

EPCAMR 2026 2nd Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – May 21st

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

11:00 AM

Discussion and Correspondence

Info.
Portion

- ARIPPA [Media](#) (Scroll down past News Clips for last quarter of Newsletters)
- Congratulations from Katie Fritz - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay ahead of Bobby being awarded the CCWC's Clean Water Champion Award
- Request from Bonnie Bozzaco of Ransom Twp. to review the Old Forge Pumped Storage Proposal... FERC Docket No. P-15411
- Links to relevant articles on AMD and EPCAMR work in the region can be found by following our social media outlets on Facebook or LinkedIn
- 2 CFR 200 Compliance Check as a sub-recipient under the PA DEP AML/AMD Grant Program - Submitted EPCAMR Procurement Policy
- [EPCAMR Brings on Carolyn Phillips as a Work Study student intern from King's College as our Watershed Outreach Grant Research Specialist](#)
- [EPCAMR Takes Aim at Litter, Illegal Dumping in Coal Region Watersheds...](#)
- Several many more in Bobby's invitation email sent May 13th...
- Any other items for Discussion?

Executive
Director

12:00 PM

Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance: Cristy Sweeney, Christine Haldeman, Ed Wytovich, Cheryl Brobst, Tara Jones, Hanna Eck (quorum), Gary Leander, Pete Haentjens, Keith George, Leigh Ann Henry, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Frank Sindaco, Shawnese Taylor, Maria Gereda, Mark Jones, Steve Cornia, Laura Rinehimer, and Carolyn Phillips.

Vice –
President
Presiding

Begin
Business
Portion of
Meeting

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

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer

- Filed for Audit: Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Cheryl, Ed & All)
- See Financial Position Statement, Estimates, Jobs List and Grant Prospects
 - Negative AMR conference balance explained by delayed invoice from prior year; resolved with sponsorships returning account to positive.
 - New account created Development Fund (Account #10102) to track anniversary banquet sponsorships and registrations
 - QuickBooks envelopes (Green Dot Bank): 3% yield; instant internal transfers; being evaluated as potential replacement or supplement to PA Invest (currently ~4% but the interest is variable and operationally difficult to transfer funds)
 - Brockton AML/AMD grant (~\$302K) denied: preliminary design element included in application flagged ineligible; will resubmit next round without design component
 - 2 CFR 200 compliance check submitted to DEP for closed Hazleton area grant
 - Closed and pending estimates show because of a QuickBooks Online glitch; Mike has contacted support and submitted feedback several times with no QBO response
- Waiting on: 2024 990 from Kohanski & Co. & 2023 Single Audit by Karen Hazelton

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

Staff

1. Pine Knot / Oak Hill / Repplier ("Peking Duck" — PKN-OAK-REP) Field monitoring and lab samples weekly; quarterly in-stream sampling; Two new boreholes planned: one at Oak Hill (Eric Bella, Lehigh Engineering) and one at Forestville Fireman's Co. property to map and separate mine pools: Contract for drilling being finalized.
2. Loyalsock & Askam: Monthly discharge and in-stream monitoring ongoing
3. Columbia U. Rare Earth Elements & Mine Pool Sampling: transducer data collection ongoing; looking to meet up with students for more lab testing
4. Dogtown: New monitoring site established at Stackhouse #4 Tunnel discharge with

Luzerne Conservation District and Larson Design Group near Shickshinny;
Discharge may require treatment before entering Rocky Run (designated trout stream); *With the 4 projects above, one day per week per month is currently dedicated to monitoring (leaves less time for office/administrative work).*

