



## 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](mailto:hardcoal@epcamr.org)

Website: [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)

### August 2015 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff continued to scan 108 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 141 SID files, and digitized features from 19 maps into a geodatabase for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant.
- EPCAMR staff processed snapshot sampling data and posted it to [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org)
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AML / Mining History Tour of the **Wyoming** and **Lackawanna**, an AMR Conference Call, an EPCAMR staff meeting, a **Lackawanna** River Romp EE Program, prepared for/hosted the EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting and met with U.S. Rep. Charles Dent (**Lebanon County**).
- Continued server recovery and storage space upgrades; Upgraded my computer to Windows 10
- Provided 3 sets of maps and statistics to EPCAMR partners; Began printing/PDF-ing maps for municipalities in the Wyoming Valley
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings and sampled flow/chemistry at **Askam** Boreholes
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org); Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Catch up on writing Program Manager reports for previous months and posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org).
- EPCAMR staff held a staff meeting to coordinate efforts for the month.
- Entered expenses and created invoices for Espy, Askam and Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) programs. Created a sales order for the Penn East map grant from the proposed budget and set it up as a cash advance draw down account in QuickBooks.
- Prepared for the quarterly treasurer's report by making sure all expenses are properly applied in QuickBooks. Reconciled customer accounts, and created a collections report. Added more sales orders with recently acquired grant budgets.
- EPCAMR staff helped out at the Lackawanna River Romp at the Blakely Borough Recreational Complex. The week long camp was sponsored by Pennsylvania American Water and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) at the Valley Library. Our involvement included kicking for and identifying stream macroinvertebrates with the kids and sampling chemistry at the Gravity Slope discharge.
- Worked on the 2016 Budget with Denise, EPCAMR bookkeeper and had Executive Director look it over for comments. Tweaked budget and treasurer's report after his review.
- Sent out Minutes, Treasurers Report and the 2016 Proposed Budget to EPCAMR Board Members one week prior to the Board Meeting. Posted these materials and a draft agenda to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Created a list of nominated directors for election at the board meeting,

discovered that several counties had not sent in their dues. So EPCAMR staff sent out a hardcopy mailer.

- Synced the Program Manager Computer “C” drive to the “M” company drive with SyncBack Free in order to share my files with other staff. Updated evaluation documents to update them for the additional staff that will be evaluated this year.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the EPCAMR Annual Board Meeting at the Pioneer Tunnel pavilion in Ashland, PA. EPCAMR board elected the nominated directors to the board and reviewed the draft 2016 budget, but held off approval until changes were made to reflect staff salary increases.
- EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager met with U.S. Representative Charles Dent to talk about POWER+, SMCRA Reauthorization and generally to introduce him to EPCAMR. This visit was coordinated via the PA AML Campaign in an effort to educate our newly elected legislature as to the impacts of AML in PA and what can be done in DC to continue the cleanup. Sent notes on the meeting to WPCAMR.
- Added a separate list of EPCAMR Nominating Organizations to MailChimp in an effort to better target the actual county conservation district managers that deal with nominating representatives from their respective county to the EPCAMR board. Outreach to the Nominating Committee has always been an interesting task for staff and many strategies have been employed over the years to obtain district and industry cooperation.
- Traveled to a Polaris dealership in Nuangola, PA to look at side-by-side ATVs that EPCAMR plans to purchase with the Polaris grant.
- EPCAMR staff conducted an AML/AMD/Mining History tour of the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley with Choose Clean Water staffer Chante Coleman.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call to review comments and begin planning for the 2016 AMR Conference.
- Met with local Railroad Enthusiast and Luzerne Conservation District Board Member, Carl Urbanski to show him records of Blue Coal sales and railroad shipments all over the continental US and Canada. The records were recently discovered when Earth Conservancy began cleaning up our shared storage area. Many of the records were disposed of, but EPCAMR managed to save a few interesting records for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS).
- Prepared a reimbursement to the 319 program for April to June and another for the month of July. We typically like to reimburse monthly as our schedules allow, but there are times during the year when our workload is particularly full where we can only reimburse quarterly.
- Working to solve the e-mails that our EPCAMR Store sends out to notify us of an order submitted or a purchase made. The coding is particularly problematic and is a direct result of the switch from the ShopperPress to the PremiumPress Shop Theme shareware. The new coding seems to be a step backward in notification emails. Working with the makers of the software to make it work the way it used to or even better.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- EPCAMR full time staff continue to manage the program and oversee quality control. Only one map needed to be re-georeferenced and a few corrections on PHUMMIS. Program Manager aided in scanning and georeferencing of difficult maps and generally lent support as questions arose. Corresponded with our project manager at DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) via phone and email [MSI].
- Initial look at Rausch Creek Lands map set from Skelly and Loy. The set contains a mix of underground mine maps, cross sections, topographic maps showing mine permit boundaries and permit files. It will need to be sorted to find maps and cross sections that can be used to create the model. DropBox application not working well and requires a paid account to download all files. Sent a drive to Skelly and Loy for the data transfer. Researched maps in the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) and the PA Spatial Data Server (PASDA) in the meantime [SRBC].

