

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2013 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff participated in one last AMR Conference Call, co-hosted **Statewide** Conference with WPCAMR and the conference committee and a wrap-up call to discuss the outcome.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting and met with PA DEP staff 2x to discuss specifics on the MSI Mine Map Processing Initiative.
- Continued purchasing equipment and setting up office in preparation for MSI Grant.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a field investigation to the Lewis Mine AMD TS in **Sullivan Co.**
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.treatminewater.com and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff participated in on last AMR Conference calls to hash out logistics and planning efforts for the upcoming conference. Caught up on online registrations and watershed hero cards that had filtered through over the past few weeks. Updated the Conference Budget and went over a checklist for the Conference to make sure we would be prepared. Received the folders, labels and magnets then instructed EPCAMR Volunteer to work on labeling folders and gluing magnets to the pottery pieces made by students at Misericordia University.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Plains to pickup trees from Midway Gardens for the WaterBoxx II grant in preparation for a planting at the Huber Breaker Memorial Park.
- Updated assets, reimbursements and what money was left for individual grants in the Grant Tracker Excel Spreadsheet in preparation for the EPCAMR Annual Budget.
- Put some final touches on posters and materials for the AMR Conference, shut down the online registration through www.treatminewater.com and traveled out to the Stone Valley Lodge near State College to conduct a pre conference workshop on Nonprofit Advocacy on August 8th.
- EPCAMR staff co-hosted the 15th Annual Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College, PA. Approximately 90 individuals attended the conference between August 9th and 10th, which was a much lower than expected attendance. None the less, 22 speakers presented on a multitude of topics related to AMR and approximately a dozen exhibitors setup and participated in networking time with attendees.
- Prepared board packets (Treasurers Report, Agenda and Minutes from Last Meeting) and sent out an upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting notice using MailChimp and asked Board Members to RSVP if the plan on attending. Board Packets were also posted to www.epcamr.org.
- EPCAMR staff organized office, and put away paperwork and supplies that were used during the AMR Conference.
- Worked in QuickBooks to create Sales Orders (Grant Budgets) and review Accounting Standard Operating Procedure (ASOP) to make sure everything was where it should be in the Chart of

Accounts. Began running reports to prepare something similar to a Treasurer's Report in QuickBooks. This turns out to be two reports: Open Sales Report and Standard Balance Sheet. These reports will be substituted for the Treasurer's Report in the future pending board approval.

- EPCAMR staff hosted committee meetings and the EPCAMR Board Meeting at the EPCAMR / Earth Conservancy Office Conference Room.
- Reviewed documentation on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Flow Sampling Methods and updated EPCAMR Water Sampling Handbook to reflect these standards.
- EPCAMR, WPCAMR, and DEP BCR staff met at the Rachel Carson State Office Building 5th Floor Conference Room to discuss changes in BCR and to review the proposed changes to the Set Aside Program Guidelines. The guidelines are again in draft form pending some changes to clarify the Watershed-based Restoration Assessment Plan (WRAP) to Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) procedure. Much of the changes were due to a controversial Risk Matrix that was placed in the guidelines initially and was never fully understood and made it look like the higher the flow on a specific discharge, the more risky a proposed treatment project would be considered. This however was only contingent on net acidic water, net alkaline waters were excluded and this was made more apparent. More description was added and some schematics were placed in the documentation to better explain the rest of the process. Overall with the new edits, the guidelines will be a much better understood process and will be able to be explained to the public in greater confidence.
- Conducted an AMR Conference Wrap-up Call to discuss the outcome of the conference and deal with issues that arose due to, what the conference committee felt, was the facility staff's lack of organization and understanding of what was on the contract by both parties. There were several problems with scholarship rooms and food that should have (and should not have) come out at certain times. Unfortunately, the representative that we were dealing with at the Ramada was not available when we were hosting the conference. A second issue was attendance and the conference committee speculated as to the causes and how to get numbers up next year.
- Sat down with EPCAMR Treasurer, Cheryl Brobst, to discuss specifics on future board meeting changes as suggested at the EPCAMR Board Meeting. Placement of officers at the head table is preferred to give a visual representation of the officers of the organization. Staff should sit at the side to be there to answer questions, but not direct the meeting. The meeting times should be moved up again now that fall and winter are approaching. Meeting length should be kept to an hour for business items. Once business items are finished the meeting will be closed and an invitation to leave will be extended to those that need to, while others can sit on and discuss watershed issues and reports. Many board members travel 1-2 hours for the meeting and leaving at 8PM or later can be dangerous for those who typically go to bed early and get up early the next morning, especially when bad weather comes. She also suggested polling the board again to see who could meet in the day time (like WPCAMR Board Meetings).

