



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2016 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Passed along some information to members of the **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed** on the Federal POWER Initiative-Economic Development and Abandoned Mine Reclamation-related to the Upper Lehigh & Schuylkill Headwaters portion of the Delaware River; Sent the same information along to the **Choose Clean Water Coalition**; <https://www.eda.gov/power/files/2016/funds-announcement.pdf> ; <https://www.eda.gov/power/agencies.htm> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-coal-idUSKCN0WJ1NF>; [RECLAIM Act](#)
- *Elizabeth Hughes*, EC informed EPCAMR that *Elizabeth Skrapits*, Citizen's Voice was looking for information on the Plainsville AMD Borehole; CV thought it was EC property; EPCAMR informed EC and the CV that it was owned by the Price Family and it was a former topsoil pit and before that farm fields; PA DEP drilled a relief borehole to prevent further collapse and flooding from occurring in Plains Township and flooded the topsoil pit with AMD; EPCAMR has plans to reach out the *Greg Price*, in partnership with the Luzerne Conservation District's Watershed Specialist, *John Levitsky*, to gain an access agreement to gather flow and chemistry from the AMD discharge prior to coming up with an AMD design concept plan for the discharge to present to *Mr. Price* that we might be able to pursue funding for in the future
- Reviewed and provided comments to *Dr. Margarita Rose*, King's College, PA on the draft Group Contingent Valuation survey that being compiled for the creation of a SurveyMonkey survey to assist EPCAMR and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) with creating some outreach and awareness of our collective work on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park reclamation and development; Preliminary survey data results will be presented by the students who are participating in a service learning project with EPCAMR and the HBPS at the Global Landscapes Conference at King's College on April 20th; Attended the Global Landscapes Conference with *Ray Clarke*-HBPS to evaluate the students work and poster sessions; <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/minerspark>
- *Gabby* was recently awarded a personal grant to do a photo essay and write a general article explaining AML and AMD for Uneven Earth, an environmental justice organization in Belgium and England; <http://www.unevenearth.org/2016/04/legacy-abandoned-mine-impacts-in-pennsylvanias-appalachia/>
- EPCAMR Staff made a trip out to Blair County to receive a grant award in the amount of **\$480** from *Dominion* and the *Western PA Conservancy* from Don Houser, Director of Regional Federal, State, and Local Affairs for Dominion; The grant will be used to produce a new updated EPCAMR Brochure to distribute to our partners and potential partners in the Tioga and Dauphin County coverage areas within our region
- An article appeared in the Citizen's Voice on a joint AMD educational project that EPCAMR and EC are working on with Wilkes-Barre Area's Plains-Solomon Jr. High; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/students-project-to-tell-story-of-acid-mine-treatment-ponds-1.2029300>

- Reached out to *Keep PA Beautiful* to thank them for recognizing EPCAMR in their recent newsletter
- EPCAMR Staff set up a Seed Bomb making station at the ***Earth Festival*** on April 29th at the Wilkes-Barre Nesbitt Park commons along the Susquehanna River where nearly **1000** elementary and junior high school students attended to visit various environmentally-related stations and conservation partners in Luzerne County; EPCAMR set up our EPCAMR Exhibit to show students the kind of work we do in the region
- EPCAMR to reach out to *John Welsh*, to see if he'd present at the June 30th Meeting of the PA Anthracite Section of the SME-AIME at Mountain Valley Golf Course; www.ashleysbreaker.org
- Promoted some events for the Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper on EPCAMR's social media sites; Provided a simple statement of support at *Carol Parenzan's* request to lend credibility to the new regional non-profit; <https://www.facebook.com/middlesusquehannariverkeeper/>; *Carol* is the new Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper Executive Director
- Submitted a draft Storify document on EPCAMR and AMD Environmental Education to the Global EE Online Course through Cornell University that EPCAMR Executive Director has participated in over the last several weeks independently from home in the evenings to earn certificate credit; Due to editing problems with the Storify platform, it was suggested to take the entire draft and copy it into a Google document first to edit, then cut and paste back into the Storify platform before making it final; <https://storify.com/BobbyHughesAMD/potteryart>
- EPCAMR signed on to a Letter of Support for the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act and forwarded it to *Madeline Urbish*-NJ Audubon

Technical Assistance

- Informed by *Mike Dunn*, OSMRE-Pittsburgh, that the ***Earthvision 3D Training Workshop*** that EPCAMR wants to host in Eastern PA is still in the works, however, the timing is delayed, and once OSMRE Staff have some other priorities out of the way, they will get back to the EPCAMR Staff on coordinating the on-site training
- Provided *Bill Tarutis*, Professor at Wilkes University, at his request, with resources on the Nanticoke Creek Watershed related to AMD for two of his lab classes
- *Setting the Stage for Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization* is a publication to assist with future development of Brownfields Projects sent to EPCAMR by the US EPA Brownfields Program

