

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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August 2024 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Swoyersville Harry E. AML Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project

- Requested some insight from the PEC NE Office on any greenways and trails grants that they might be aware of that are open or soon to be opening from the State; Presented to the Swoyersville Recreation Board on the status of the project and provided them with a list of grant opportunities for them to pursue funding for future development of the donated 7.5 acres of reclaimed abandoned mine lands that has been deeded over to the Borough; Provided a copy of the presentation and grant resources document, including funding for including playground equipment, to *Charlie Jones*-Chair of the Swoyersville Recreation Board; Checked with *Charlie* to see if *Joe Yeager* had recorded the title and deed to the property transfer at the County

Hollywood AMD Treatment Plant Modifications for Modular Rare Earth Elements Plant and Tyler Bank Reclamation AMLER Project (proposed)

- Reached out to *Rory Daley*-Senator *Casey's* Office Staff to provide them an update on the continued review of our proposed project by the OSMRE; Reached out to *Tamara Bleggi* in *Senator Dush's* Office to schedule a call in August to update them on the project; EPCAMR has not had any official denial letter from the PA DEP or OSMRE on the project to date

Loyalsock Creek AMD Sampling and Tour for Sullivan County Conservation District

- Participated in the monthly Sullivan County sampling of the AMD Treatment Systems and other monitoring points for the Sullivan County Conservation District, White Ash Land Association, and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Little Shickshinny Creek/Paddy/Rocky Run Assessment-PA American Water Charitable Foundation

- Provided *Mike* a copy of the PA American Water Charitable Foundation budget; Submitted a copy of the Special Use Permit Application for Culvert Assessment and Water Quality & Flow Monitoring/Macros on SGL 260, 224, and 55 to the PA Game Commission for approval and checked in with *James Roberts*, Wildlife Habitat Group Land Manager; Scheduled a field tour drive around the SGL to figure out the best access points to the SGLs with *James* in September; Provided Lt. *Justin Klugh* a copy of the description of the assessment plan

US DOE Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets at the Frackville Morea AML Complex for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential

- Followed up with *Josue Cruz*-Sales Representative for Smartsheet to see why EPCAMR couldn't access the application; Never received any follow-up from Smartworks; Provided the draft Excel Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) to PSU Professors for comment since we couldn't work in the Smartworks sheet application; The Excel WBS template was provided by *Grace Zona*-Project Officer from EnergyWerx; Convened a Zoom call with Penn-State Professors anticipated to be working on the project and requested feedback on the WBS and workload allocation tasks anticipated to be completed by PSU; Provided Mike a copy of the budget, milestones, and tasks to be completed for the project; Participated in a conference call with [Sankalp Banerjee](#), from In-Situ Energy, a new company (recently coming out of Stanford) building dedicated software tools to help accelerate clean energy development on mine lands and landfills; They are particularly focused on de-risking the siting, environmental remediation, and interconnection challenges for development projects on mine lands; They have started working with communities across the Appalachian region, and are very focused on development potential in PA on abandoned mine lands; Provided *Grace* and PSU Professors with an updated WBS at the end of the month

NFWF Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watersheds Grant Assessment Plan

- *Tess Dunkel*, New Project Officer, informed EPCAMR that *Emma Wigger* has been promoted within the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and that she had taken over administration of the grant; Provided *John Levitsky*-LCD and *Mike* copies of the reference documents that mentioned speckled trout (native brook trout) as far back as the early colonial days of settlement in the Wyoming Valley that we included in the final report references; Provided *Mike* with documents and disclaimers, necessary for inclusion in the Final Report; Pulled together all of the separate Appendix files and final documents for the final report in PDF and submitted them to NFWF; Provided an overview summary of EPCAMR's work on the Hanover Marsh Sanctuary Recommendations in our Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watershed Grant Assessment Report to the North Branch Land Trust Board of Directors and provided links to *Emma Thompson*- Conservation and Stewardship Director