Technical Assistance:

- Taught EPCAMR Intern, Paul Dunay, how to georeference mine maps, starting with OSM Folios in the Wyoming Valley. These maps were currently being georeferenced by EPCAMR Intern, Justyna Sacharzewska, in preparation for cross section alignment and digitization for the Wyoming Valley 3D Mine Pool Model [SRBC].
- After cleaning and organizing my desk, found a note from Todd Wood, PA DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration (BCR), that mentioned another borehole in Carbondale. Mapped the location and used Google Street View to see the road and verified that the borehole looked to be there [SRBC].
- Purchased and setup a Gigabit Network Router, Switch and 3 Terabyte Network Drive (named Gobba Da Pile) in preparation for MSI Mine Map Processing. Backed up GIS Drive (External Z Drive) to Gobba Da Pile (Network X Drive) [MSI].

- Sampled Espy Run Treatment System after the upgrades that were done by Earth Conservancy (EC) to increase residency time and redirect flow through the system. Early results showed more retention of iron and pH increase, but the repairs are still new. Transferred data into a spreadsheet and wrote up a Final Report to close out this round of sampling. EC plans to continue monitoring the system quarterly for a year to get a better handle on the new iron and acidity reductions [EC].
- Disassembled the Gestetner Copier to find and clean the drum unit which was leaving streaks on print outs. No documentation was available on how to do this, so it was a trial which luckily ended in success. Made some notes in the back of the user manual on the process for future reference. Also discovered how to automatically clean the drum on the Brother printer (a much less daunting and risky task that was spelled out online at the Brother Website) which required pressing 3 buttons in tandem and inserting a piece of paper.
- EPCAMR staff met with PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and Bureau of Mineral Resources (BMR) staff at the Wilkes-Barre Office to review the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Processing grant and to see the collection of maps at the Wilkes-Barre Office. Precedence was given to the Northern Field maps for scanning due to their location in the basement of the building and the better chance of water damage. Collections of the other three Anthracite Coal Field maps were on the 5th floor and could be scanned at a later time [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff met with PA DEP BAMR and BMR staff at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg. California District Mining Office staff called in on a conference line to also discuss specifics about the MSI Mine Map Processing Initiative [MSI].
- Downloaded a program called SyncBack Free to synchronize files on External Drives and Network Drives. This will be necessary when it comes to making a backup of files for the MSI Mine Map Processing Initiative and should aid in scheduled backups of GIS data and general EPCAMR office files.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Bernice (near Dushore, Sullivan County) to meet with Hedin Environmental (HE) and PA DEP Moshannon District Mining Office (DMO) staff to discuss rehabilitation of the Lewis Mine AMD Treatment System through a Growing Greener Bond Forfeiture Grant. EPCAMR staff conducted water quality sampling (except for Alkalinity, which HE conducted) and calculated flow in and out of the system for iron and acid load reduction evaluation of the system [GGBF].
- Worked on Heckscherville Valley cross sectional data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) I-Series 528 and 681 maps. The raw data was collected in both heads-up digitizing and skips scripts methods. The points done in with scripting needed to be adjusted up 500 feet then combined. Looked at the thickness of veins in a Technical Paper 602 and added the thickness to create the top of each vein in the stratigraphic sequence [SRBC].
- At the request of the Earth Conservancy, calculated flows for the Askam Boreholes, which were taken monthly with water depth elevations, to make a graph (in OpenOffice Calc) of the seasonal flow of the boreholes in an attempt to get a better grasp on the projected monthly electrical costs to run the Maelstrom Oxidizer [EC].

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.