

EPCAMR 2026 1st Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – February 19th

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

11:00 AM

Discussion and Correspondence

Info.
Portion

- Happy Holidays and Thank Yous from Ignite Business Services, Inc., PennEnvironment, & Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
- [Little Wapwallopen Cr. Tire Cleanup Event](#) Amazon NEPA Community Fund
- [EPCAMR Brings on Stanley A. Shimko Kings College Work Study student intern](#)
- [Local Groups Conduct Assessment and Bug Collection along Bowman Creek](#)
- [EPCAMR Brings former Intern and AmeriCorps VISTA, Maria Gereda, Full-Time](#)
- SPARK, [The Blackbaud Giving Fund](#) presented EPCAMR with a \$100 grant
- EPCAMR Apparel ([T-Shirt](#) or a [Hoodie](#)); Can purchase either or both at cost!
- Any other items for Discussion?

Executive
Director

12:00 PM

Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance: Dr. Joe Simons, Cristy Sweeney, Christine Haldeman, Ed Wytovich, Brenna Schneider, Cheryl Brobst, Tara Jones (quorum), Alan Belles, Cole Sutton, Tim Ference, Gary Leander, Pete Haentjens, Leigh Ann Henry, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Frank Sindaco, Shawnese Taylor, Maria Gereda, Mark Jones, Steve Cornia, Laura Rineheimer, and Stanley Shimko.

President

Begin
Business
Portion of
Meeting

[Minutes from Last Mgt. \(February 19th\): Filed for Audit](#) (Cristy, Cheryl & All)

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer

- See Financial Position Statement, Estimates, Jobs List and Grant Prospects
- [File for Audit](#): Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Ed, Cheryl & All)
- Waiting on: 2024 990 from Kohanski & Co. & 2023 Single Audit by Karen Hazelton
-

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

Staff

- Bear Creek 319 Boundary Survey, AMD Treatment Design of Maelstrom Oxidizer, OM & R Draft Plan Project; 3D Model nearly complete for final submission (Mike)
- US DOE Frackville/Morea Mine Alternative Energy Mine Pool Geothermal and Solar Potential Project-Final Report on EPCAMR Website (Frank)
- Pine Knot, Oak Hill, and Reppelier Mine Pool Study Update (Mike & Bobby)
- Hazleton East AML Reclamation Project; Closing Out Project (Bobby)
- "Engaging School Communities in Env. Stewardship ... Visual Arts" (Bobby)
- Loyalsock Creek and Askam AMD Monitoring Update (Mike)
- Columbia U. Rare Earth Elements & Mine Pool Sampling Update; A few more to install in the Spring 2026 and add'l clean REE samples to be taken by CU. (Mike)
- Shickshinny Creek, Rocky Run, and Paddy Run Coldwater Heritage Plan (CHP) Assessment & Bowman Creek Assessment CHP Update (Bobby)
- Swoyersville AMLER Pilot Reclamation and Community Athletic Area Project Update and State Rep. Brenda Pugh's [video](#) (Bobby)
- EPCAMR's "As Above, Not So Below" Mine Mapping Video Production funded by The Luzerne Foundation, edited by: Joe Sapienza II & Rachel Tinkelman (Centone Productions); Uploaded to our [YouTube \(Part 1\)](#)([Part 2](#))
- [AML-Connect.org](#) is soon to be up and running for communication between AML partners across the state (Frank)
- MSI PG Updates PA DEP Maria, Steve, and Mike splitting QA/QC work on Western Middle Field Mosaics produced by Harrisburg U. Shawnese is scanning maps, geo-referencing and digitizing completed mosaics in Northern Field. Maria is cataloging in PHUMMIS.
- Keep PA Beautiful Educational Booklets Open Your Eyes to Litter (OYEL) Books

and Education Curriculum Update. Completed Book 4: Watersheds and working on last Book 5: Watch what you toss. (Laura)

- AmeriCorps Community Engagement and Development Coordinator Update (Mark)
- Coal History and Archivist Community-based Work Study Student-King's College Update (Stanley Shimko)
- Dennis continue as a volunteer to update and maintain the historic collieries story map; adding photos to locations as identified by Richard Healy. Board Members encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions (including locations and photos) for the historic collieries, mines and washeries to Stanley. May open to public comment.
- Maria continues building and updating the cleanup story map/presentation for "Let's Talk Trash and Tires" event; finalize data on tires, volunteer hours, and tons of trash.
- EPCAMR planning for 2 AmeriCorps VISTAs in the Summer that are going through an approval process by Conservation Legacy (Bobby)
- EPCAMR/WPCAMR Podcast Series: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles. Watch live the First Friday of Every Month from 12-1; Bobby, Anne & Andy Co-Host. 1st year funded by FPW; 6 Interviews completed on our [EPCAMR YouTube](#).