Columbia University Climate Center Rare Earth Element (REE) AMD Sampling

- Worked on scheduling a sampling date in the field for August 2024 and settled on August 29th; Up to this point, nearly all estimates of metal loading from discharges across the region have been based on a handful of measurements from ~20 years ago and don't capture how seasonal variations might impact local hydrogeology and therefore, the release of metals from bedrock; It's highly likely that metals are being released within the mine pools, transported, and then removed while still underground due to changes in water chemistry before reaching the surface; Inquired about scheduling a trip to NY to see the XRF machines and lab and write a story around the process of how the sampling occurs; Introduced *Sean Kinney* from Columbia U. to *John Welsh* and *Mark Clements* who are interested in tagging along for the sampling event to capture it on film and to conduct an interview; EPCAMR decided on some optional AMD discharge locations to sample for the next trip up by Columbia U.; Conducted a round of AMD sampling on August 29th; Provided *Laura Rinehimer*-EPCAMR Watershed Environmental Education Outreach Specialist with a copy of the Economics 361 Service Learning Course Outline developed by the EPCAMR Executive Director and *Dr. Margarita Rose*, from King's College on Rare Earth Elements

EPCAMR/WPCAMR/SRI Survey of Community Watershed Organizations on AMD/AML

- Reviewed *Natalie LaMagna*'s-Stream Restoration Inc.'s organization of our white board quotes and 9 categories that were pulled together in themes for the survey and adjusted the document to an A4 poster size; Sent out **296** invites and ended up with **64** responses, which is a 22% response rate; Reviewed and provided comments to *Cliff Denholm*-SRI, on the Barriers and

Conclusions & Recommendations section of the Report; The EPCAMR, SRI, and WPCAMR staff continued to work on drafting the outline, formatting, graphics inclusion and placement, and final draft plan of the report well ahead of the PA AMR Conference and final submission to POWR and PEC; Received responses to questions that SRI had on AMLER and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding from PA DEP BAMR to include in the report; Discussed draft Report outline with PEC and POWER over a Zoom call; Submitted the final draft Report to PEC and POWR following some editorial changes and comments from EPCAMR, WPCAMR, SRI, PEC, and POWR; Pulled together the invoice for Tasks 1-3 for the project and submitted to SRI; Decided on the title for the report and submitted it to PEC, POWR and *Pat Webb*, *Jon Smoyer*-PA DEP and *Deb Nardone*-Foundation for PA Watersheds for comments

Technical Assistance

- Provided Dallas Township, Luzerne County, with a Letter of Support at their request for a PA DCNR Phase III Nature-based Playground grant for **\$183,500** within the Toby Creek Watershed
- Reviewed *Gordon Tomb's*-Senior Fellow for the [Commonwealth Foundation](#), commentary on the effects of regulations on waste coal Co-Gen Plants for his article and provided comments along with others from *Cristy Sweeney*-ARIPPA, *Jim Panaro*-Seward Generating, and *Hank Zielinski*-Northampton Generating Co.
- Reviewed the [Pilot Mind](#) Drone Academy website and followed up with *John G. Deusler Jr.*, the Founder of the site; Filled *John* in on how EPCAMR has been using our drone
- *Steve Stroman*-Project Consultant asked for an infographic on the benefits of community solar for abandoned mine lands; EPCAMR provided him with our graphic
- EPCAMR reviewed the preliminary draft report of the Shamokin Creek Watershed Assessment
- Provided *Chris Murley*, Underground Miners with the location of the Wanamie #19 Pump House of the Blue Coal Corporation for a project that he was working on; It was the last remaining pump headframe in the Northern Anthracite Coal Fields
- EPCAMR reviewed a paper from the 2013 International Mine Watershed Association Conference presented by *Adrian Brown*, Adrian Brown Consultants, Inc., Denver, CO on low-cost long-term - passive treatment of metal-bearing and acid rock drainage (ARD) using iron-rich material (IRM), which is residue that is processed from arc furnace dust, that was provided by *Ed Wytovich* and suggested he put it on the EPCAMR Board Meeting agenda as a resource; It was forwarded by *Aaron Perkins*-Plant Manager in Palmerton, PA
- Provided the Borough Manager from Laflin with links and copies of information for the completed Coldwater Conservation Plan for the [Mill and Gardner Creeks](#) within the Borough at their request and coordination with *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist
- Provided *Dr. Linda Auker*, Misericordia University with potential field stream sites impacted by AMD for her to use as a field lab to teach the river continuum concept for her Ecology course
- Met with *Clint LeRoy*- MARG Energy to discuss using algae as a remediation potential for AMD; We talked about the possibility of using algae remediation to absorb higher grade metals

Education & Outreach

- Participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls; Provided the PA AML Campaign a federal update from our colleague *Peter Marx*-Contractor for Federal Affairs for the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Informed *Patricia Urquiza Silva*- Program Manager for the Stewards Individual Placement Program that EPCAMR expanded on the AmeriCorps Application questions and provided her with the number to correspond to the responses for Goal 1 to Goal 5 in the Volunteer Activity Description Plan; *Sean Kinney*-Columbia University Professor mentioned that *Chase Bebo* from Navajo Tech may apply for the Community Watershed Outreach Specialist AmeriCorps position; Scheduled a Teams call with *Patricia* to go over recruiting and to update her on EPCAMR's interview with *Morgan Romanowski*, locally for the position; EPCAMR Executive Director continued to review resumes that were submitted; Informed *Meaghan Scott*-Program Coordinator that we were going to select *Morgan Romanowski* who will start on September 9th; EPCAMR set *Morgan* up with an EPCAMR AmeriCorps email account; Morgan continues to go through the onboarding process with OSMRE, Conservation Legacy, and the Stewards Individual Placement Program
- Planned activities with macroinvertebrates, AMD Tie Dye Workshop, and a presentation on water quality and AMD impacts and watershed improvements to the Lackawanna River for the PA American Water annual Water Camp hosted by the [Lackawanna River Conservation Association](#) (LRCA) in Peckville at the Valley Library; Sent *Tara Jones*-Executive Director of the LRCA information on applying for an AmeriCorps volunteer position to assist her in the Lackawanna Valley; EPCAMR Staff educated **25** youth who attended the PA American Water Camp on August 7th on AMD and watershed restoration and monitoring efforts on the Lackawanna River
- Registered to have an EPCAMR exhibit in the Back Mountain Community Conservation Day Tabling Event at the Dallas Township Municipal Building Park Lot on October 10th
- EPCAMR posted the [YouTube trailer](#) with *Jason Sauer*-Artist from the Pittsburgh Region of his new series of Art of Destruction; A full episode with EPCAMR and Jason will air along with the artists that used our iron oxide pigment in March of 2025
- [NEPADOC](#) is now available on Blu-ray and DVD; The Blu-ray features the film in 1080p High-Definition quality, contains a trailer, scene selection options, an insert with a chapter listing, and a short "Director's Introduction" feature that reproduces the introduction to the film that live audiences have heard (over a montage of behind-the-scenes and on-the-road photos); The DVD contains the same material in "Standard Definition" at lower video fidelity; EPCAMR assisted with providing site locations for the documentary to the Director, *David Heinemann*, and is also in the credits where he promotes our organization with a link to our website and donations; *Dave* will also be presenting and screening the documentary at the PA AMR Conference in October 2024
- Met with *Dave Soltysiak*- [Chemstream](#) in Loch Haven, to discuss a potential future partnership with EPCAMR; Shared a presentation with him that EPCAMR had given at the recent PROP Conference in Bethlehem, PA
- Directed *Joseph Donahue*- Eastern Region Employer Engagement & Career Specialist for Penn-State University to direct students who were attending a Career Fair during the same days of our PA AMR Conference to our website and the PA AMR Conference [website](#) for resources

- EPCAMR was asked to consider writing a blog post for the North Branch Land Trust's newsletter on the Outdoor Adventure National Association for Interpreters (NAI) Bootcamp earlier in the year where the Executive Director became a Certified Interpreter
- *George Kauffman*-Executive Director, Pocono NE Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC & DC) informed members of the Council that his novel, *Foam on Nescopeck Creek*, was selected as a semi-finalist out of 188 submissions from 14 countries by the William Faulkner Society for 2023-24; The novel starts in 1932 but mostly takes place in 1957; He's looking for an agent and a publisher; Provided the RC & DC with a copy of the EPCAMR Overview Presentation that will be given at the 3rd Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting to catch them up on regional projects and successes
- EPCAMR took action and signed on to a support letter through the Backcountry Hunter & Angler's website to support [S.2781 - Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024](#); The bipartisan legislation passed out of the Senate; EPCAMR passed along the link to support the legislation to the PA AML Campaign
- EPCAMR reviewed an application overview from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) of their [Stream and Watershed Enhancements Grant Program](#) passed along by an EPCAMR Board Member
- Submitted an invoice to the LIU for EPCAMR's participation in the MWEE Ambassador Workshop; Requested from *Kim Lott*-PA DNCR Natural Resource Specialist and *Krysta Hougen*-NOAA, about when we completed the MWEE Workshop if an Environmental Literacy Module (ELM) was submitted online that EPCAMR could obtain a copy of to provide it to the LIU to apply it towards the Ambassador's Program; *Krysta* provided EPCAMR with the reflection document that was submitted; Sent along EPCAMR's ELM to *Rich Mackrell*, in case it can be applied to the Ambassador Program to the LIU
- Attended the August 13th Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting (EJAB); *Amani Reid*-SE Regional Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) provided EPCAMR with the county coverage area she works in to see if there was any overlap with counties impacted by past mining in the EPCAMR Region and none were found; Provided *Ariana Genna*-SC Regional Coordinator for the OEJ with contacts, groups, and updates on projects in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties related to AMD and land reclamation efforts on abandoned mine lands following a Teams call with her
- Provided *Anthony Hennen*, a reporter for The Center Square, PA with contact information for *Andy McAllister*-WPCAMR for an interview on the June [GAO Report](#) on abandoned mine lands
- *Jim Suleski*-member of the PA Chapter of the Native Fish Coalition informed EPCAMR and other partners regionally that Land Studies had heard from PA DCNR that they were interested in converting an old PA Fish & Boat Hatchery into a focal groundwater refuge for native brook trout with legacy sediment removal; He inquired about technical assistance or decision support tools from *Lori Maloney*- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV); *Lori* reached out to *Dr. Brock Huntsman* for sympatric brook trout population habitat guidance; *Jim* was inquiring about pulling some sort of partnership or formal stakeholders group together to address native brook trout populations; EPCAMR has been involved in several coldwater conservation planning assessment grants that have looked at isolated populations of brook trout in headwater streams above the coal measures and AMD impacted waterways throughout several Wyoming Valley watersheds

- Requested that *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps Watershed Outreach Specialist sign up for the 2025 EE Grants Program [webinar](#) on October 10th once she gets started in September
- Read *Ashvin Dayal's*-Senior Vice President, Power, The Rockefeller Foundation's Power Play first edition of her Newsletter; The Rockefeller Foundation has been focused on addressing climate and energy crises for over a decade
- Reviewed *John Quigley's* [blog](#) from the University of Penn on the reuse of abandoned mine lands for clean energy projects
- Met with [RAI News](#) to give them an AMD Watershed Field Tour of the Wyoming Valley that they would like to promote to the Italian communities in our region and nationally on our work

Trout in the Classroom

- Completed and submitted the Year End Report to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for our annual raising of rainbow trout from eggs to fingerlings up to the point of release of **168** fingerlings at the end of June 2024 for our yearly participation in the [Trout in the Classroom](#) Program

Mine Mapping Outreach Video

- Scheduled a date with *Joe Sapienza, Jr.* to film a two-part video series on the Mine Mapping work of EPCAMR and how the Staff go through the various tasks using Geographic Information System tools in ArcGIS Pro software; We plan to capture the processes of scanning, cataloging, digitizing, georeferencing, and mosaicking (stitching the mine maps together as one seamless layer or vein so there is no overlap in the mine maps); The whole idea is to show the mapping work of the Staff and how we are using it to assist in the reclamation and watershed restoration of the Nanticoke Creek, with the understanding that "As Above, Is Not So Below" when it comes to abandoned mines, AMD, and watershed restoration; EPCAMR sent him PDFs and mine map images to use in the video production; Met with *Joe* at the Office and filmed with *Steve Cornia*-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, and then headed into the field to the Nanticoke Creek Watershed for additional footage on August 31st and planned to take additional drone footage utilizing EPCAMR's drone the following week in September 2024

Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

26th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2024

- Provided the code for the room scholarships to the Sullivan County Conservation District for when they register for the Conference, *Wayne Lehman* and *Alexa Smith*-Schuylkill Conservation District, and *Stephanie Golden* from Marywood University; Conference registrations, sponsors, and exhibitors continue to be submitted; [Cedarville Engineering](#) became an Exhibitor; Submitted a request form to the Office of *Senator Fetterman* to see if he'd like to provide any remarks at the Conference and to *Laura Daniels-Davis* with OSMRE; The PA AMR Conference Planning Committee voted on the 2024 Mayfly Award and selected *Bill Reichert*-Schuylkill Headwaters Association; Reviewed *Anne's* draft Conference Agenda and provided additional suggestions for a speaker from the Interagency Working Group (IWG) and having a third session track; Requested a social media amplification that was approved from [Patagonia Action Works](#) to help get the word out to advertise the conference closer to the event in September 2024; Passed along a [link](#) from the IWG to the entire PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; Renewed our Zoom Video Communications to continue to utilize the software for our Planning Committee meetings; *Cristy* updated the Abstract Submission Form; Discussed the tour route with *Kelly Williams*-Clearfield County Conservation District; [Kleinfelder](#) and [Dutchland](#) became a sponsor for the PA AMR Conference and for the annual cornhole tournament; [Chemstream](#) became a sponsor; Reached out to *Doris Rogalla* from the [Moshannon Creek Watershed Association](#) (MCWA) to see if she was in need of a travel scholarship to attend the conference, however, she didn't need one, but did want an exhibit booth for her watershed association; *Jeff Sarver* and *Larry Hutchinson* from [Shade Creek Watershed Association](#) (SCWA) had requested a travel scholarship and were approved; Co-authored and submitted an abstract with *Cliff Denholm*-SRI to make a Highlighted Summary Presentation of the Community Watershed Organization Survey at the Conference to the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee; US DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) Presentation abstract from *Tiffany Mayville* was submitted; *Sara Cawley* informed EPCAMR that she will be leaving OSMRE and moving on to Assistant Secretary of Land Management (ASLM) as a Senior Advisor working with other bureaus and offices, including the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget (ASPMB), the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (ASIA), and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA); EPCAMR worked with Cabela's to design a trucker cap and our PA AMR Conference Committee polo shirts with our PA AMR Conference logo; Submitted our finalized changes to the engagement contract with the Ramada Conference Center; Set up a meeting with *Cristy* to finalize the food menu for the Conference; Confirmed *Briggs White's* attendance as a speaker from the IWG; Learned that it may be *Steve Feldgus*, who may join us at the Conference in place of *Laura Daniels-Davis* from OSMRE; Provided *Hank Zielinski*-Northampton Generating with a copy of the Executive Director's presentation that was given at the PROP Conference in case he wanted to use some slides or information for his presentation on the Swoyersville AML Reclamation Project at the PA AMR Conference

