MISSION

The mission of the organization is to encourage the reclamation and redevelopment of land affected by past mining practices. This includes reducing hazards to health and safety, eliminating soil erosion, improving water quality, (and) returning land affected by past mining practices to productive use thereby improving the economy of the region. ~from the Preamble to the EPCAMR Bylaws
Q1: OF THE AREAS THAT EPCAMR CURRENTLY PROVIDES SERVICES OR PARTAKES IN, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE FOCUS PUT INTO?

Land reclamation and re-use, especially for agricultural purposes. Hemp farming, which I believe will become legal in Pa, using AML treated with SAFE bio wastes to grow crops, will vary depending upon lay of the land, land chemistry, rocks, market demands, etc.

8/25/2017 10:27 AM
Technical

8/21/2017 8:46 PM
New technologies - become a hub for advancing new technologies in AMD/AML. Make it known that manufacturers can come to EPCAMR and EPCAMR can find a location to test the new technology out on.

8/18/2017 3:00 PM
Become a regional resource on past mining issues. Get involved in redevelopment organizations, Chambers of Commerce to begin implementing the reuse of AML.

8/18/2017 9:03 AM
outreach is the most important

8/18/2017 8:02 AM
A dead stream brought back to life

8/17/2017 3:55 PM
AMD cleanup funds sourcing

8/17/2017 3:32 PM
Improving water quality

5/22/2017 12:05 PM
Your focus is your mission statement and you are doing a very good job in executing it. You can only go where the funding leads you. Don't strain your resources.

5/19/2017 8:53 AM
Our GIS section seems pretty strong, perhaps we should look at branching out into other areas other than mining to generate more income. Secondly we could look into secondary uses for abandoned mine land, anything from raising crops such as hemp to large scale solar farms.

5/18/2017 9:14 PM
Q2: WHAT AREAS, THAT EPCAMR CURRENTLY DOES NOT PROVIDE SERVICES OR PARTAKE IN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US ENTER INTO?

Back to AML and using land for solar farms that is not suitable for agricultural or industrial pursuits. I feel that south facing areas near our co-gen plants may be an ideal situation because the infrastructure to get power on the grid already exists. Areas backfilled with ash might be ideal as long as the surface ash is stabilized with low growing vegetative growth to prevent ash particles from scratching the solar cells. Storage of power might be done by making hydrogen. Another area that we might want to investigate is coal region tourism and what we can do to help that. I think that we have just barely tapped the tourism potential.

8/25/2017 10:27 AM
Heritage

8/21/2017 8:46 PM
Unknown

8/18/2017 3:00 PM
Start conducting mass diagram studies, update scarlift reports and works of this nature to become the resource to correct the regional damage. Once you publish a few good studies, you will become the "go to " group.

8/18/2017 9:03 AM
more history/heritage/partnerships

8/18/2017 8:02 AM
Social events to boost awareness and membership

8/17/2017 3:55 PM
Not sure

5/22/2017 12:05 PM
Industry partnerships when you can leverage funding.

5/19/2017 8:53 AM
see above

5/18/2017 9:14 PM
Q3: WHAT OTHER WAYS OR PLACES DO YOU THINK THAT EPCAMR COULD GET THEIR NAME OUT THERE, NETWORK, OR BUILD MORE INTEREST?

Get involved with other areas in which we are not currently invested. Learn before we speak, GIS should be helpful in many areas that I mentioned previously.

8/25/2017 10:27 AM
EPCAMR identification signage at project sites. Additional foundation

8/21/2017 8:46 PM
Possibly attending municipal official’s conferences i.e. township supervisor’s conventions. Some municipalities may have problems or needs EPCAMR or one of the watershed organizations can help with.

8/18/2017 3:00 PM
Make contact with regional consultants, geo-science, structural engineers, etc. as a source of deep mine impacts on both land use as well as water quality.

8/18/2017 9:03 AM
more use of board to broadcast what we do, utilize volunteer groups - seniors, leadership WB, school groups, civic groups, use VISTA for that outreach

8/18/2017 8:02 AM
Golf tournament, Wine and Cheese Social, Canoe-A-Thon, Duck Derby on the River. Set up the banner at as many festivals as you can.... County Fairs

8/17/2017 3:55 PM
Most of the Board members belong to other organizations. Perhaps if we all try to make EPCAMR a topic of discussion in our other groups

5/22/2017 12:05 PM
Locally, your thought of highly. Maybe raise your statewide profile.

