



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Continued working on upcoming Civic Ecology Chapter titled “Returning Orange Waters to Blue: Creating a Culture of Learning to Reclaim Abandoned Mine Lands draft edits with *Louis Turner Chawla*, Professor Emerita for the Environmental Design Program from the University of Colorado that is being co-authored by the EPCAMR Executive Director; Forwarded a draft to *Marianne Krasny*, Cornell University and participated in a conference call to further discuss the chapter edits
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an AMD Tie-Dye and Environmental Education & Outreach Workshop for **24** youth who were a part of the *PA American Water* Nature Camp at the Mid-Valley Library, Blakely, PA
- Coordinated an AMD Tour in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, with *Bernie McGurl*, LRCA and EPCAMR Staff for *Chante Coleman*, Field Director for the Choose Clean Water Coalition from Annapolis, MD; Arranged an underground mine tour at the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour for her to gain a better understanding of Anthracite Mining and the work of EPCAMR on the mapping of the underground mines and the mine pools in Eastern PA
- Met with Congressman Dent in the Lehigh Valley to discuss and inform him and his Senior Legislative Assistant, *Dennis Petersen*, who participated via conference call, on our concerns and insight into the Surface Mining Reclamation Control Act (SMCRA), it's future need to reauthorized, language changes that we are supporting, the Basics of SMCRA Title IV, the 30% Set-Aside for Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) cleanup and abatement, and the Investing in Coal Communities, Workers, and Technology: The POWER+ Plan, a federal funding initiative proposal, which could benefit PA greatly; Provided our EPCAMR President-*Bernie McGurl* with updated information on the PA AML Campaign
- Participated in an Environmental Education (EE) Capacity Conference Call to discuss applying for an upcoming NAAEE grant for **\$10,000**; EPCAMR was offering to be the grant administrator for the PAEE that currently has no staff and an all-volunteer board and EPCAMR has a project developed within the overall budget related to stormwater management in urban areas of mining impacted watersheds; Discussed updates with the PAEE Board of Directors and PAEE President, Ed McCrea
- On August 22nd, the PA Historical & Museum Commission dedicated a historical marker at the site of the Shepton Mine Disaster of 1963; EPCAMR prepared a letter of support for the effort led by the Carol Zielenski, niece of David Fellin, one of the miners and Chairlady for the Committee for Shepton Mine Disaster; <http://republicanherald.com/news/50-years-later-a-look-back-at-the-shepton-mine-disaster-1.1535305> (history article of the Disaster); <http://standardspeaker.com/news/historical-marker-for-shepton-mine-disaster-dedicated-1.1930523> (dedication article of the Disaster)

- EPCAMR Staff attended a gathering with PennFuture, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA), and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) with supporters for a press event in Scranton, along the Lackawanna River and Heritage Trail system to highlight the dangers our Pennsylvania waterways and wildlife face from carbon pollution and what we can do about it; Rivers like the Lackawanna, part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, are impacted by climate change resulting in increasing flooding and harm to wildlife. EPCAMR and its partners are helping to protect public spaces like these that provide recreation and economic benefits to our entire region; A positive development for this work is the EPA recently released Clean Power Plan — the first federal standard on carbon pollution from power plants
- Prepared a Letter of Support to *Elizabeth Hughes*, for Earth Conservancy's (EC) Wayside Environmental Education Exhibits for the Askam AMD Treatment System site along Dundee Road, Hanover Township, Luzerne County; EPCAMR is a partner in EC's grant
- Requested information from Pennsy Supply on their grant and community outreach programs related to wildlife habitat on abandoned mine lands and educational materials on the limestone aggregate industry; Invited to speak at the PA Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA) Meeting in Hershey on November 15th to talk about EPCAMR's work in the Coal Region and our relationship to the aggregates industry
- Provided *Rob Fogel*, Legislative Assistant for Representative *Greg Vitali*, with an analysis of Senate Bill 875 that EPCAMR has been opposed to related to the Treated Mine Water Act
- Forwarded a link to the Luzerne Foundation to Staff to look into proposing and submitting a smaller grant proposal to support some of our environmental education efforts; <http://luzfdn.org/nonprofits/>
- EPCAMR Staff worked on completing a **\$10,000** community grant application to the Atlantic Sunrise Expansion Community Grant Program to provide municipal mine maps to adjacent municipalities that are in the right-of-way and adjacent to the proposed natural gas pipeline that runs through abandoned mine lands in Northumberland and Columbia Counties and to assess streams that cross the proposed pipeline corridor; Provided the Watershed Outreach Staff with contacts for several watershed organizations in Northumberland and Columbia Counties to contact for support letters, including the Conservation Districts; <http://atlanticsunriseexpansion.com/community/grant-program/grant-application/>