5. Lost Creek Field Study: Kleinfelder proposing dynamic drilling from upper to lower veins to redirect discharge currently flooding soccer fields toward Packer #5 Discharge. Lost Creek Discharge is under 500 gallons per minute; Weston tunnel draining behind barrier pillar and surface water identified as likely source.
6. Separate Packer 5 grant application being developed with Roseanne (Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association) and partners for next funding round
7. Bear Creek Tunnel/Shaft Discharge: Mine pool volume calculation complete with approximately 1.6 billion (1,592,302,296) gallons in mine voids of Lykens Valley No. 4, 5, & 6 veins Connected to the Lykens Tunnel and Short Mountain Shaft discharges; SRBC moving forward with Maelstrom oxidizer design at Kerry Teeter property (5 acres with solar installation); Andrew King leading SRBC proposal
8. Frackville/Morea Phase 2: Project report complete
9. AML-Connect.org - discussion board planned for treatment system operators to share maintenance knowledge (e.g., how to flush a system) and other resources.
10. Western Middle Field Mine Mapping: Maria working bottom veins (Buck Mountain and up); Steve working top down (Little Tracy to Holmes) with September deadline on track; Steve expects to wrap Western Middle by next month, then transition to Eastern Middle once maps returned from Patrick
11. Old Forge Projects (Tetra Tech & Klinefelder): Two proposals submitted under new for-profit rate structure; Tetra Tech and Klinefelder reportedly the only two applicants and EPCAMR is in both applications.
12. Staffing & Volunteers: Ian Padden (Wilkes University Bonner Program): 10-week summer position starting June 15; Dylan White (King's College, marketing background): second 10-week summer associate position, also starting June 15; Carolyn Philips returned; received collegiate grant from Earth Conservancy for 12 weeks; Year-long AmeriCorps position (digital marketing focus) still open and more interviews planned for late summer/early fall; AmeriCorps partnership managed through Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (April Bobke); longstanding relationship ~20 years
13. Cleanups: Tomhicken Road Cleanup 10 miles cleaned in Black Creek Township with Friends of Nescopeck; Mary (in her 70s, lifelong cleanup volunteer) received honorary EPCAMR volunteer t-shirt; subsequently contacted staff about additional roads needing cleanup; Dave Yamula (property owner along Tomhicken Road) expressed interest in discussing Gowan and Derringer discharges on his property. Pine Run Road Cleanup (State Forest) conducted with Luzerne Conservation District; side-by-sides used to remove tires and trash along pole line in an along a Class A trout stream; Nick Lylo (DCNR) thanked team; Keith (Conservation District) facilitated PPL right-of-way access
14. Outreach Events: Bloomsburg University Earth Day tie-dye tabling; Ed Wytovich served as keynote speaker; Choose Clean Water Hill Day in DC: Michael and Frank met with congressional staffers; Glenn Thompson (District 15) highlighted as strong AML advocate; Senator McCormick's office given 15-minute meeting; Brownfields Conference (Allentown): Earth Conservancy and EPCAMR panel presentation on brownfields redevelopment; Amazon Community Connect Reception (Bloomsburg): Recognized for dump site cleanup work; received donated photo panel; ARC Regional Workshop (Ithaca): Attended for potential Appalachian Regional Commission funding; described as challenging grant program; DCNR Community Connections to Our Watershed wrap-up at Montage Mountain with Luzerne / Lackawanna County high school student presentations; ABC News feature (reporters from NY and FL): story expected to publish in June; Penn State Hybrid Zones Art Exhibit: Rachel Bacon and Meredith Davenport incorporated iron oxide and graphite into artwork; iron oxide confiscated at customs when Rachel attempted to transport it

internationally

15. Fundraising: NEPA Gives (June 4–5): 24-hour online fundraising campaign; Board members strongly encouraged to donate; grant funders now ask what percentage of board members have given; Incentive structure: Donations at \$222 unlocked an additional \$200 prize; small amounts still strategically valuable; Challenge grant: Mark committing \$200 offline as matching contribution; others can arrange similar offline challenge grants; Employer matching: Board members encouraged to explore employer match programs; can be done offline; Donations over \$2,000 recommended to be made offline to avoid platform percentage fees; Funds would enable opportunities such as Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce membership (~\$400/year) currently deemed unaffordable

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

Respective
Comm.
Chairs

- Development Committee Update: Chair (Cristy) continues to meet on a mostly biweekly basis following along our action plan; Emily Bauldaff assisting with donor engagement templates, foundation connections (Campbell Foundation prioritized), and quarterly reporting; new committee members John Dawes and Joe Pizarchik joined; Sent NEPA Gives link and CCWC Lobbying Booklet to board list. 30th Anniversary Banquet Keynote speaker Dave Hess confirmed; registration is open; board members attendance is encouraged
- Education/Science Committee Update; Currently chaired by Andrea Nerozzi

Old Business

- Update on donations \$1,200 from Luzerne Conservation District & \$1,500 from Green Light Fdn. Fund (Congressman Bresnahan and Chelsea Strub) for tires & trash cleanup.

