Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2015 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Submitted a grant for $1K, received $400 in software and aided in another grant to NFWF
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call, an EPCAMR staff meeting, conducted cleanup in Ashley and collected mine drainage residuals from the Silverbrook Discharge
- The X drive crashed on the server causing data loss from the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant. Worked to recover the data and/or assess damages. Dropped of the last set of maps at Pottsville and started scanning the Wilkes-Barre collection again.
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings at **Askam Boreholes**
- Created 3 shapefiles, then edited 4 shapefiles, and 1 dataset for EPCAMR partners
- Updated www.datashed.org; Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Saved 2015 Organizational Budget from QuickBooks into PDF format for upcoming grants. Placed on the M: drive for staff to easily access.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a staff meeting to update each other on individual program needs and how to strategize going forward.
- Organized recyclables and picked out new boxes for maps from Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). Since we have been getting maps to scan from Pottsville in their preferred container, black plastic bags, we have recycled the boxes.
- John Dawes, Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW), asked for AMR and AMD related statistics and maps for the 17th PA Legislative District. He would be meeting with Congressman Cartwright in a week. Later we were asked to prepare a proposal to complete this work for the other 10 legislative districts in PA.
- Ordered 3 laptops from Dell. Two of the laptops were for our Outreach Specialists and the last was for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) who will reimburse us for our costs.
- Discussion on Datashed Snapshot Sampling for this spring to early summer. In addition to Luzerne, Lackawanna and the northern portion of Schuylkill County (Catawissa Creek Watershed), we were also asked to cover two treatment systems in Carbon County bringing the total to 8 treatment systems to sample.
- Found latitude/longitude coordinates for 9 discharges in the Lackawanna Watershed.
- Sent Power+ Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) Legislative Amendment to the EPCAMR Board after review by the EPCAMR President.
- EPCAMR staff met with Larson Design Group staff to introduce ourselves to the new team that was assembled to deal with abandoned mine land problems in the state. It has been a while since LDG has had an AML focused division. They plan to exhibit at our statewide AMR Conference.

- Travelled to Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO) to return the final set of maps based on our scanning scope of work consigned from that office [MSI]. Stopped on the way back to collect iron oxide solids from the Silverbrook Discharge.
- Filled an iron oxide order for Lycoming College.
- Picked up maps from Wilkes-Barre BAMR office to start scanning maps from their upstairs collection on the 5th Floor [MSI].
- Setup computers for EPCAMR Outreach Specialists so they can be hooked up to the server and access shared printers and drives. Setup the computer for HBPS to access our internet only.
- Corresponded with Paul Coyle from the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR), Kim Snyder from the PA DEP Wilkes-Barre BAMR Office, Davey Williams from the PA DEP Pottsville DMO and Patrick Jaquay from the PA DEP California DMO in regards to the Mine Subsidence Insurance program and map collections that are available [MSI].
- Returned to the PA DEP Wilkes-Barre BAMR Office to pick up 2 boxes of map index cards to scan into a PDF. The index cards represent what are on the shelves in the 5th Floor map room collection [MSI].
- Completed Program Manager monthly report for February.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee Conference Call to coordinate efforts with the committee as they continue to iron out details and get speakers/sponsors for the conference in 2015.
- EPCAMR staff and a few volunteers participated in a cleanup along Hazleton Street and Main Street in Ashley.
- Submitted a $1K grant to Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW) to gather AML/AMD statistics and create maps per legislative district for the PA AML Campaign. Ten congressional districts in PA are affected by AML.
- Aided EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists as they created a budget and scope of work for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to assess and install stream best management practices (BMPs) on unnamed tributaries in the Mifflinville/Berwick Area. These streams were identified as priorities for NFWF and border AMD impacted streams.

Technical Assistance:
- Unpacked and calibrated our new YSI Pro Plus Water Quality Meter. The meter reads pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and oxidation reduction potential. There are calibration solutions for all but the temperature parameters. Purchased new 4.01 and 10.01 pH standards (not included in the setup kit).
- Continued to work on current mine pool boundaries, underground mine boundaries, barrier pillars, flow direction lines, borehole locations and drainage tunnels for the Heckscherville Valley for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Also adjusted a syncline which was improperly matching up from one data source to another.
- Continued to work on current mine pool boundaries, underground mine boundaries, barrier pillars, flow direction lines, borehole locations and drainage tunnels for the Rausch Creek Valley for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative with the SRBC. Maps are not available for the Porter Tunnel and Tower City mines making it impossible to know if the Brookside Mine is connected above the current elevation of the Valley View Tunnel (~900') to adjacent mines to the east.
- Printed current and "Ash's" 1950s era mine pool maps for Heckscherville Valley, Rausch Creek Valley, Wyoming Valley and Lackawanna Valley. Printed two anthracite region maps: Northern and Eastern Middle Fields, then Western Middle and Southern Fields. Incorporated them into the appendix of the report along with the Borehole Campaign Tables. Delivered an update to the Mine Pool Mapping report via transferbigfiles.com for Tom Clark.
- Corrected digitized features from an unknown vein in the Powderly Colliery by researching the vein elevations in the Mine Pool Model for the Lackawanna Watershed [MSI].

- Researched and ordered equipment to expand the server beyond 7TB capacity. Current setup is a Microsoft (MS) Storage Space Mirror made up of internal and external drives, all SATA and USB ports are used. For expansion past internal and external drives, MS Storage Spaces require a JBOD (just a bunch of disks) Tower device which shows all drives to allow Windows software to manage the drives as opposed to a RAID (random array of independent disks) Tower which uses hardware to combine and show windows one large disk. Purchased a StarTech 8 bay JBOD Towers and two 4TB drives from NewEgg.com. Hopefully there will be manuals for these devices to show how to set them up. There isn't much information on Windows Storage Spaces other than what is provided by Microsoft. It all seems very simple and should only take an afternoon to complete [MSI].
- Printed maps for the Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Plan Public Meeting.
- Traveled to Centralia to meet with Joe Sapienza and record some "b roll" footage for his documentary on the mine fire.
- Setup the 8 bay JBOD Tower on the EPCAMR server and began adding external drives to the unit to free up a USB port. Ordered an eSATA card which will speed up file transfer rates. Unfortunately, this action scrambled the X drive making it unreadable in as a Windows Storage Space. Contacted StarTech support to ascertain the issue. They recommended sending the unit back because it was malfunctioning. Tried to set up the MS Storage Space the way it was with 3 internal drives and 5 external drives, but it was being reported as broken. Microsoft documentation recommends adding another drive to rebuild the mirror. Purchased an external casing for 2 of the internal drives and added them to the Storage Space one at a time, but the mirror did not recompile itself properly. Waited until the weekend and tried the rebuild function again with the second drive, but the computer was selectively shutting down halting progress. Found a program to "jiggle" the mouse to keep if from going into power save mode. Eventually discovered that power failure over the weekend caused a rebuild failure. Placed the server and attached drives on a battery backup. Also found out later that an external drive was malfunctioning. It hadn't completely failed, but would selectively disconnect itself from the server as well. Scans of the drive showed the "metadata was stale," which further complicated matters. EPCAMR staff are worried now that all work for the MSI program is gone, except for digitizing work which was saved in a geodatabase on the M drive [MSI].
- Researched software to read the mirror drive with the drive missing. Found Russian-made software called ReclaiMe. The software cost over $400, but after making contact with the makers of the software, they gave us a free license. The two part software was able to scan the individual drives to rebuild the mirror from the shadow files, then recover the content onto another drive. Needed to purchase and setup several more drives to save the files [MSI].
- Verizon Wireless internet was down more than it was up this month, a separate issue from the server problems. Any amount of tinkering with and resetting the modem did not help. After talking to Verizon Technicians we found out that we were being "metered." Verizon staff would not call it that because metering is not a favorable practice in the wireless business, but in essence that was what was happening. After we reached a certain amount of data usage for the month, we were dropped to a lower speed. Unfortunately, that lower speed connection was incompatible with our setup. Decided to drop Verizon Wireless as our internet connection. Ordered broadband internet service from Service Electric Cable, which is what we had over a year ago.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.