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

Respective
Comm.
Chairs

- Development Committee Update: Chair (Cristy) provided professional service fee increases Personnel Committee. Mark followed up with Emily Baldolf (Moving Mountain Strategies) to initiate 90 hours of Executive in Residence support.
- Education/Science Committee Update; Currently chaired by Andrea Nerozzi
- Personnel Committee: Approved raises for staff and update of Hourly Rate work done for for-profit entities. (Ed, Cristy & all)

Old Business

- Moved to approve the Draft 2026 Annual Budget (Cristy, Tara & all) Caveat: Add 30th Anniversary costs and fundraising goals to budget.

President

Hotlinks in
this
document
will take you
to more info.

New Business

- Moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting (Gary, Ed & All)

President

1:00 PM

Next Meeting: *Tentative for 2026:* May 21st, Aug.20th(Annual) & Nov.19th

President

Watershed Reports

All

Columbia – Applied to 319 Program for WIP for Catawissa AMD and Ag.

Catawissa – Unfortunately lost a few landowners for stream access project. Game Commission partnering. Penny Eyr is the new contact for Fish and Boat Commission Fishing and Boating access program. Gary sent locations of where boaters would like access. Schuylkill Haven Dive Team will go in to clear snags in the spring as a part of their training program.

Nescopeck – Cleanup planned on Tomhicken Road april 18th. Need garbage bags, vests and all. EPCAMR has them and or will apply to PA Cleanways to get them. Hazlenut Data Center will draw 2.8 million gallons at peak from Hazleton Sewer Authority, but creek will also lose water. FON wants to setup a gauge station to monitor how much. Suggested applying to ARIPPA or FPW grant and EPCAMR can aid in the setup.

Lackawanna – LHVA got a C2P2 grant for a water trail along the whole stretch from Forest City (Stillwater) to the confluence in Duryea. Mentioned Newspaper article that shared Roselle's Ideas, but PA DEP put out a TIP proposal for consultants that does not include those plans.

Sullivan – 5 EWP projects saves some full-time residents houses from a 500 year flood event (1 foot of water in 24 hours) in Jameson City. Residents are very grateful. Victory for that district led program!

Schuylkill – Backflush of Mary D. TS, \$7K for broken valve at Bell TS, Shcuylkill

Haven Kaska site meeting. Anyone have photos of Buck Mountain ALD by landfill? Plan is to use pH adjusted leachate to treat the discharge. Need to capture the discharge into a pipe for better control, but a haul road is now in the way. Looked at maps and it seems to be a collapsed drift tunnel. There is/was a mine fire near Forestville. Potential impact regarding drilling a monitoring borehole?

ARIPPA – AMD/AML Reclamation Award not open April 15th. Conference Tuesday June 9th at Crown Plaza Hotel. Continue to monitor Government and PJM policies.

Info. Portion
of Meeting

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Executive
Director

- PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles Podcast - March 6, April 3, May 3
- EPCAMR Development Committee Mtg on 2-12-26 @ 6PM (Zoom link to be sent)
- Anthracite History Heritage Month (January/February 2026) [Event Calendar](#)
- Choose Clean Water Coalition Lobby Day in Washington DC on 3-3 to 3-4-26
- PSU EMS & HUB Art Gallery Hybrid Zones Presentation on EPCAMR with Artists, Rachel Bacon and Meredith Davenport- on 3-3 to 3-4-26 in State College, PA
- Community Connections to Our Watershed HS EE Program on 3-10-26 at EPCAMR
- [King's College Internship & Career Expo](#) from 10-1PM on 3-18-26
- [PA Brownfields Conference](#) on 3-23 thru 3-25-26 @ Wind Creek Event Center
- [ARC Workshop](#) in Ithaca, NY on 3-26-26; Bobby to attend
- EPCAMR presenting @ [Schuylkill River Watershed Congress](#) on 3-29-26
- ABC National News regional 2-Day AMD/AML Tour on 3-30 and 3-31-26
- [Junior Achievement Career Exploration Fair](#)- 4-15-26 @ Mohegan Sun
- [Luzerne Conservation District EnviroThon](#) - 4-21-26 @ Camp Kresge
- PA DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board Meeting on 4-23-26
- Let's Talk Trash and Tires forum April 25th @ LCCC
- [Choose Clean Water Conference](#) on May 18-20 @ Penn's Square Marriot, Lancaster
- [PA DCNR C2P2 grant](#) open; 1-12-26 thru 4PM on 4-30-26
- [AML/AMD Grant Program](#) Application Round 1: 4-6-26 to 11:59 pm on 5-29-26
- [Coldwater Heritage Partnership \(CHP\) PA TU Grant](#) Round 31-Opening Soon!
- [ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-Grants](#) for 2026