience).
- Discussion on: Social media as a recruiting tool for volunteers and fundraising. Awareness is needed especially outside our “EPCAMR circle” or the coal region. Board suggested now that we have filmmakers on our board we should use their abilities and seek a grant source for outreach at this level. Also recommended that we become more involved with Penn Future as a resource to help strategize.

Staff

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- 2018 AMR Conference June 20 - 21 @ Ramada Inn State College; staff noted that it will be the 20th Anniversary and there will be different activities for that
- 250th Anniversary of Anthracite Industry (1768 Obadiah Gore) events to happen throughout 2018; contact Scott Herring for details. Mike Korb added that Obadiah Gore was a blacksmith from Wilkes-Barre and he was the first recorded using anthracite coal in the Wyoming Valley. You also have Necho Allen and Philip Ginter from different areas. Everyone “discovered” it in different areas.
- AIGP Symposium March 3rd

Staff

Watershed Reports

- Schuylkill Headwaters Association reports that they have funding to redo Otto Treatment System and another system; There is an AML Pilot project in the works to reclaim coal silt along the Schuylkill River which will also repair coal sidings which hold up the bank and will connect a walking trail.
- Dauphin County reports that repairs are underway on the bypass channel for the Bear Creek Treatment System, a clean spring had infiltrated and caused damage. Using a fabric mesh filled with concrete to abate.
- Catawissa Creek Restoration Association reports Oneida #1 was repaired with a new flow intake regulator and needed some worn out valves replaced; Oneida #3 had algae problems and the pool needs to be covered to choke it out. Also one tank needs to be re-plumbed and limestone cleaned; Need to regain access at Audenreid since the property was sold to a new owner.
- Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association reports a tag grant from Trout Unlimited to evaluate and make recommendations on the plugged Connell’s B Vein Tunnel AMD Treatment System. Funding became available from Southwest Energy and they were able to revamp the system. Now about 200 gpm is treated in each of the 3 cells, treating about 600 gpm total. Additional plumbing was added for future expansion since it still does not treat all of the flow; Connell’s C Vein and Gutten Drift Treatment Systems are working well.
- EMARR reports they are working with Jackie Bonomo at Penn Future to influence unwilling landowners at certain discharges in the Hazleton area and has their legal team figuring out who owns the water.

All

- Friends of the Nescopeck reports they are also working with Penn Future. They gave them a tour; Ramped up their water quality testing program to include flow monitoring as well. With recommendations from EPCAMR.
- Luzerne Conservation District reports that watershed specialist John Levitsky has been in this position for 3 years; working with the Eastern Brook Trout Venture on Mountain Spring dam removal and riparian restoration; Mehoopany Creek has similar projects he is helping on; Working with EPCAMR to monitor the Plainsville Borehole and recommend suggestions to improve iron retention in the pond; running into walls with how certain creeks in the valley are classified by government which in turn makes it harder to treat AMD.

12:00PM

Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance - Bernie McGurl, Mike Korb, Christine Haldeman, Tim Ference, Peter Haentjens, Ed Wytovich, Corey Richmond (Quorum), Dr. Joe Simons, Maryruth Wagner, Eric Naguski, Gary Leander, John Welsh, Alana Mauger, Daniel Taroli, John Levitsky, Robert Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Gabby Zawacki, Denise Hernandez, Gavin Pellitteri, Abbie Keefe & Rachael Grube

President

Begin
Business
Portion of
Meeting

Minutes from Last Mgt. (August 17th): File for Audit (Mary, Mike and all)

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

- File for Audit: Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Mary, Mike and All)
- Review: EPCAMR 990's Complete: Pay Kovalchik, Kollar & Co., LLP (Mike, Ed and all)
- See "Jobs List" and "Grants Applied For" memos for more info (handout)

Treasurer

AMR Program Reports (Anticipated Work at the end of this Document)

Staff

Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning Committee: Working on update based on survey results
- Nominating Committee: New business membership (\$100): Joe Sapienza from Centone Pictures, LLC. EPCAMR board nominated Joe to the board. (Eric, Ed and all)
- Personnel Committee: Staff Evaluations; personnel committee met and has recommendations which will be delivered to the Executive Director.

Respective
Comm. Chairs

Old Business

- None (combined with a motion in New Business)

President

Hotlinks in
this
document
will take
you to
more info.

New Business

- Moved to approve Personnel Committee recommendations regarding staff evaluation and merit raises (Ed, Joe and all)
- Moved to approve 2018 budget and amend EPCAMR Financial Management Policy to automatically amend an approved budget based on grants that come in as long as they are "a wash" (Pete, Tim, and all)
- Moved to adjourn business portion of meeting (Pete, Ed and all)

President

President

1:00PM

Next Meeting: *Tentatively* **February 15th, 2018 11:00AM (with lunch, bring \$5)**
Tentative for 2018: May 17th, August 16th, November 15th, 2018

Invitation to see the EPCAMR Trout in the Classroom Tank

AMR Program Staff Anticipated Work for Next Quarter (looking forward)
Partners and Places in bold

General Staff

- Scan & catalog 500, georeference 150 and digitize 50 Mine Maps from **PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office** related to the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Processing Grant. Coordinate with **California District Mining Office (DMO)** and invoice for time / resources spent. Maintain a backup of all mine maps on our 14TB local server. Waiting on another 3 year grant proposal.
- **Earth Conservancy** contract to monitor chemistry/flow at **Askam** Treatment System monthly in the **Nanticoke Creek Watershed**.
- Sample chemistry/flow one more time at **Plainsville Borehole** with a **\$4.5K** grant from the **Foundation for PA Watersheds**. Look for funding to “sludge judge” pond.
- Joint Permit approved on **Hicks Creek** Natural Stream Channel Design Project (**Exeter Boro., Luzerne Co.**). Develop a bid package & site showing with **Skelly & Loy**. Extension approved by PA DEP. Expecting bid award for construction 2017-18.
- Continue **\$15K** Waterboxx III Grant for the **EPCAMR Region**. Partners and staff to return monitoring results monthly.
- Finish **\$16K** SRBC Contract to map/model mine pools in the **Rausch Creek Watershed (Schuylkill Co.)**.
- Continue **\$21K** SRBC Phase 1 Contract to map/model mine pools related to the **Mocanaqua Tunnel Discharge (Luzerne Co.)** and **\$65K** Phase 2 contract to drill and monitor boreholes / discharges with **AES**.
- Select school for a Bird Box (**PPL Donate Well**) & TIC (**PA Fish and Boat**) Programs
- Continue “City Streets to Valley Streams” education program with disadvantaged youth using **\$10K** from **First Federal Charitable Foundation**.
- Continue **Abraham’s Creek** Coldwater Heritage Plan with **\$5K** funding from **PA TU**.
- Continue to maintain www.Datashed.org with **\$4.5K** SRI contract. Looking for another
- Bill-down and reimburse for projects and services (quarterly) to maintain cash-flow.
- Continue our own **Clean Our Anthracite Lands and Streams (COALS)** program from **Community Aide, Inc.** Coordinate cleanups in 2018.
- Administer the **\$2.5K** ARIPPA AMD/AML Reclamation Awards for **EPCAMR Region**.
- Continue preparing several grants to seek funding for to further EPCAMR’s Mission.
- Continue to look for stream segments in the **EPCAMR Region**, where improvements have been made to streams on the 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters, that should be reassessed and stand a good chance of being removed from the list. Gather supporting water quality monitoring or biological monitoring evidence and report to the **PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration (BCR) Section 319 Program**.
- Continue to provide technical & outreach assistance to **EPCAMR partners** dealing with AML issues, as needed.
- Plan for the **PA statewide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference** via conference call with **WPCAMR** and the **AMR Conference Committee**. 2018 Conference will be held in State College while 2019 conference will be in Pittsburgh jointly with **NAAML**. Maintain treatminewater.com website.
- Continue to provide AMD Field Tours and participate Environmental Outreach Events.
- Harvest, dry, process, package, and inventory Iron Oxide products to sell online.
- Complete EPCAMR Annual Reports and post to GuideStar.org.
- Update EPCAMR websites, including www.epcamr.org as needed, as well as the G Suite for Nonprofit Email / App Account and Facebook Social Media outreach tools.
- Create monthly progress reports, post them to the EPCAMR website and send to **PA DEP BCR Section 319 Program** along with an invoice of time and resources spent for reimbursement.
- Waiting on 16 grants applied for including an agreement with **SMS,LLC** to install transducers and monitor water levels in several boreholes in the mine pool related to the Old Forge Borehole AMD Remediation Project on the **Lackawanna River**.
- Continue to work with **EPCAMR Board** to increase Quarterly Board Mtg. efficiency.

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