Technical Assistance

- Participated in several Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force conference calls to continue to provide technical comments on how pipelines and their relationship to abandoned mine land impacted areas need to be taken into consideration when projects are proposed in the Coal Regions of PA
- Conference Call with LandStudies Staff that are assisting EPCAMR and the City of Wilkes-Barre in applying for a NFWF Grant for several small stormwater management projects that are causing flooding problems in the City and were recommended to be implemented in EPCAMR's Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan for the Solomon Creek Watershed; Was provided with a grant funding link from LandStudies to review; <http://pennsylvania.grantwatch.com/cat/10/environment-grants.html>; Scheduled a joint meeting with the City of Wilkes-Barre and LandStudies to develop our project proposal for September 1st; Reviewed a draft agenda developed by Liz Rosser for the meeting

- Provided water quality data to *John Levitsky*, Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District for AMD impacted areas of southern Luzerne County around Sandy Run, Owl's Hole, and the Quakake AMD Tunnels that drain into the Upper Lehigh River; Suggested he talk with *Peter Heantjens*, EMARR
- Followed up with *James Pagnotti*, Pagnotti Enterprises to see if his mining operations are progressing out at Jeddo Highland # 5 in the D Basin; EPCAMR was inquiring as to whether or not additional mine mapping services were needed in the Hazleton area
- Provided pricing estimates on water quality monitoring equipment, supplies, and pressure transducers from YSI and InSitu to *John Ackerman*-Consulting Engineer and Geologist, for his Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA) research grant proposal that EPCAMR is a partner on to look at evaluating a mobile AMD Water Harvesting Treatment Technology that his company, Twin Oaks Research Consulting LLC has developed and wants to test it on the Solomon Creek AMD boreholes in S. Wilkes-Barre
- Provided EPCAMR Staff with a copy of the US EPA's document that addresses some of PA's deficiencies in fully implementing tasks in terms of TMDLs and removing streams and segments from the Federal List of Impaired Waters ("the dirty waters list"); It could help serve as a better understanding of where they might be wanting to have PA focus some of their energies on future projects and future grants, although AMD is not mentioned specifically, sediments and stormwater management are mentioned and are both integrally tied to mine water pollution; <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/2014Evaluations/PA.pdf>
- Reviewed a ***Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini-Grant for K-12 Environmental Education Grant*** prepared and submitted by the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists for **\$3549**; The project will include outdoor & indoor learning with 8th grade students in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Students will take a field tour to experience abandoned mine drainage (AMD), an environmental issue within their local watershed, and record their observations and questions for the classroom portion of the project; Teachers will be given CDs with AMD information complimenting their existing curriculum; After the tour, students will break into teams and design an AMD treatment system; EPCAMR staff will choose the best design and work with all students to create and test a mini-model AMD treatment system
- Forwarded a copy of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District Structural Integrity report to *Len Cornish*, who was interested reviewing more information on past borings into the underground workings around E.L. Meyers High School; Since 2007, there have been several tropical storms and hurricanes that have caused considerable rises and falls to the Susquehanna River system that could have changed the underground hydrogeology since that time; A more detailed hydrogeological investigation is definitely needed in EPCAMR's opinion to make a case for standing behind the preliminary report that is 8 years old and not current; Borings into fill material is one thing, borings into the underground mine pools surrounding E.L. Meyers is another that could obtain more accurate elevations of the temporal fluctuations to the mine pool that EPCAMR believes are hydrogeologically connected to the Susquehanna River; Coughlin High School is in an area that there are some solid barrier pillars that remain towards the City center; Historically, Public Square and some of the surrounding area was not mined under because it is where the old Court House used to be and mining companies didn't typically mine under those types of locations; Provided him with a copy of EPCAMR's 3D Mine Pool Mapping efforts for his review