- Trained Watershed Outreach staff how to print folios (hardcopy) and save them as a PDF document (digital) for distribution to Wyoming Valley municipalities for the Penn East Pipeline grant. Created a published map file (PMF) in ArcGIS of the OSM Folio coverage layer with municipal and county boundaries so that staff can make a list of folios in each municipality using ArcReader [PennEast].
- Sampled Askam Treatment System 3x this month for chemistry and flow from the boreholes, out of the maelstrom oxidizer, out of the treatment pond, Nanticoke Creek downstream of Espy Run Confluence and upstream of the confluence of the Susquehanna River. Provided the data to the Earth Conservancy shortly after each event via e-mail. Took stream gauge readings on the discharge channel 10x this month [EC].
- Received snapshot sampling data from Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI), recorded it in an excel spreadsheet and posted it to [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org) [SRI].
- Printed 2 maps of the Exeter Mine Surface for a walk-in member of the public. The maps were 3 foot long and we charged \$4 for each print. EPCAMR charges \$1 per foot and a \$1 surcharge for ink on maps 1 foot to 5 foot to recoup expenses.
- Created quick reference instructions for the new YSI Photometer and HANNA Conductivity meters to be laminated and placed in the carrying case for each piece of field equipment.
- EPCAMR staff created PA statewide AMD/AML statistics by Congressional District and sent them to Anne Daymut from WPCAMR, and Branden Diehl from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW). Also reproduced a map of the statewide AMD/AML impacts with updated information [FPW].
- The Company "M" Drive went off line, but this was OK, since it was backed up to the "D" drive. This "M" drive was still a Microsoft Storage Space and contained some of the remnant drives from the "X" drive that had crashed. Discovered a ticking noise that lead to one drive in particular that was malfunctioning, another Seagate Barracuda. So far the Seagate drives in general have caused many problems and I will think twice before buying another one. Ordered a 3<sup>rd</sup> RAID Tower and 3 Toshiba 4TB drives to fill it from NewEgg.
- After several computer issues that could not be rectified, I updated my Program Manager computer to Windows 10. My computer had not been selected through Windows Update yet, but I "hopped the line" by creating an install DVD from Microsoft.com. The process was not vey streamline and took about 3 tries.
- EPCAMR staff prepared AML site descriptions for Lebanon County using the mine inspector reports in AMLIS in preparation for our meeting with U.S. Representative Charles Dent.
- Received and setup the new "M" drive on a 3<sup>rd</sup> Raid Tower, but ran into an issue of possibly affecting transfer speed of the server in general by plugging in to many eSATA devices into the 2 PCI cards. Decided to plug the "X" drive into its own card and plugged the "Y" drive (a backup of the "X" on an overnight schedule) and the "M" drive onto the other.
- Transferred the "D" drive backup to the ne "M" drive. Also transferred the NMMR maps on a Seagate Backup drive to the "M" drive. This caused the "M" drive capacity to exceed the "D" drive and I had to spilt the backup of the data until something else can be arranged.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.