Community Volunteer Service Coordination

- *Vanessa Acevedo*, Ridgeview High School sophomore inquired about volunteering with EPCAMR; Responded to her e-mail to determine what State she was located in to see where her interests lay
- *David Hooker*, Bloomsburg University, signed up to become an EPCAMR volunteer through MailChimp
- *Chris Simkonis*, LCCC, offered to assist with a Career Fair tabling event on the Nanticoke Campus, on behalf of EPCAMR with a few of our Staff on
- *Connor Murray*, King's College, PA was seeking information on an Engineering Internship for the Summer; Provided him with some contacts and advice to improve his resume'
- *Andrew Freifeld*, Temple University, was seeking an internship opportunity with EPCAMR, however, the HBPS is in need of a student with his skill set in Landscape Architecture to assist with the development of the Huber Miner's Memorial Park; Interviewed him with Ray Clarke-HBPS, since our Office will house the position for the Summer

- *Alexa Nallin*, Scranton, PA signed up to become a high school volunteer who has clerical and bookkeeping skills as well as an interest in our illegal dump site cleanups; Followed up with her to let her know that we'll inform her of any future upcoming events in the Lackawanna Valley
- Coordinated a **3** hour cleanup at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park with **5** student volunteers from King's College on April 27th, 2016, Ashley and another **2** hours on April 30th, 2016 with **4** more student volunteers
- Provided *Ryan Longenberger*, a Senior from King's College with personal contacts from Engineering Firms and Consultant Companies since he was looking for an internship that provided engineering background and training in the field of environmental science; EPCAMR didn't have any available internship positions open at the time of his inquiry; Encouraged him to become an EPCAMR volunteer through GiveGab

Project Coordination

- Requested follow up from *Eric Rosengrant*, Project Officer, PA DEP Moshannon Office for our **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Passive Treatment System Project** to see when the final payment will be released to EPCAMR to pay Rexers, LLC for their work on the construction end of the project and to pay Hedin Environmental for their design work; EPCAMR provided all close-out documentation and Rexers is requesting an idea of when the final payment will be made
- Reviewed a rough draft of the **Laurel Run CHP** provided by the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Staff and provided comments and suggestions to be included in the final report; Provided *Gabby* and *Liz* with the sample Solomon Creek Field Data Excel File for the Benthic Macro Impairment Evaluations; Worked on securing a Wilkes University Conference Room in the Henry Student Center (2nd Floor) for the draft Laurel Run CHP meeting through *Megan Boone Valkenburg* on April 28th at 6:15-8:15pm; Forwarded the information to the local newspapers to see if they would pick it up to give us some publicity for the meeting; EPCAMR Staff found what appeared to be a leaky discharge or an open latch pipe from a sewer line behind the baseball field at Hollenback Park and reported it to the WVSA (*Jim Tomaine*) and WB City (*Butch Frati*) for further inspection; Heard from *Shawn Rummel*, TU that our request for an electroshocking survey Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) was approved and they are in the process of developing a scope of work for it; EPCAMR Staff still need to sample for macros in certain areas and decide what locations to monitor and shock to identify fish populations and a transition into the warm water area along Laurel Run; Received permission from *Mitch Kornfeld*, owner of the Woodlands Inn & Resort to access the property to conduct an electro-shocking survey and macro-invertebrate survey
- Followed up with *Paula Longo*, Bear Creek Charter School about picking up her Waterboxxes for our **Waterboxx Phase III Research Project** and informed the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Staff; Submitted a request for **\$4750** to ISI, LLC for a reimbursement and a progress report on the distribution of the Waterboxxes for the Spring of 2016
- Collected and collated In-kind reporting forms from PA Leadership Team Leaders for the **EE Capacity Grant** Phase I Reporting and Reimbursement submittal; Put information on the *Community of Learners EE Capacity Facebook Group* about the upcoming April 27th conference call and presentation; Contacted *Carl Jones*, Executive Director of the Office of Environmental Justice to participate on the call and reviewed some talking points and agenda development for the call
- Obtained signatures from the EPCAMR President and Secretary for the **Lewis Mine Passive AMD Rehabilitation Treatment System Project** amendment and submitted 3 original copies to the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Center
- Provided *Gavin Pellitteri*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern with a copy of the package and Thank You Letter template that we will be providing to potential businesses who might be willing to locate *Community Aid* clothing recycling bins on their premises; Gavin is beginning to look for businesses in the Bloomsburg area to locate some bins
- Coordinated with *Dave Rinehimer*, PA DOT on the delivery of cleanup supplies for the **Nanticoke Area/Honey Pot** Cleanup on April 23rd in partnership with the Nanticoke Conservation Club, Greater

