

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Completed an AMD Education and Outreach Program at the **PA American Water WaterCamp** at Hillside Farms with **25** elementary youth campers and conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop with our Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern *Gabby Zawacki*
- Participated in the PA State Consortia Community of Learners Webinar; Coordinated the upcoming September 30th, Fall Community of Learners Meeting to be hosted by EPCAMR at our Office
- Continued working on an online group draft of the *Urban Environmental Education Storytelling* Chapter for the US EPA EE Capacity Consortia as the Lead Editor and another Chapter on *Successful Place-based Non-Formal EE Partnerships*, co-authored with *Sheena Falconer*; Submitted EPCAMR Executive Director short biography to Dr. Alex Kudryavtsev, Lead Author and Editor for the EE Capacity Project from Cornell University on the e-book
- Provided Ann Devine, PA DEP EE Program Coordinator with a minor change in travel costs due to a State decrease in the mileage rate for our budget prior to final approval for the **AMD Outreach & Pottery EE Grant** with the Greater Nanticoke Elementary 4th & 5th Grades
- Provided *Brendan Gibbons*, Environmental Beat Reporter for the Scranton-Times Tribune, with information on the *DeNaples* landfill expansion in Dunmore, PA to accept additional trash and waste for the next 50 years and the expansion is over some previously mined out areas; Had to review mine maps with Mike to provide the necessary and detailed information based on what was readily available without having to do too much hydrogeological analyses without an official request for an investigation or study of the area; A mine subsidence study was supposed to be completed at the request of the PA DEP by Geo-Science Engineering out of Jessup, PA; <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/business/keystone-landfill-files-plans-to-grow-enough-for-almost-50-years-of-garbage-1.1661992>; <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/amid-proposed-expansion-dunmore-hopes-to-renegotiate-landfill-fee-with-keystone-1.1718618>; <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/dep-stops-keystone-sanitary-landfill-expansion-review-until-concerns-addressed-1.1710586>
- Provided background information to *Mike Gondell*-Western Pocono Chapter Trout Unlimited on EPCAMR Executive Director's bio for an upcoming AMD Panel Presentation Outreach Program at PSU Hazleton Campus on October 21st, from 7-9pm; EPCAMR will present on AMD and Mine Water Resource Potential Across PA; EPCAMR will focus our talk on the innovative technologies that EPCAMR is using in terms of updating historic mine maps and reports by well-known State Geologists here in PA and other authors of technical reports on AMD, mine water resources, pumping of the historic mine pools, barrier pillar studies, mine pool studies, AMD treatment options, and studies on abandoned mine lands such as the Operation Scarlift, Ash, Hornberger, and Hollowell Reports; EPCAMR will also focus on our recent efforts to scan, catalogue, geo-reference, and digitize the historic mine maps for the Commonwealth's Mine Subsidence Insurance Program that will enhance our 3D Mine Pool Modeling of specific areas throughout the NorthCentral and Northeastern PA Coalfields using EarthVision and Global Mapper software

- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited by *John Walliser* to be a Panel Speaker for the ***Pennsylvania Environmental Council's first Policy Conference*** in Harrisburg, PA to talk about AMD and Mine Water Resources across PA
- EPCAMR signed on to two very important Letters of Support that would provide Federal spending priorities on clean water issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed submitted by our partner the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Worked with Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR to plan a Southern Wyoming Valley Field Tour jointly with the Earth Conservancy for the Anthracite Section-Society of Mining Engineers Annual Meeting scheduled for October 16th, 2014 at the Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre

Technical Assistance

- Meeting with *Dan Summa* and *Ray Angeli*-Keystone Pure Water Tech Inc., (www.KeystonePureWater.com) to review details of their recently submitted CFA proposal for the Scranton Lace Works Redevelopment Project that intends to utilize mine pool water from the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool; Reviewed Old Forge AMD Borehole data from an independent lab; Keystone is interested in working with EPCAMR on pursuing future grant opportunities to remediate AMD sites in the region with their water treatment technologies
- Field Meeting in Ashley Borough with Borough Council officials, representatives from Senator *Yudichak's* Office, State Representative *Pashinski's* Office, PA DOT, and Luzerne County Engineer's Office to review some stormwater issues along Ashley Street and Stark Lane where Sulfur Run needs a stormwater pipe culvert retrofit project; This project and problem with the stream was recommended in the Solomon Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan completed by EPCAMR in 2011
- Meeting with *Ray Clarke*-Chairman and Treasurer of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to input the additional paver orders for the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley on the 3 acres of abandoned mine lands that are slowly being converted into a green public park honoring the memory of the Anthracite Miners and those that worked at the Huber Breaker; Submitted an additional paver order to Olde Mill Impressions; EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern *Cait Dickson* and Staff helped paint the footers for the Huber Coal Corporation Colliery sign that will be going up in the Park in a few weeks
- Conducted a monthly borehole monitoring and training with the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys; Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC joined us for the majority of the day in the Lackawanna Valley
- Reviewed the final draft of the SRBC Mine Pool Mapping Technical Report and provided editorial and grammatical comments to Mike and Tom Clark-SRBC, including a Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 narrative for inclusion in the report
- EPCAMR was able to secure a very good, highly accurate, and nearly brand-new Trimble GPS Backpack Unit after working with the Appalachian Mountain Club's *Mark Zakutansky*, the Mid-Atlantic Policy Manager, from Bethlehem, PA through a Loan Agreement for it's use since they do not use it; There is a great possibility that the AMC might just donate it outright to EPCAMR after a while, should they not have a use for it
- Provided *Teresa Geruson*, Energy Intern for PennFuture with resources for a report on Fossil Fuel Subsidies in PA; PennFuture is devoting a portion of the report to mining subsidies and wanted to cite costs on reclaiming PA's abandoned mine land problems and AMD problems
- *Ross Hill*, Aquascapes Unlimited provided EPCAMR with a link to their new native wetland nursery located in Bucks County, PA should we ever need plants down the road on projects; They have a new wetland plant search tool that is free to use on their website as an educational resource and they provided EPCAMR with a catalog