IWG Empowering Energy Communities Stakeholder Retreat

- EPCAMR thanked colleague, *Amanda Pankau*-Director of Energy & Community Resiliency from the Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois National Wildlife Federation Affiliate for providing an excellent [blog](#) rundown of the 2-day retreat we both attended in Washington DC and the various funding programs and technical resources that are available to community groups working in areas previously impacted by coal mining; Posted her blog to our social media pages with her permission; It was a pretty intensive pack-filled agenda that just kept moving along from panel to small group discussions and could have used a little more networking time for the non-profits that had attended from around the country; EPCAMR made the best of the brief intermissions to try and connect with speakers and tried to introduce our organization to a number of the agency

members and advisors of the federal agencies so that we could put a face to a name instead of an just an email; It was great to hear all the updates on projects that are being implemented to date and funded and the announcement on the other funding programs; Followed up with *Torend L. Collins*-Senior Advisor for Infrastructure Strategy, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior after meeting her at the IWG Retreat

NTTP AMD Passive Treatment System Training with OSMRE/PA DEP BAMR and EPCAMR/WPCAMR

- EPCAMR reviewed and revised the NTTP Training contract agreement and selected the food for the training and sent it along to *Andy McAllister* and *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR for their review and to have them provide it to the Event Planner at the Ramada Inn, State College; Discussed picking up snacks for the tour day of the training from Weis Market in State College; Provided *Andy McAllister*-WPCAMR with a tentative timeline and schedule for the training days; Finalized the banquet food menu and final contract agreement with WPCAMR before *Andy* signed off on it

Appalachian Region Technology Transfer (ARTT) Critical & Rare Earth Minerals (CREM) Focus Group

- *Brian Stewart*, Associate Professor of Geology & Environmental Science at the University of Pittsburgh, made a presentation on August 13 titled, *Rare earth elements (REE) in coal mine drainage: Sources and potential sinks*; He and his colleagues and students study the geochemistry of Earth surface systems, often through the application of metal isotopes; He has been using rare earth elements as a petrogenetic tool since his undergraduate thesis on REE partitioning in an amphibolite (Brown University), his PhD on Nd isotopes in magma chambers (UCLA) and his postdoctoral work on meteorites and soils (Caltech); His more recent work has focused on geochemical processes and REE resources in AMD through lab, field, and modeling studies

Bucknell University 19th Annual Susquehanna River Symposium

- USGS requested EPCAMR assistance on the Shamokin Creek Tour on November 7th as a part of the Symposium that is focused on AMD this year; EPCAMR Executive Director will be providing another tour at the same time to the PA DCNR Community Connections Watershed Program and will not be able to make it in time to participate

PA DCNR Community Connections Watershed Program-Luzerne County

- Scheduled March 19th, 2025 for the PA DCNR Community Connections Watershed Forum for Luzerne County schools at the Earth Conservancy/EPCAMR Conference Room, after coordinating with *Diane Madl*-Environmental Education Specialist for Nescopeck State Park

PA DCNR Community Connections Watershed Program-Lackawanna County

- Confirmed providing an AMD Watershed Tour of the Old Forge AMD Borehole with the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) and Lackawanna State Park's *Tony DeSantis*-Environmental Education Specialist, and several Lackawanna County Schools that participate on November 8th

Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 AMD & Art Literacy Environmental Education (EE) Program (proposed)

- *Rich Mackrell*-LIU Assistant Director of STEM and Innovative Practices, would like to take the lead on developing an EE Proposal to work with *Dr. Catherine Cullen*- Director of Arts in Education of NEPA to integrate aspects of the arts into an environmental literacy-based program; EPCAMR will support educators and their students in garnering an appreciation of the outdoors through hands-on learning and AMD art examples using EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment and providing a tour to teachers and support; *Diane Madl*-PA DCNR Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor will provide access to the Nescopeck and Hickory Run State Parks and she has experience supporting educators and their students in garnering an appreciation of the outdoors through hands-on learning through her Community Connections Watershed Program

