

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, *Program Manager*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Fax & Main Line: (570) 371-3522

E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

August 2014 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the Annual EPCAMR Board Meeting.
- Continued processing 309 TIFF files and digitized features for 106 maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant in August. Dropped off and picked up maps at the Pottsville DMO. Adjusted scope of work. Setup an ArcSDE geodatabase for Workgroup on the server to allow multiple simultaneous editors and possibly share GIS data online through the EPCAMR website.
- Sampled flow on 2 discharges and sampled chemistry and flow at 2 additional discharges in the **southern Wyoming Valley**; Downloaded transducer data and sampled water levels in over 12 boreholes in the **Lackawanna Watershed**.
- Finished a draft final report for the **Northern and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields**; Completed an Underground Mine Map Investigation for an EPCAMR partner.
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Wrote up minutes from the last EPCAMR Board Meeting and sent out a reminder of the upcoming meeting to the EPCAMR board and associate members. Updated the board meeting and member pages on www.epcamr.org. Updated bylaws from the amendments to the vote in preparation for handing out a “board member handbook” with all EPCAMR policy documents.
- Dropped off and picked up maps from the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO). The maps were laid out on the table and inventoried. This inventory was recorded and signed before taking any maps. As the maps were returned, the previous inventory was checked as each map was put back on the shelf to assure that all maps were being returned and put back in the proper place. [MSI]
- Caught up on several months of 319 Monthly Progress Reports now that the Mine Pool Mapping Report was completed. Posted these to www.epcamr.org board meeting page for board member review prior to the board meeting.
- Sent a “week of” reminder to the EPCAMR Board to deliver the draft agenda and items related to the agenda in a board packet. Began working on a 2015 Annual Budget for review at the upcoming meeting, in hopes that it will be approved by the 4th quarter meeting in November.

Technical Assistance:

- Finalized the Northern and Southern Mine Pool Mapping Report and sent a final draft for comments by EPCAMR Executive Director and Susquehanna River Basin Commission project advisor. Received comments back from EPCAMR Executive Director and incorporated them in to a revised final draft and sent this to the SRBC again. [SRBC]

- Found a free online service that helps create a bibliography properly formatted to the style you choose at www.bibme.org. The site also saves the source information you input in a database for easy retrieval for future report bibliographies. It would have been helpful to know about this in 2011 when EPCAMR last published a Mine Pool Mapping Report for the Western Middle Field. [SRBC]
- Gathered together and created maps and diagrams mentioned in the report, but were too big to display in the actual report. One specific diagram that took a lot of time to produce was the field collected borehole water level measurements in a time series plot for all the boreholes in the Wyoming Valley (this was previously created for the Lackawanna Valley). These maps and diagrams will make up an appendix to the report to include digitally on a CD (or DVD) or fold out maps if a hard copy is published. [SRBC]
- Completed an underground mine map investigation related to an area that the Keystone Landfill in Dunmore was planning to expand. There were upwards of 3-4 veins of previously room and pillar method mined coal in the area. The concern was that piling that much landfill waste on top of the old abandoned mines could cause subsidence. An independent study was also being conducted by the landfill owners. It would be reasonable to suggest that during expansion, they should dig down approximately 100' to the bedrock below the lowest mineable seam (Dunmore No. 4, also known as the Bottom Red Ash). This way, the potential for subsidence is removed and the contractor will benefit by taking coal and rock through an incidental removal permit.
- Setup an ArcSDE SQL database with the intent of gaining multiple simultaneous editing of a geodatabase related to the Mine Subsidence Insurance Map Processing Initiative. Spend about 3 hours with ESRI Tech Support to setup ArcGIS for Server, which would allow EPCAMR to serve up data through our website, however this did not get me the multiple editor function. It seems I was led to the wrong department in ESRI. I was sent to another department that deals with ArcSDE for Workgroup but could not complete the work that day. Called support back after the board meeting to have them guide me through the much simpler (in comparison) process of setting up an ArcSDE for Workgroup Geodatabase. Tested the multiple simultaneous editing in house and with a few more adjustments, such as enabling versioned editing, the function was working. This will allow up to 10 people digitizing features off georeferenced mine maps at the same time. The database will have to be routinely compressed and optimized to keep it functioning. Monthly it will be exported out as a file geodatabase (the original format) and sent to the PA DEP California DMO with the inventory control and invoice. [MSI]
- EPCAMR staff conducted a round of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) sampling in the Southern Wyoming Valley. Sampled chemical parameters and calculated flow at the Espy Run Treatment System and Mocanaqua Tunnel discharge. Calculated flow at the Askam and South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes to calibrate the newly installed stream gauges. Recorded this information into the EPCAMR AMD monitoring database and sent the info to Earth Conservancy over email. [EC]
- EPCAMR staff traveled around the Lackawanna Valley to take water level readings on over a dozen boreholes with Susquehanna Mining Solutions (SMS) representative and intern. This was the first time in about 2 years that the boreholes were monitored by EPCAMR and several of the covers were difficult to pry off. Also collected transducer data at the Old Forge Borehole. This work was completed in good faith that SMS will contract EPCAMR to continue the effort once they receive funding from SRBC to evaluate the Scranton Metropolitan Mine Pool for Low Flow Augmentation of the Susquehanna River.
- Conference call with staff at the PA DEP California DMO to discuss the scope of work for the MSI Mine Map Processing Initiative. They suggested that we complete georeferencing and digitizing maps from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office instead of switching gears to georeference and digitize maps at the PA DEP Pottsville DMO. They said that work can wait for another anticipated contract and suggested that we switch all the numbers for these tasks to the Wilkes-Barre Office collection. An official

request was made by EPCAMR as the contract dictates and this was approved by the PA DEP California DMO staff. [MSI]

- Started going through calendars since back to January 2014 to record time spent on grants and contracts other than the 319 program for invoicing those sources in the near future. It has proven to be more efficient to do all the sources at the same time about quarterly. EPCAMR gets about 80% of funding for full time staff, but 20% of that cost is made up by other grants and contracts that EPCAMR seeks out to help accomplish our mission. Caught up on timesheets and emails. Took recyclables to Mascaros from the office.
- Purchased sand bags at Builders Supply in Wilkes-Barre for the Askam Treatment System. Earth Conservancy staff will help EPCAMR staff find sand from one of their properties to fill and replace the sand bags that are deteriorating at the treatment system until more permanent measures can be installed to direct flow in the system. [EC]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.