- Received photos from *Rusty Bennett*, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association from the 2013 Limestone Sand Dosing Project funded by EPCAMR and ARIPPA for the South Branch of Mehoopany Creek; Received photos from Tim Danehy, Stream Restoration Inc. of the runners for the Antrim AMD Treatment System in the Babb Creek Watershed, Forward them along to Anne Daymut-WPCAMR for inclusion in the wrap up report for the projects that were funded and completed in 2013 and for the newly funded projects for 2014
- Provided information on a water obstruction and encroachment in Foster Township, Luzerne County, PA to *Tracy Carluccio*, Delaware River Keeper Network at her request; PA DEP BAMR is proposing to backfill an abandoned surface mine, which includes a total of 1892 linear feet of dangerous highwall and will fill in 5.12 acres of open water and .34 acres of wetlands, which once may have been connected prior to mining to the Black Creek, a headwater tributary to the Lehigh River
- EPCAMR was once again asked to participate on the *National Geo-Spatial Data Standards Team* by *Arielle Avishai*, the OSM National Data Steward Coordinator, Pittsburgh, PA; The data standards review process will begin in the Fall 2014, are due in 2016/2017

Project Coordination

- EPCAMR Staff completed the initial trail marking on the Mocanaqua Trail, Penobscot Trail in Wanamie, and the Sugar Notch Trails for the **Earth Conservancy Trail Marking Project**; Provided EC with an Interim Report on the progress made to date, along with a CD of pictures, illegal dump sites, illegal tire piles, and scenic vistas along each of the loop trails and recommendations for future work on the tracts of land
- Field Meeting with *Neil Wolfe*-Engineer with Hedin Environmental, a Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association representative, and the PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office Inspector, *Eric Rosengrant*, at the Lewis Mine **AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation Project** in Sullivan County; Walked the new location of the proposed wetlands flushing pond down near Old Bernice Road; EPCAMR Staff conducted water quality on Birch Creek and flow monitoring at the Lewis Mine Drift
- EPCAMR Staff assisted *Jim Wetzel*, Weatherly Borough, with removing several beaver dams in the **Hazle Creek watershed** that were backing up a few of the AMD discharges not allowing for proper flow readings in this area that is trying to become qualified for a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan
- EPCAMR was informed that *Tyler Brown*, our Program Manager and Mining Specialist for the **PA DEP Mine Map Grant** in the California District Mining Office will be moving on to another position and *Zach Bell* will become our new point of contact; PA DEP has developed a python script to automate the creation of the shapefile index of the geo-referenced mine maps and due to this new automated procedure, it is no longer necessary for EPCAMR Staff to manually create the index shapefiles for the geo-referencing; DEP will reimburse grantees for all work creating indexes already performed; DEP will continue to be reimburse grantees for indexing work performed through August 31, 2014, allowing time to adjust workflows; The shapefile index will no longer be a required deliverable for a completed geo-referenced map or a deliverable for a completed digitized/vectorized map
- Continued working on pulling together our **Cleanup Centralia Project** with Joe Sapienza Jr. by contacting additional local partners, a fire company in Aristes, a local waste hauler (Mostik Brothers Disposal), Pagnotti Enterprises, Blashock Coal, and others who are in support of conducting the three illegal dump site cleanups around the town; *Michelle Dunn*, Keep PA Beautiful (KPB) Program Coordinator sent EPCAMR supplies for the cleanup since we are registered with KPB on this project and with the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC); Signed up with Bridgestone's Tires4ward Recycling Program so that we can have the 60+ tires to be collected removed for free; Worked with Joe to post the IndieGogo Fundraiser for the project and on the narrative; <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/clean-up-centralia-pa/x/8493419>
- Worked with *Dana Sword*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern to fill in the Waterboxx Data Form

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; June 25th and 26th, 2015, Ramada Inn & Conference Center, State College, PA
- Attended the **ARIPPA Tech Convention/Symposium** in Harrisburg, PA to attend the Awards Luncheon where EPCAMR and WPCAMR were awarded **\$2500/each** to support our Mini-Grant Program in our respective regions
- EPCAMR Executive Director was selected to participate in a 2 day **National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) Workshop** in the Winter of 2015 entitled, "Civic Ecology Practices: What role for self-organized community environmental stewardship in resilience to multiple stresses?." Keith Tidball, who serves as Associate Director with Dr. Marianne Krasny, of the Cornell Civic Ecology Lab, has agreed to serve as co-PI. One of the outcomes of the workshop will be a book in which each academic-community leader pair would be invited to co-author a chapter; Cornell University Press will submit a book proposal for their review following the completion of the work
- EPCAMR Executive Director has received a NAAEE Affiliate Network & PAEE scholarship to attend the **NAAEE National Conference** in Ottawa, CA from October 7th-11th, 2014

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Joanna Blessing*, Blandon, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Photographer/Videographer volunteer; Referred her to our online Volunteer Application Form
- *Kyle Cunard*, Wilkes-Barre, PA is interested in becoming a Painter/Scrapper volunteer with EPCAMR for projects and is in need of some community service hours; Referred him to our online Volunteer Application Form
- *Hufsa Iqbal*, Union City, CA is interested in becoming a Marketing/Graphics Design volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Form; Suggested that he might come up with a unique label for our iron oxide packages
- *Bryson Creighton*, Aurora, CO is interested in becoming a Marketing/Graphics Design volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Form; Suggested that he work with us to come up with new character designs for our AMD Avengers and Pollution Posse Educational Activity Book
- *Andrea Mareello*, Wilkes-Barre, PA is interested in becoming an Iron Oxide Resource Recovery volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Form; She only lives a few blocks away from the EPCAMR Office
- *Danielle Antonello-Smolley*, Dallas, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer Photographer and Videographer with EPCAMR; She's a corporate and event photographer with roots in photojournalism; Forwarded her our Volunteer Form
- *Tim Moran*, Luzerne, PA is interested in becoming a Landscaper and Tree Planter volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Form
- *Chelsea Cullen*, Ithaca, NY is interested in becoming a Marketing and Graphic Design volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded her EPCAMR's Volunteer Application Form
- *Giovanni Mazzola*, Drums, PA is interested in becoming an Iron Oxide Resource Recovery Processor with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Application Form; He needs to complete 15 hours of community service
- *Dale Rio*, Philadelphia, PA is interested in becoming a Nature Photography Assistant volunteer with EPCAMR; Forwarded him EPCAMR's Volunteer Application Form; He may join us for the Centralia Cleanup Project on October 25th, 2014

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts in preparation for the upcoming EPCAMR Annual Meeting; Prepared a draft 2015 Budget with the EPCAMR Staff; Meeting with President-Bernie McGurl to sign checks
- Promoted *Kelsey Biondo*, from GIS Specialist to Mine Mapping GIS Program Coordinator to oversee the 3 year **Mine Mapping Project** funded by the PA DEP and the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program; Prior to the promotion consulted with the EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl to inform him of my reasons and decision to do so at this critical juncture in EPCAMR's growth and positive outlook going forward with this effort
- EPCAMR Staff attended the Annual Board Meeting hosted by Sweet Arrow Lake County Park, in Schuylkill County, PA, catered by Hess Catering, with a special presentation by *Mike Korb* and *Brian Bradley*-PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation on the Set Aside Funding
- Reviewed *Dana Sword's* monthly Internship Progress Report and provided her with comments to improve the format and technical writing of the report for completion; Provided her Internship Advisor, *Dr. Brett McLaurin*, Associate Professor within the Department of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences, a final evaluation of her work and progress for him to assign her a grade for the Internship to submit to Bloomsburg University
- Received a resume from *Timothy Lange*, reviewed it, and placed it on file after following up with him to let him know that EPCAMR didn't have any current positions available at this time; Referred him to some other sites where there may be environmental job opportunities since he indicated he was looking to relocate back to Northeastern PA from New Jersey
- Provided *Basil Lynch*, CPA at Kovalchik, Kollar & Co., LLP with our Accountant's Copy for 2013, information on projects throughout 2013, and other necessary accounting information for them to file our 2013 990s
- Interviewed *Peter Falvey*, Wallingford, PA Misericordia University Senior for a Public Relations/Communications Outreach Coordinator Internship and sponsored him for the Fall 2014 starting in September;
<http://epcamr.org/home/2014/epcamr-adds-peter-falvey-senior-from-misericordia-university-as-our-fall-public-relationscommunications-intern/>
- Submitted an extension letter to the PA DEP through September 30, 2016 to amend our current PA DEP 319 Grant at the request of our Project Manager, Donna Carnahan



Robert still managed to take a "Selfie" as he slipped off the embankment into a 6' hole near a beaver dam that the EPCAMR Staff were removing to assist Weatherly Borough with monitoring of several AMD discharges in the Hazle Creek Watershed.