EPCAMR Community Volunteers

- *Rebecca (Becky) Cain*, Berwick, signed up to become a volunteer; She provided EPCAMR with a video clip on FlexClip she created on *Life Finds A Way in Centralia*; EPCAMR Executive Director gave her the history of our work to clean the town over a decade and our work on Centralia: America's Lost Town, directed by Joe Sapienza, Jr
- Signed *Vinnie Rome*, Pittston, up for the NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) online Training; He may be ready to become a certified Lead Observer in the Spring of 2025 when we will be conducting additional culvert and bridge assessments

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for August 2024 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB; Made reconciliations with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services; EPCAMR purchased two work cell phones through [Mint Mobile](#) since our local area network (LAN) line phones had become obsolete and it was cheaper than our current phone lines with Ooma and ported over our 2 phone lines; Received a copy of the check from ARIPPA for the Bookkeeper for the **\$3K** mini-grant
- Requested a list of grants submitted, funded by the Luzerne Conservation District that was supported by EPCAMR from *John Levitsky*, Watershed Specialist for our PA 319 Final Report submission from July 1 2021 through June 30, 2024; *Cliff Denholm*-Executive Director for Stream Restoration Inc. provided EPCAMR with a similar summary; *Tom Mayka*-DAMA Stormwater Manager provided EPCAMR with a summary of their Single Application for Assistance supported by EPCAMR; Submitted to the PA DEP 319 Program the Final Report for FY2021-FY2024 to *Trish Attardo*-Water Program Specialist and entered the documentation into PracticeKeeper
- EPCAMR received a concur letter from the PA DEP for the completion of our 2022 Single Audit and filed it; Informed the PA DEP that we will likely be performing a 2023 Single Audit as well
- Provided Larson Design Group (LDG) with a copy of EPCAMR's Certificate of Liability Insurance

- Continued to add items to the August 15, 2024 Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting; Received a copy of the Quarterly Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report from *Marianne*-Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services; Sent out a revised tentative agenda to the Board and partners in the EPCAMR Region; Received additional information from *Dave Mashek*-Partner with Meinert & Mashek Communications on a summary of a number of key issues related to Panther Creek's proposal to utilize a small amount of tire-derived fuel to supplement waste coal, regulated by the state PA DEP for a discussion item; Convened the EPCAMR 3rd Quarter Board Meeting; Reached out to Board Members about renewals; *Mike Sauers*-Writer for the Greenfire Coalition, provided EPCAMR with a [position paper](#) issued by Carbon County citizens opposed to the tire burning proposal; Talked to *Peter Haentjens*-EMARR, about Audenried and future idea about a potable water supply; Provided the Board with a digital copy of the [PA Clean Water Legislative Briefing Book 2024-2025 3rd Edition](#) published by the CCWC, DRWC, and PF, funded by the FPW; Pages 28-29 written and authored by EPCAMR Executive Director; Discussed a later November 2024 Joint Visioning Session between the EPCAMR/WPCAMR Board of Directors
- Inquired about applying for the 2025-2026 [Appalachian Leadership Institute](#), at the suggestion of *Bettina Jones* from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in Washington DC, who mentioned to me that the ALI would be a great avenue to pursue for EPCAMR and the Executive Director to support and advocate for the reclamation and economic redevelopment of the lands in our underserved environmental justice coalfield communities of northeastern and northcentral PA; The application period for Class of 2025-2026 will open around April 2025 and selections would be announced around September 2025; The Executive Director had let *Bettina Jones* know that EPCAMR had used her name as a referral
- Kulpmont Borough became a member of EPCAMR and was very appreciative of the continued technical assistance and grant support that we've provided to them at their request
- Made a Request for Relief from Charges for EPCAMR from the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation for Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist
- Completed a non-profit survey on how funders can better meet non-profit organizations' needs for [Candid](#) provided by *Guy Mika*, Research Operations Associate