Nanticoke Area Community Garden, The City of Nanticoke, Newport Township Community Organization, and LCCC; Coordinated with *Katie Scott*, Environmental Department for Bridgestone Retail Operations, and *Shawn Thomas*, Lakin Tire, to pick up the 48 tires from the HoneyPot and Newport Creek Cleanup in the City of Nanticoke; Provided him with directions and GPS coordinates to the pickup location off Access Road, HoneyPot; Tires were picked up for free since EPCAMR signed up through their Tires4ward Recycling Program as we've done for many years

- Worked up a contract agreement in the amount of **\$7900**, for the Design Plans for the ***Solomon Creek Trout Stream Habitat Improvement and Dam Removal Project*** and provided it to RiverLogic Solutions, LLC and *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President, for their review and signatures; EPCAMR will work up a separate contract for the eventual construction once we get an estimate back on the cost to remove a utility pole that is shown on the plan that will be impacted during construction; Informed Ben Lorson, Project Manager from the PA F&BC that the design plans should be completed shortly and will be forwarded to PA DOT
- Pioneer Tunnel is requesting that EPCAMR serve as a possible pass-through should some OSM funds to apply towards the construction of the headframe at the Pioneer Tunnel Museum; Provided a one page summary of EPCAMR services and technical assistance capabilities
- Submitted a letter of inquiry for **\$12,000** to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to complete a watershed assessment of the Gardener Creek and the remainder of the Mill Creek watershed in Luzerne County, PA

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Set up an abandoned mine lands tour with *Hank Zielinski*, Fuels Manager-NAES Corporation down in the Hazleton area for April 13th and to talk about the RECLAIM Act and potential for submitting a project application and joint partnership project with Northampton Generating Company, LP
- Submitted EPCAMR's check to Trout Unlimited in advance of attending the **West Branch Symposium**, to be held at Toftrees, State College, PA on April 14th & 15th
- Received a draft copy of the 2016 Sponsor letter from WPCAMR that we will be using to seek additional sponsors for the **18th Annual PA AMR Conference** this year at IUP, Indiana, PA; Sent it out to the PA Anthracite SME-AIME and PA Aggregate and Concrete Association (PACA); Prepared a description of the process potential scholarship attendees need to follow to officially request a scholarship to attend; Sent to Anne some additional summary abstracts of two presenters at the Conference, *Melissa Meade* and *Lori Maloney*; Suggested to *Robert Beard*, that LEIDOS, set up an exhibit at the Conference to network in the AMR Community; www.leidos.com/engineering
- Supported sending *Denise Hernandez*, EPCAMR Urban Outreach Specialist to an AFP NEPA Workshop on April 11th, on *Storytelling in Fundraising & Using Your 990 as a Marketing Tool*
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an AMD Tour to the Old Forge Borehole along the Lackawanna River with students from the *Monticello School* in Scranton, PA who will be partnering with the *Maternal Family Health Services Program* and the *United Neighborhood Center* in Scranton, PA to work with EPCAMR's iron oxide glaze to create some pottery for EPCAMR
- Served as the Guest Speaker for the *PA Anthracite SME-AIME Annual Meeting* in Hazleton on April 21st and gave a presentation on EPCAMR's 3D Mine Pool Mapping efforts across NE PA

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Completed the April 2016 monthly PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report
- Conducted an EPCAMR Staff Meeting on April 26th to review projects, events, progress, and upcoming grants, conferences, workshops
- Made corrections to the minutes of the last MRAB Meeting that EPCAMR Executive Director attended and provided the comments to Daniel Snowden, PA DEP who will make the revisions
- Completed an online account registration for EPCAMR on the Home Depot website
- Followed up with *Rose Fierman*, CO who was interested in an Internship with EPCAMR, however, she was very specific in what she wanted to get out of an internship and the typical internships offered by EPCAMR could not accommodate her requests when the needs of EPCAMR and our Internship Activity Descriptions clearly state the type of work and activities that are a part of our program
- Received a presentation from *Ann Devine*, PA DEP EE Program on *Commonwealth Financing Authority* funding for AMD projects; Will review and provide EPCAMR Staff with the presentation for further review and discussion
- Reviewed the EPCAMR Staff's internal draft Strategic Plan Update document and made final comments until it is requested and discussed by the EPCAMR Board at the May 19th Meeting following the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee