

## EPCAMR 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – February 27<sup>th</sup>

EPCAMR Office: EC Conference Room & [Zoom](#)

### Discussion and Correspondence

Info.  
Portion

- PA Anthracite Council [Dec. '24 Report](#); [Jan. '25 Report](#); [Feb. '25 Report](#)
- ARIPPA News Corner [Nov. 2024](#); [Dec. 2024](#); [Jan. 2025](#)
- “Our Drinking Water” booklet by Brian Oram, PG [KnowYourH2O.com](#)
- Thank You from [MD Chesapeake Watershed Semester](#) Team and Teacher
- Appointment Letter from Governor Josh Shapiro to [Chesapeake Bay Citizens' Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#)
- Dowd Family Charitable Fund & Kelci Ever After Memorial Fund donations through the Luzerne Foundation from WISH BOOK 2024 and VISTA work
- Thank You Letter from Keep PA Beautiful from Michelle Dunn
- Executive Orders and [OMB](#) Memos from the new Administration ([DOE Memo](#))([PA DEP BWM NPS PG Memo](#)); Rescindment Memo for certain grant programs, not all. Unfortunately, we lost one VISTA staffer, Mark Jones, because funding was cut.
- Legislative Language on [HB 109](#) Available related to Cumulative Impacts evaluation in Environmental Justice areas

Executive  
Director

8:30 AM

**Call to Order Business Meeting:** Attendance: Dr. Joe Simons, Cristy Sweeney, Christine Haldeman, Cheryl Brobst, Tara Jones, Bernie McGurl, Tim Ference (quorum), Duane Feagley, Alan Belles, Jolie Coates, Sarah Freidhof, Ken Klemow, Leigh Ann Henry, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Frank Sindaco, Steve Cornia, Shawnese Taylor, Laura Rinehimer, and Morgan Romanowski.

President

Begin  
Business  
Portion of  
Meeting

[Minutes from Last Mgt.](#) (November 22<sup>nd</sup>): [Filed for Audit](#)

Secretary

### Treasurer's Report

- See Financial Position Statement, Estimates, Jobs List and Grant Prospects
- [Filed for Audit](#): Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Duane, Pete & all)
- [Moved to](#) approve FY2025 EPCAMR Budget (Christine, Cristy & all) Bobby mentioned how we got 2 windfall funds (equaling \$60K) since the budget was created. Mike will edit it to show those income sources.

Treasurer

### AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; [Staff Reports](#) on website)

Staff

- MSI PG Updates and Shift in Focus from PA DEP (Mike, Steve, Shawnese). The new PA Mine Map Atlas is slow. Based on Bing maps now, must wait for the map to render when zooming in and out. However, Bituminous mine map vein mosaics are available in Beta. Check with PASDA and Patick on adjusting settings?
- Swoyersville AMLER Reclamation Project Update; 7.5 acres transferred to Borough, grassed and seeded
- NFWF Small Watershed Grant [Story Map](#) & [Southern Wyoming Valley Watersheds American Black Duck and Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Assessment](#) – Solomon, Warrior, Nanticoke, and Newport Creeks Report Complete
- US DOE Frackville/Morea Mine Complex Capacity Building and Alternative Energy Mine Pool Geothermal and Solar Potential Project (Bobby & Frank). Christine mentioned we should contact downstream communities of Saint Clair and Port Carbon about flooding potential to Mill Creek.
- Keep PA Beautiful EE Booklets Open Your Eyes to Litter (OYEL) Book 4 done.
- Columbia U. Rare Earth Elements & Mine Pool Sampling (Bobby & Mike)
- Educational Video 2-Part Series to Highlight EPCAMR's Mine Mapping Efforts with Centone Productions (Joe Sapienza) in post-production funded by the Luzerne Foundation nearly complete; May have Final cut by Board Mtg
- [Podcast Interview](#) with EPCAMR Executive Director from People of Penn-State available

- EPCAMR/WPCAMR Visioning Session Notes based on Nov. 22nd, 2024 ([Agenda](#)). Will distribute notes to board members.
- Trout in the Classroom Live Stream on [Twitch Channel](#)

#### Committee Reports (a Zoom Pro link can be setup for committee meetings)

- No meetings in past quarter. Dr. Klemow asked to get the Science and Education Committee up and running again. It is important now more than ever to be educating our school students and the general public about the environment in the current political climate. Bobby will reach out to Dr. Nerozzi who is the chair.

Respective  
Comm.  
Chairs

#### Old Business

- No old business

President

#### New Business

- Tabled a discussion on Establishment of an Endowment for EPCAMR through [The Luzerne Foundation](#). Mark has been spearheading talks with philanthropic funds in the area. Ex. \$400K endowment would generate \$20K in interest annually to spend. Christine mentioned how SHA uses their endowment through Schuylkill Area Foundation for a scholarship to college students.
- Discussion on draft Subcontract Agreement with PSU for US DOE Project
- Tabled motion to sign [Trinity Solar](#) Communities Partnership Agreement Referral Program. Mentioned by the Luzerne Foundation. More information needed on the company. Talk to boy scout troop that is in the referral program.
- Moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting (Cristi, Cheryl, & all)

President

9:15 AM

**Next Meeting:** *Tentative for 2025: May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup> (Annual) & November 20<sup>th</sup>*

President

Info.  
Portion  
of  
Meeting

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Executive  
Director

- **Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Mtg** from Feb. 20-21 at the Westin Hotel, Annapolis, MD; (Bobby)
- **Wilkes U. Student Volunteer Fair**-Feb. 20 to be attended by EPCAMR OSMRE Conservation Legacy VISTAs (Morgan & Mark); 11-1PM
- **EPCAMR Frackville/Morea Capacity Building Informational Mtg on US DOE Research Project and Alternative Energy (Mine Pool Geothermal and Solar Potential)** for the former Frackville-Wheelabrator Co-Gen Plant site at the Schuylkill Tech. Center, N. Campus, Frackville on Feb. 26; 6-8PM
- **Choose Clean Water Coalition Bay Day on Capitol Hill** on Mar. 4 & 5, Washington DC; (Bobby and Mike)
- **State Game Lands 224 Tire Cleanup** with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Nanticoke Conservation Club, and PA Game Commission on March 9; 9-4PM
- **Wyoming & Lackawanna County Conservation Districts Contractor's Workshop** - Keystone College, LaPlume on Mar. 20; 9-3PM; (Bobby)
- **PA DCNR Community Connections to Our Watershed Program** on Mar. 19; 11-2:30PM at EC and in Wyoming Valley; EPCAMR Program and Watershed Tour
- **Stanley Cooper Ch. TU Banquet**; Mar. 29 at East Mountain Inn from 6-9PM
- **Junior Achievement Inspire** - Apr. 1-2; Mohegan Sun Convention Ctr
- **Susquehanna River Cleanup with King's College "Holy Cross Day of Service"** on April 25 from 9-11AM and then AMD Tie Dye-Event with students
- **Luzerne County Conservation District EnviroThon** on April 29 at Camp Kresge, White Haven
- **Choose Clean Water Coalition Annual Conference**, May 19-21 in Harrisonburg, VA at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center; EPCAMR/WPCAMR Presentation on Community Watershed Organization Survey Proposed and Submitted for Consideration
- **ARIPPA Conference & Trade Show** - June 10<sup>th</sup> Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey
- **Columbia Co. Watershed Festival** - July 28<sup>th</sup> @ Cara Park in Catawissa 11-2PM

## Watershed Reports

Many delays in contracts:

- Schuylkill Conservation District to study how the Repplier Discharge can be routed through the Pine Knot Tunnel and the potential to treat with the Oak Hill in one Active Treatment Plant. Officially, the state is looking for paperwork outlining the procurement process for SCD.
- EPCAMR's Frackville Morea project with the Department of Energy was paused, but we had the meeting last night to inform stakeholders about the work being completed to potentially use the mine pool for geothermal and the land for solar. It's a \$100K project, but we have \$60K of it in hand. Dealing with PSU professor who is very unprofessional.
- EPCAMR's Hazleton Beltway east project (reclaim the land for warehouses) was awarded in April but we still don't have a contract. Something to do with the new landowner forms; we had old ones filled out (that they gave us initially). The new forms deal with the "real property" issue where the government can put a lien on reclaimed property, and if it is sold, the property owner may have to pay back the reclamation costs. That may not go over smoothly with landowners.

Catawissa - CCRA is going with PA Fish and Boat to hold the easements. No takers at the local level. Our Americorps VISTA, Morgan working on some infographics showing the 3 treatment systems in Catawissa Watershed and EPCAMR will also be 3D printing macroinvertebrates when we get our 3D printer that was funded with philanthropic funds. Those will be ready for the Columbia County Watershed Festival.

Columbia Co. – Nancy Corbin stepped down as District Manager, now Abby Frey.

Nescopeck – FON finished up their yearly water sampling and Gary produced a report.

Schuylkill - Duncott activity: bank fire near Heckschersville withdrawal from West Branch. Mr. Lindenmuth was at SHA meeting mentioning flooding and that reservoirs are designed for water distribution not flood storage. Kaska seismic surveys detected tunnels under the site. Alexa has to amend a grant because there is no AML Site Number. EPCAMR had this issue as well, but essentially assessed the site, gave it BAMR to verify and they designated it properly for the Hazleton Beltway project.

Lackawanna – LRCA hosting RiverFest May 17<sup>th</sup> Sojourn Paddle: Dickson City to Sweeney Beach. Art exhibit Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Local artist created on and along the Lackawanna. BAMR revisiting Eddy Creek Restoration in Throop (out for bid). Still plugging away at Old Forge. Tom Clark meeting with Pagnotti about presentation at conference related to piping discharge to Susquehanna and underwater infiltration system.

ARIPPA – Updating 2022 Economic Report to add Air Emissions