5/19/2017 8:53 AM
Enhance our education outreach program so that we can charge for special programs for teachers as well as students.

5/18/2017 9:14 PM
Q4: With all your comments in mind, what funding sources would be available to allow paid staff to work toward these goals?

That will take some research on your part.

8/25/2017 10:27 AM
Additional foundation money.

8/21/2017 8:46 PM
More private funding by manufacturers/inventors.

8/18/2017 3:00 PM
Request funding or ask for donations from consultants that come to your office as a resource. Become the group that has the information that most others do not have and your services become valued.

8/18/2017 9:03 AM
Civic organization grants, c2p2, arc, local foundations in Hazleton, Pottsville, etc.

8/18/2017 8:02 AM
Increase membership which will bring opportunities to explore more ideas for funding

8/17/2017 3:55 PM
I don't know

8/17/2017 3:32 PM
Perhaps Trout Unlimited could provide a grant or two for water quality projects

5/22/2017 12:05 PM
AML fund. It's not fully funding the intent of the program. That's not EPCAMRs fault, but we all need to do a better job in getting Congress to free up more money for the Fund's intent.

5/19/2017 8:53 AM
If the market exists we could enlarge our GIS sector and generate more profit to invest in other areas.

5/18/2017 9:14 PM
1. **Shape our technical expertise and services to support Coalition partners in the region since we now have the organizational capacity to support this goal:**
   - Propose projects in partnership with municipalities, local and County governments, and Cities on storm water management projects in mining impacted watersheds (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) that will lead to less infiltration into the underground abandoned mines
   - Offer operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation technical assistant for AMD treatment support to entities and groups with systems in need of continuous or long-term monitoring
   - Continue to seek funds that will allow for Staff to conduct comprehensive watershed assessments and prepare technical conservation plans that include implementation recommendations
   - Continue to provide Outreach support (Environmental Education, Municipal, Community, and Colleges & Universities) to raise the awareness of EPCAMR’s mission and goals and opportunities for collaborative events, programs, and partnerships (i.e. Cleanups, Festivals, Tree Plantings, Watershed Tours, Monitoring Programs, Tabling Events, etc.)
   - Continue to effectively maintain EPCAMR’s involvement as a leading state-wide, organization, advocating for abandoned mine land, AMD, and economic development funds as a part of the PA AML Campaign
   - Pursue a renewed partnership with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE)-AmeriCorps/Corporation for National Service Program should funding be made available nationally from the US Department of the Interior with EPCAMR serving as a supervisory role and providing training to potential OSMRE/AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps/Volunteers in Service to America (VISTAs)
   - Not an all exhaustive list....

2. **Continue to diversity EPCAMR’s funding sources to expand our services throughout the region and the Commonwealth of PA**
   - Keep pursuing foundation, state and federal grants
   - Negotiate additional professional service fee contracts with private companies, businesses, consultant groups involved in abandoned mine land reclamation, AMD remediation, Environmental Education, and watershed restoration
   - Further explore corporate giving programs (i.e. EITC, iGive, Community Aid, Amazon Smile, Network4Good, etc.) and sign up with them
   - Make a concentrated effort to increase online sales of EPCAMR recycled products through the Etsy store and EPCAMR online store
   - Create additional small specific fundraisers and online campaigns through GiveGab, Crowdsourcing, or Traditional events
   - Continue to be the leading grantee administering the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program Mine Mapping Project
   - Continue to update the amended Work Plan PA DEP 319 Program
   - Solicit proposals that will allow EPCAMR to further work on developing underground 3D Mine Pool Mapping Projects
   - Develop a market locally of EPCAMR’s recycled Oxide sales to local art studios, galleries, and art leagues
• Pursue grant funds that involve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Art Standards (STEAM) in partnership with elementary and high school programs throughout the EPCAMR region
• Develop AMD & Art Programs in partnership with Community Organizations (United Neighborhood Center, Wyoming Seminary Art Club, Wyoming Valley Art League, Verve Vertu, Artists for Art Gallery, etc.)
• Focus on ways in which EPCAMR is a good fit based on our professional services and skills sets that we can offer when seeking funds that are non-traditional, or meeting with new potential corporate funders, foundation, or grant administrators
• Not an all exhaustive list....

3. **Continue to provide Professional Staff Development/Cross training**
   • TIPS training
   • Free instructor led trainings and online webinars
   • GIS and Mining online webinars
   • ARC PAD GIS for mining analysis
   • Online training via Massive Open Online Communities (MOOCs)
   • PA DEP Training webinars
   • Continue to provide opportunities for EPCAMR Staff to attend various workshops, trainings, symposiums, panel presentations, working lunches, and conferences (i.e. PA AMR Conference, NCAC, W. Branch Symposium, PACD, NAAML P, ASMR, ESRI, PAEE, etc.)
   • Continue to provide in-house training by experienced Staff

4. **Establish stronger relationships with local economic development groups**
   • Chambers of Commerce, Penn’s Northeast, NEPA Alliance, Industrial Development Authorities, Appalachian Regional Commission (i.e. Scranton, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, and larger cities in our region
   • Stay abreast of new businesses coming into the area as well as new industries moving into our area and how EPCAMR can work with them
   • Attend local meetings to observe and listen to what is happening in our community, offer advice when warranted, and to create potential partnerships that could lead to funding without committing EPCAMR to unfunded obligations (i.e. County Conservation District meetings, Municipal meetings, Watershed group meetings)

5. **“Initiative” creation within EPCAMR to show that we do not only work on AMD Issues alone**
   • Encompass issues that deal with degraded landscapes (i.e. land, water, urban and rural impoverished areas, environmental education, and environmental injustices within coal field communities)
   • Look at the whole EPCAMR Mission: encourage reclamation and redevelopment reducing health and safety hazards, soil erosion, improve water quality, boost economy in the region and determine best where EPCAMR Staff can make the most difference given our operating budget and financial constraints

6. **Communication/Outreach**
- Build capacity within our local community groups, partner and educational institutions so they can aid in watershed improvement efforts
- Support the EPCAMR “Reclaim Crew” Volunteer Recruitment effort whose purpose is to host quarterly meetings and activities to develop and engage interested individuals in environmental activities supported by EPCAMR Staff in order to build a stronger base group of volunteers to help with future programs, projects, events, cleanups, educational programs, and watershed monitoring
- Creation of programs that community members can easily replicate and continue without EPCAMR’s help once the program is launched
- Canvas local neighborhood with relevant AMD, AML information and conduct surveys to map the needs of the community when looking at projects in a given area or hold public informational meetings within the community through the development of a positive relationship with a local community group
- Communicate with local school’s Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) (for school tours and funding), churches and afterschool centers to develop programs in our more urban centers
- Revise and update Environmental Education/Outreach Brochure and Fee Schedule and use reasonable discretion when applying it in underserved school districts

7. Maintain EPCAMR’s Successful Internship Program
- Continue to interview potential intern candidates from a variety of diverse curriculums and majors (ie. Art, Landscape Architecture, GIS, Geology, Environmental Science, Literary Arts, Communications and Web Design, Accounting, Political Science, Environmental Education, Biology, Geography, Community Development, etc.
- Add to the Internship Activities Description (IAD) Template as necessary depending on the season or semester in which an intern begins volunteering with EPCAMR
- Limit work hours of internships to 16-20 hours/week, unless their specific tasks and projects allow for more time to be spent on the projects that are independent of other EPCAMR Staff since those hours do not take away from existing workload
- EPCAMR Staff are encouraged and expected to serve as mentors to all interns, bring them into the organization, and allow them to shadow their work in their respective program areas throughout the course of their internship experience
- EPCAMR should continue to develop recruitment opportunities with colleges and universities throughout the EPCAMR region to obtain prospective internship candidates
- EPCAMR should continue to offer non-paying seasonal internships and encourage interns to determine if he/she can qualify for Work Study Programs through their respective institutions

8. Create a developmental Strategy to diversify our Board
- Consider identifying and recruiting future board members with backgrounds in fields such as a CPA, Environmental Lawyer, Marketing, Media & Web Development, Grant Writing, Business consultants for Non-Profits, Environmental Engineers, current and future volunteers of EPCAMR who may be interested in becoming board members
- Inquire from existing Conservation Districts, Industry, and At-Large members, recommendations for potential people interested in becoming an EPCAMR board member
• Bring aboard members that can help do some of the following to help EPCAMR obtain funds and continue to grow financially through increased organizational capacity, and increase our board’s continued strength in community development:
  A. Assess and respond to emerging and changing needs through governance and establishment of policy
  B. Be a vehicle and champion advocate for EPCAMR that will allow potential donors with varied interests and varied abilities to give to our mission and cause
  C. Serve as a resource and catalyst for charitable activities to EPCAMR to support your areas within the region
  D. Participate in fundraising activities as adopted by the Board
  E. Assist in finding contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations