Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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April 2026 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff scanned, cataloged, georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. Continued QA/QC of **HU**'s Western Middle Anthracite Mosaic work.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, 2 **AMR Conference** calls, a PKN-OAK-REP monthly call with **SCD** & Dogtown Project Call with **LCD.**
- Sampled 3 AMD TS, upstream, downstream on Loyalsock Creek Watershed for **LCWA** & **SCCD**, 3 discharges for the PKN-OAK-REP project on and sites on Mill Creek and West Branch Schuylkill River for **SCD** ,Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on Nanticoke Cr. for EC, & took flow at 3 AMD discharges in Wyoming Valley with Columbia U.
- Estimated 2 proposals for professional service with new for-profit rates from **EPCAMR Board**
- Updated www.AML-Connect.org; www.EPCAMR.org; & www.treatminewater.com; administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Discussed Nonprofit Insurance Alliance with WPCAMR. Looked at PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) website suggested when the letter came out saying they were discontinuing their Liability Insurance program. Used Gemini (Google AI) to research some more resources available to non-profits regarding insurance needs. Updated Bill Burgos from Tetra Tech on the Middle Creek Mine Pool in general. Had produced some PowerPoints showing different maps and locations of features, but he needed more of an overview. Left office early afternoon due to sickness. 2 days off to recover.
- Took off Easter Monday instead of Good Friday.
- Updated PA DEP 319 Grant Manager, Chad, on Bear Creek 3D Mine Pool Mapping progress.
- Discussed changes to a 2-year Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) extension with Patrick. The money is not rolling over this time. He need to rework the extension budget and paperwork to remove the rollover funding and show it as new funds requested. This is different from past extension paperwork. Worked to restore access to PHUMMIS. Waited on a password reset so I could complete a required state training. While waiting, I attempted to record all previous certificates in a document and predict when the trainings occur, but there really is not much of a pattern to when they are scheduled. Will continue to rely on PA DEP MSI staff to give me a heads up, and hope to complete it on time before my account is suspended. They are notified after I have not completed a training on time and forward that notice to me, but the notices are supposedly sent to my state email, which I don't know how to access and they cannot be forwarded to my work email. [MSI]
- Added EPCAMR 30th Anniversary Banquet Registration and Sponsorship items to the EPCAMR Online Store. Added a policies page to epcamr.org and planned to add a page or post and a slide to promote the banquet with Mark and the EPCAMR Development Committee.

- Meeting with Kleinfelder about collaboration on the Old Forge and Duryea TIP open for application by PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). Provided photos and data on boreholes south of Scranton. Downloaded the most recent borehole data transcribed by Morgan from Microsoft SharePoint to my computer.
- Created a Google form for feedback regarding the Illegal Dump Cleanup Forum this weekend. Created a QR-code for people to provide feedback using their phones. Updated EPCAMR website with a new banner item that leads directly to the 30th Anniversary Celebration post. The post features purchase of registration and sponsorship at the EPCAMR online store.
- Working on the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) Application and budget with Frank for a Phase 2 of the AML-Connect work.
- Submitted ~$50K FPW Conservation Grant Application with assistance by Frank Sindaco a few days before the application was due.
- Completed January, February & March board report and corresponding timesheets.
- Another meeting with Kleinfelder to go over Old Forge and Duryea TIP item by item to help build a proposal.
- EPCAMR management staff participated an AMR Conference Call to coordinate efforts for the conference in October with the committee. Updates to treatminewater.com to get more of the pages up and filled out for details we know about the venue, lodging, and etc.
- Finished up a proposal for Old Forge and Duryea TIP with Kleinfelder. Used our new for-profit rates as determined by the Board and the total cost was met with lots of pushback and criticism. Kleinfelder slashed our proposal from $63K to $55K and did not allow me to re-work the proposal before it was submitted to the state several days before it was due. Very unprofessional in my opinion. A knee-jerk reaction to the new rates?
- EPCAMR management staff participated in weekly PA AML Call.
- Printed labels and paperwork for Pine Knot, Oak Hill and Repplier Disharges (PKN-OAK-REP aka. Duncott & New Castle) sampling next week. Received word from Schuylkill Conservation District (SCD) that the Lytle Borehole "D" was approved by Forestville Citizens Fireman Company (FCFC) on their property across the road from the fire hall. Will chat about the contract for drilling of both boreholes at the next monthly call. [P-O-R]
- Call with Eric Cavazza from Tetra Tech to go over Old Forge and Duryea TIP. We had discussed partnering months go, but DEP pushed back the proposal deadline and we didn't get back together to discuss. Tetra Tech left us in their proposal with an estimated cost. Put together an updated proposal based on the discussion and submitted it.
- PKN-OAK-REP call report on sampling and establish (Repplier) / re-establish (WB1) transducers at sites. Ready to go with drilling boreholes. Suggested a smaller committee meet to determine details. Worked on getting more exact location and elevations from maps for Lytle and updated the Proposal for Cost Estimate - Drilling of Two Monitoring Boreholes. [P-O-R] Stayed after the meeting to discuss 2026 AMR Conference Tour routes. Put together notes with estimated miles and timing.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in an AMR Conference committee call to hash out wording in the 2027 joint conference contract proposal with ASRS. It's overly complicated. A sticking point is the $200 cost for watershed group attendance. Understood that they get the scholarship and free overnight room, but this does not benefit Western PA locals. Requested that they set a 1-day rate for them at $125. We attempted a second session of wordsmithing a few days later and sent it back for comments. Requested that they join our next conference call again. Added more to treatminewater.com and opened registration. Reactivated and updated corresponding items on the EPCAMR Online Store.