Vice -
President

New Business

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

Vice -
President

1:00 PM

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

Vice -
President

Watershed Reports

All

Lackawanna (Tara Jones): River Fest held May 2 with shuttle service via Pulse; June 14: LRCA Day at the Ballpark (Rail Riders) Tara throwing opening pitch; Water trail feasibility study underway (Carbondale to confluence) with Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority as grant recipient; North Scranton Riverfront Von Storch mine opening collapsed near Market/Green Ridge stretch may qualify as emergency remediation; Tara to contact BAMR or mining office for inspection

Schuylkill (Christine): Bell AMD Treatment System valve fixed; Kaska project path forward established for current funding and future grant applications; drilling and pouring needed to locate old mines; Silver Creek: Intake clog suspected (pipe/manhole issue); Randolph/Lucianna investigation planned; DEP approval still pending; Reevesdale and Mary D treatment systems clogging; extra program funds may be used to service them; State Game Lands 286: \$6.6M silt removal and floodplain/wetland restoration by Clauser on main stem Schuylkill downstream of Schuylkill Haven; Railroad right-of-way negotiations for adjacent Site 5 (Old Chutes) stalled; best access would be railroad, build siding and purchase rail cars; Highbridge foundation needs work

CCRA (Cheryl & Ed): Wiconisco Creek now supports trout; celebrated at fishing rodeo attended by former students; Mahanoy Creek headwaters data center concern: Several hundred acres cleared at High Ridge Industrial Park under governor's fast-track program despite local opposition; drainage impacts to small watershed reservoir flagged; Bloomsburg Makers Fair attendance planned (first week of June)

ARIPPA (Cristy): AML awards applications due June 8: \$4,800 available; anonymous donor and ARIPPA funds; 2+ projects preferred

Hotlinks in
this
document
will take you
to more info.

Luzerne (Keith): \$1,200 check presented for tire/trash cleanup support; Education outreach: Grow with the Flow (Lehman Township), Nature Discovery Day at Nesbitt Park (500 students); Partnering with EPCAMR and North Branch Land Trust on education grant for inclusive workshop with students with special needs (Pittston area); Nanticoke tree planting signage

Nescopeck (Gary): worried about water levels in Little Black Creek; Luzerne County data center zoning ordinance (Version 4): Planning Commission approved; proceeding to County Council — described as most comprehensive ordinance seen across multiple township meetings

Sullivan (Hanna): No more Cole; EWP bid opening near Sonestown; Recommended to contact PA DEP BAMR regarding an update on WALA AMD Treatment System to Loyalsock Creek; project has been dragging along

Info. Portion
of Meeting

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

Executive
Director

- Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting on 5-21-26 from 10-3:15PM
- PA DEP 319 Virtual Workshop on 5-27 and 5-28-26 from 9-1:30PM
- EPCAMR Development Committee Mtg on 6-4-26 at 6PM (Zoom link to be sent)
- PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles Podcast on 6-05-26 with Kristen Reilly from the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- [2026 ARIPPA Annual Conference & Program](#), Crowne Plaza, Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel on 6-9-26 from 8AM-6PM
- United Way Day of Caring Sugar Notch Run and S. Main Street Cleanup with EPCAMR from 10-1PM
- Western Pocono Chapter TU Trout Fest, White Haven on 6-13-26 from 11-4PM
- DCNR and DEP EJ Virtual Town Hall Session: Leveraging Tools, Data, and Research to Advance EJ Across Agencies: EPCAMR Panel Presentation by Bobby on 6-16-26 at 2PM
- PA DEP EJ Meeting with PA DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley on 6-22-26 from 10-11AM
- [POWER Meeting](#) with EPCAMR Presentation-Location TBD on 6-25-26
- Watershed Connection to Chesapeake Bay Teacher Training with the Lehman Sanctuary on 7-9 and 7-10-26
- Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, Dallas, PA-EPCAMR AMD Chalk Activity on 7-11-26
- [2026 PROP Conference](#), Double Tree Resort, Lancaster, PA Panel Presenter-Tire Recycling/Illegal Dumping on 7-23-26
- PA American Water Camp, Peckville, Valley Library on 8-5-26
- PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting on 8-12-26 from 10-2PM
- EPCAMR 3Q Board Meeting, Ashley, PA on 8-20-26 from 11-1PM