- Submitted a LOWE's Charitable Charitable & Education Foundation grant for **\$20,000** in supplies and to cover hauling and tipping fees to coordinate illegal dump site cleanups in the Coal Regions of NE Pennsylvania; The turnaround on the decisions were quick, and although we had local support from Ryan Fitzsimmons, Community Coordinator from the Wilkes-Barre Twp. Store, it was not funded this round
- Received a request for mine maps from *Mary Rayno*, Vice-President of Beaver Meadows Borough, Luzerne County, PA; Provided her with links to the maps available on-line for her municipality and informed her that if she wanted any printed that EPCAMR has a minimal cost for printing of some of the larger scaled maps and would work with the Borough once they had a time to review the maps from <http://www.minemaps.psu.edu/>
- Worked with EPCAMR Staff to discuss the best ways to continue to provide technical assistance to Stream Restoration Inc. and improve Datashed by entering in water quality data from community groups of AMD Treatment Systems that are still being monitored
- *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Outreach Specialist provided EPCAMR with some location information of a potential small AMD discharge to or within the Church Street storm sewer system in Kingston Borough behind the Kingston Borough Public Works Garage along the Levee System; EPCAMR Staff are going to find some time to investigate the location further in the coming months ahead

Community Volunteer Service Coordination

- Met with *Alana O'Rourke*, an Environmental GeoScience major student at Bloomsburg University to discuss volunteer opportunities throughout the Fall of 2015
- *Andrew Witterschein*, an Environmental Science major at King's College inquired at EPCAMR about a future Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 internship; Suggested that he work on and submit a copy of his resume over the Summer
- *Andrew Ray*, a student from Washington State, is interested in finding fossils from his State and sending them to EPCAMR for our fossil collection
- Conducted a community service project at the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley, PA to reclaim the former 3 acre abandoned mine lands into a public greenspace area with **24** King's College students who spent 3 hrs pulling weeds, constructing trails, moving mulch, placing rocks and gravel, and cleanup at the site; **\$1630** in volunteer in-kind services was contributed towards from the students
- Conducted an AMD Field Tour with *Chevi Chevalier*-Producer of www.discoveringpennsylvania.com who offered to donate his services to supporting EPCAMR through the production of a short video that we could post on our website that could be utilized for outreach and educational purposes; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbX999jd6S4&feature=youtu.be>
- Discussed with Gabby and Liz about pulling together our collective ideas for the RECLAIM Crew Volunteer Program that we've been discussing; Discussed putting together an initial AMD Photography Tour for interested volunteers who are skilled in photography and videography for September 2015

- *Vincent Fayock*, Shamokin, is interested in participating in photographing events in Northumberland or Columbia County when EPCAMR is active in those counties with some of our projects; Directed him to sign up through GiveGab
- *Jennifer Kozlansky*, Scranton, volunteer interested in doing a small promotional video for EPCAMR; Requested that we send her a few dozen photos to incorporate into the video

Project Coordination

- Created the construction contract for *the Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project* with Rexer LLC; Received official documentation that EPCAMR's grant would be amended to include the additional construction costs; Mailed the contract to Richard Rexer in Dushore, PA for signatures and approval; Received insurance information and W-9 form from Rexer LLC to forward to PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office for approval and verification; Received an additional **\$7510** in construction dollars through an amendment to our grant from the PA DEP Growing Greener Grants Center; Re-allocated **\$2500** in the Salaries and Administrative categories towards construction in the existing grant agreement and reduced EPCAMR's role in monitoring the system post-construction that will be handled by the PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office; Updated *Carol Kafer*, President, of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association on progress being made on the project for their monthly meeting; Submitted a working capital request for EPCAMR of 20% of the total grant (\$104,424) in the amount of **\$20,884.80**, which will be promptly deposited in a separate interest-bearing account in a bank or other financial institution insured by the FDIC, FSLIC or equivalent insurer; The funds will be used to pay Rexer LLC, who will be constructing the rehabilitation of the Lewis Passive Treatment System upon them completing several tasks outlined in their scope of work and contract agreement with EPCAMR
- Provided direction and instructions to the EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Staff on how to proceed with the ***PennEast Pipeline Wyoming Valley Municipal Outreach & Mine Map Tech Assistance Project*** and updated the municipal database following phone calls to 26 municipalities in the Wyoming Valley that will be served by the project who will be receiving sets of the OSM Folio coverages and other related resource documentation on mine map interpretation; Followed up with Alisa Harris, Communications Coordinator, PennEast Pipeline and area legislators to inform them of EPCAMR's progress on the effort; Sent off electronic copies of letter from EPCAMR to several municipalities that needed their contact and e-mail information updated prior to them receiving notification of the mine map work products that they would eventually be receiving
- Sent along the last of the three ***ARIPPA AMD/AML Mini-Grant Award Program*** applications to *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* for a final administrative review prior to making a final decision on how much to award to each of the selected applicants; The McGlynn Learning Center-Wilkes-Barre are proposing to have dozens of the low-income housing students build birdhouses donated by HOME DEPOT that will be painted with iron oxide and placed at AMD treatment areas on Earth Conservancy properties on abandoned mine lands in partnership with EPCAMR
- Researched details of a storage shed height, width, and depth from Taylor Sheds in preparation for the delivery of our Polaris EXT side by side from the ***Polaris Trails Grant*** EPCAMR received; EPCAMR Staff made a trip down to Blue Ridge Trails to look at the models available for purchase

- Followed up with *Tom Clark*, SRBC AMD Basin Coordinator to see when the ***Rausch Creek Mine Pool Mapping Project*** contract agreement would be drafted to present before the EPCAMR Board for signatures and approval at the August 20th Board Meeting
- Followed up with Gregg Davis, Project Manager-PA DEP BAMR to find out if the formal extension request on our ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project*** is moving along; We've not heard anything from the Grants Center since April 2015 and the project has been put on hold
- Requested an additional **\$4000** reimbursement for Staff time spent on the ***Waterboxx Phase III Project*** from ISI, Inc.; EPCAMR is still waiting on parts to come through Customs from Groassis in Holland in order to begin the project in the Spring of 2016
- Followed up with *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist to see if he would be able to provide EPCAMR with contact information for Laurel Run Estates Mobile Home Park and someone from Borton-Lawson Engineering on information related to the Coal Brook tributary to Laurel Run, as a part of our efforts to assess and prepare the ***Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan***

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Forwarded *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR a rundown of the recommended EPCAMR applicants that will be awarded a mini-grant through the ARIPPA donation; Anne provided EPCAMR with a completed powerpoint presentation highlighting the projects to be funded by the Coalitions; Presented at the **2015 ARIPPA Technical Symposium/Convention** in Harrisburg on August 19th on the ARIPPA AML/AMD Awards that will be given by EPCAMR and WPCAMR to community groups across PA and to accept the **\$5000** donation to the Coalitions (**\$2500 each**); Set up EPCAMR Exhibit for the day; <http://epcamr.org/home/2015/epcamr-awards-2500-in-arippa-mini-grants-to-3-community-partners-throughout-the-region/>
- Attended the ***PA Aggregate Advisory Board Tour*** of the Pennsy Supply Millard Limestone Quarry in Anneville, PA; Formerly, the Carmeuse Quarry, it was the location of where EPCAMR received it's first several thousand tons of limestone for the Oneida #1 AMD Treatment System and many other early treatment system and stream restoration projects EPCAMR coordinated in the late 1990's; Attended the Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting in Harrisburg, PA
- Attended a Table-top training exercise in Towanda, PA on pipeline infrastructure projects with members of the ***Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force's Environmental Protection Working Group*** that EPCAMR is a member of; Attended a tour of pipeline development projects in Sullivan County that were in various stages of construction
- Participated in the **2016 PA AMR Conference** planning call with our state-wide committee partners; Looking into several venues for the 2016 Conference and put out requests for proposals; Discussed several theme alternatives for next year's Conference
- Informed by *Chari Towne*-Delaware RiverKeeper Network that EPCAMR's presentation has been viewed over 644 times since our Mine Pool presentation was posted following the ***Schuylkill River Congress*** back on March 18th; http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Rewriting_What_We_Know_About_Eastern_Pennsylvanias_Mine_Pools.pdf

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; Forwarded 2014 Payroll Reports (W2 & W3 Transmittals) to Kovalichik & Kollar, who are completing EPCAMR's 2014 990s
- Met with *Haley Giannone's* Bloomsburg University Advisor *Dr. Jeffrey Brunskill*, to give feedback on her completion of her internship experience with EPCAMR and to complete her final evaluation
- Completed the Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) survey reply form for EPCAMR
- Meeting with *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President to discuss Personnel Committee Discussions and a Directive for Staff and Management from the Board now that the Staff has grown at EPCAMR; Provided Bernie with copies of Staff Evaluations, a Grants Administered Summary, Grants Applied For Summary, and Recommendations for Merit Raise increases and changes in their job descriptions
- Conducted our monthly EPCAMR Staff Meeting to get caught up on projects and proposed grants; Provided Mike with copies of other Staff evaluations for him to see what recommendations and directions were made going forward based on each of their positions and workload allocations
- EPCAMR Staff attended and facilitated the quarterly Annual EPCAMR Board of Directors Meeting at the Pioneer Tunnel, Ashland, PA
- Forwarded Mike monthly Progress Reports from April-July 2015 to send down with PA DEP 319 Program Reimbursements
- Completed a Work Study Agreement MOU with King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA that would allow interested interns to work with EPCAMR for 8-10hrs/week as an intern, following an interview process to select someone for the position, who could still be paid under the Federal Work Study Program through the College with EPCAMR serving as the sponsor site and the Executive Director serving as the immediate supervisor and evaluator of the student's progress and work during the period of the internship; Developed the partnership with *Maura Modrovsky*, Community Outreach Coordinator
- Made an inquiry into the PA DEP 319 Program to our Project Officer, *Donna Wagner* to see if EPCAMR should be developing any workload plans for our existing grant agreement that will end in September 2016
- Provided *Bobby Gurnari*, First National Bank with a draft copy of EPCAMR's grant agreement with the PA Fish & Boat Commission to inquire about the possible establishment of a line of credit for the project that EPCAMR could consider once the **\$130,000** grant for the ***Solomon Creek Trout Stream Habitat Improvement and Dam Removal Project*** is awarded in the Fall of 2015 to cover anticipated construction costs that will need to be paid incrementally prior to being reimbursed; Another alternative that we're looking into with the PA F&BC is where EPCAMR would wait until being invoiced by contractor and immediately invoice PFBC (prior to paying contractor); PA F&BC would turn that around as quickly as possible and as soon as EPCAMR receives PA F&BC payment, EPCAMR would pay contractor; In this arrangement, the contractor would be made aware up front that EPCAMR is waiting on state reimbursement prior to making payment to the contractor; As long as the contractor is well aware of this arrangement, the PA F&BC think that they would be OK with it; This option would also alleviate the need to set up a line of credit; Sent along signed copy of the cooperative agreement and found out that an additional three needed to be signed by the Board
- Submitted updated embroidery EPCAMR Logo to Cabela's for Staff 3-season jackets that were ordered
- Completed a Strategic Planning Board Survey for the PAEE

- Mailed out hard copy renewals for EPCAMR Membership to our active membership and mailing list of partners
- Added *Gabby Zawacki* and *Liz Rosser* as Account Administrator's to EPCAMR's VolunteerMatch site where we recruit volunteers; Encouraged them to encourage our existing volunteers and new volunteers to migrate over to GiveGab
- Forwarded Foundation information on the ***Moses Taylor Foundation*** to Liz Rosser, Watershed Outreach Specialist to take a look at the criteria for submitting an application on behalf of EPCAMR for capacity building, neighborhood development, and environmental health; <http://mosestaylorfoundation.org/>