Technical Assistance:

- Started Shawnese scanning maps from the Industrial Archives Library (IAL) for the MSI program as we have no interns and she needed to scan maps to supplement her georeferencing. Also asked Patrick if she could georeference the OSM folios as I am working on QA/QC'ing the Northern Field mosaics so she can digitize them. [MSI]

- Met with Larson Design Group and project partners in the Dogtown SGL 260 monitoring project to explain that original monitoring point on Paddy Run ended up not really being mine drainage based on chemical parameters and it's location on mine maps. Paddy Run is likely impacted by toe-of-spoil drainage or a buried discharge. Armed with the knowledge of the correct AML Problem Areas for the project, we surmised AML feature 4188-01 showing a discharge was not in the right location. It wast too far north actually, we initially thought it was too far south and picked the strange pipe discharge to Paddy Run upon earlier field visits. We now think this could have been part of a cistern to feed clean water to the breaker below for mechanical separation. In later field visits we found the discharge location closer to a tunnel on a the underground mine maps we are calling Stackhouse #1. This feature has a very small discharge that dissipated into the boulder field and popped up again coming out the side of the cliff adjacent to route 11. Let the DEP grant manager know the AML feature location needs to be corrected in the AMLIS inventory, but regardless the east side of the mountain has sharp dropoffs and would not be ideal for treatment. The Stackhouse #4 Tunnel on the west side of the mine has a larger discharge that flows south to Rocky Run. A waste coal pile is being removed right below this discharge and could provide an area for treatment. Provided images of Stackhouse Tunnel #4 AMD discharge to Teah after meeting with project partners agreeing to moving the monitoring point. [~~PADDY~~DOGTN]
- Updated lab paperwork for the PKN-OAK-REP project. [P-O-R]
- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift) with Frank and Maria. [LCWA]
- Organized Northern and Southern Field Mosaic review spreadsheets on my E Drive. Several were posted to SharePoint, but we really don't use the workspace anymore due to the difficulties with sign-in and the migration away from Microsoft products. Suggested to Maria that we use Google Sheets for collaboration in Western Middle Mosaic Review. [MSI]
- Answered a question from Rachael Kester at Clearfield Conservation District about acreage calculation with RAMLIS datatset. Convert from square meters to acres, but also need to be in the correct projection. Sent along Frank's new AML Dashboard.
- Updated EPCAMR's AGOL Homepage with Featured Maps and Apps. Added the new RAMLIS tool and AML Dashboard. Also Added Maria's Tire Tracker, but had to remove several retired story maps. Attempted to download a Python Notebook which claimed to convert Classic Story maps to the new versions, but had very little success. This code only supports MapJournal, MapSeries, and Cascade Classic StoryMaps. Difficult to tell which type of story maps were previously used. Mill Creek CHP Project Recommendations and Pennsylvania Mine Fires: Uncontrolled Fossil Fuel Emissions story maps were just identified as Web mapping applications. After Anthracite was compatible, but the script stopped when it could not find an image. Looked into the metadata of this map and tags showed Cascade. Checked the other 2 mentioned and they are Shortlist. Used Gemini to help downgrade the Python version from 13 to 10 (version the script was written in), but it was unsuccessful in helping to convert the After Anthracite app. Felt like I was on a wild goose chase with direction from ESRI. Their help section and white papers on their website are horrible, I don't know why I was expecting more from them on this topic. Took a few steps back and took a simpler approach. Converted the shortlist in Mine Fires by opening the web map in ArcGIS Pro, saving the shortlist as a geodatabase feature class, and sharing it back to AGOL as a web layer. Then added this layer as new webapp. Sent this info to Steve Cornia who was working on this, but hadn't heard back on his progress. Asked if he knew about these methods?
- Drew mined out boundaries for the LV4 vein for the Bear Creek 3D Model (3 hours). [BEAR]
- Conducted PKN-OAK-REP quarterly sampling of discharges and stream sites. Also downloaded transducer data from the sites and shafts/boreholes. [P-O-R]
- Updated EPCAMR Intern computer to speed it up. Difficulty printing stamps on the Dymo TwinTurbo Label Printer. The service used to be through Endicia, but as of January 2026, the service was migrated to Stamps.com. Downloaded a new connector program from Stamps.com and uninstalled the Endicia program. This was not the issue, however. The printer itself seems to lose the ability to print from the left and right side roll randomly. Since we don't print stamps often, this is something I often forget and have to re-learn. Recently

started taking notes to help make the process go quicker. But is this one of those “is the juice worth the squeeze” questions. We still have an amount preloaded on the account and are working on drawing that down so we can just get rid of the system and buy stamps from the post office. We still get a discount on postage, but it is now only one cent, so it no longer advantageous to print from the office.

- Uploading scanned maps from boxes 17-26 to a drive for IAL. Took some time because some were already uploaded to the X Drive and sorted. The rest were on the scanning computer, because they wre recently scanned by Shawnese. [MSI]
- Added elevation points from the mine maps in the LV4 mosaic to the LV4 vein elevations from XS dataset and created interpolated rasters of the top and bottom of the vein. Viewed these rasters in ArcGIS Scene to see how well they lined up with LV5 and LV6 vein multipatch files. They look pretty good. Added 4 more points to control some rise in one gap area and recalculated. There are pieces where LV4 and LV6 dive below the LV5 vein in the middle of the synclinal basin, but this is all under the mine pool elevation and will not make a difference when calculating void volumes. [BEAR]
- Received last sample result from PA DEP Bureau of Labs (BOL) for March PKN-OAK-REP sampling and added it to google sheet. Checked over Frank's entry of field results from earlier in the week. Added some notes about the stilling well being knocked over at WB1, and Mill Creek downstream was measured, not calculated.
- Cleaned and taped up about 20 mine maps from Bernie McGurl from the Lackawanna Valley. The maps were in pretty poor shape and very fragile. Used almost 2 full permanent tape cartridges to get them good enough for Shawnese to scan. Ordered more permanent tape from Amazon. [MSI]
- Worked from home for an afternoon to continue on the Bear Creek Mine Pool model. Produced and quality-controlled top and bottom of LV4 vein rasters to TINs in preparation to make the multipatch files. Edited a methods document to aid in quicker production of models in the future. [BEAR]
- Continued to work on the Bear Creek Mine Pool model. Extruded a multipatch of the LV4 vein. It looked great except for some edges that were cropped because the boundary polygon extended past the TINs. Needed to go back to step 4 in methods to adjust the extent of the interpolation raster. Had issues trying to extend the raster as directed in ArcGIS online documentation and troubleshot the issue trying a bunch of different parameters with little success. The raster wants to only use the extent of the input points and no other extents that I feed into the Environment tab. Found info on the Convex hull constraint for the Nearest Neighbor tool. This confirms the extent is defined by the input data, you can clip that extent, but cannot expand. Proceeded to compare interpolated raster and mined out areas to add points. Calculated with rise/run=pitch equation solving for x. I had a pitch and an elevation on the map to go off. Measured a distance (rise), placed a point in ArcGIS, and calculated an elevation to add in the attribute table. Re-ran steps 4-9 and created a new multipatch for LV4. The shark tooth anomalies were gone. Ran step 10 tool to find out if the multipatches for LV4, LV5 and LV6 were closed. Unfortunately, there are shapes that still are not closed in each, which made up a majority of the model area. [BEAR]
- Sampled Askam Treatment System, upstream and downstream on Nanticoke Creek. [ASKAM] Took flows and probe data at Nanticoke Headwaters, Espy Run at Espy Street, then 3 discharges for Columbia University (Loomis Acid Seep, SW-B Boreholes, and Buttonwood Shaft). Downloaded transducer data for this quarter and handed off the data to Frank.
- Wrote up a methods document regarding Processing Transducer Data into a Hydrograph and shared with Frank. Continued processing raster data to calculate volumes for the Bear Creek Project.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.