



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2017 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 352 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 144 & digitized 34 maps for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant. Georeferenced difficult maps. Started getting maps from PA DEP Wilkes-Barre Office's Franklin Warehouse. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated with the **PA American Water Camp** on the **Lackawanna River**, hosted the annual EPCAMR Board Meeting, a press event for the **Solomon Creek Dam** Removal project, attended a press event for the **Pioneer Tunnel** Headframe and prepared the TIC Tank for over summer maintenance the name of EE.
- Submitted a closeout to the 319 program grant, aided staff write 2 grants and 1 proposal.
- EPCAMR staff worked on a 3D model for the **Rausch Creek, Schuylkill Co. and Mocanaqua Tunnel, Luzerne Co.** mine pool projects. Sampled the **Plainsville Borehole Discharge** and **Askam Treatment System** both in **Luzerne Co.** Aided **LRCA** with a computer upgrade and gathered **OFBH** transducer readings.
- Updated www.epcamr.org. Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts. Maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server. Upgraded computers in-house.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR staff participated in the PA American Water Camp with the Lackawanna River Conservation Association at the Valley Library in Blakely. EPCAMR staff take the kids on the river to kick for macroinvertebrates and sample chemistry.
- Placed Trout in the Classroom (TIC) tank on a new metal stand. Now that the trout were released, we raised the temperature back up and caught some warm water species of fish to keep the nitrogen cycle going over the summer. Initially we caught some flak from individuals that said it was illegal to have native fish in a tank, but we have a collectors permit for educational purposes. We had also been feeding them the leftover trout food and supplemented with a few macroinvertebrates we caught doing surveys of Solomon's Creek since the dam was removed.
- EPCAMR staff hosted a press event for the completion of the Solomon's Creek dam removal project. The Times Leader came for an interview and had a very good write up. Some local residents showed up to give a dissenting opinion about the project. Their fears are that their annual trout derby would no longer be viable because there is nothing to stop their stocked trout from swimming downstream. In my opinion it is very short sighted to keep a dam in place for one event during the year, and have to deal with flooding and bank erosion rather than returning the stream to a more natural state. Robert suggested stretching snow fence across the stream as a temporary barrier to fish passage like the Nanticoke Conservation Club does at Harvey's Creek.
- Went to find a glass top at local stores for the TIC tank because 2 of the ones that we ordered online had shipped broken. Unfortunately, local stores either did not have the size we needed or it was so expensive (3x our budgeted price) that it was not affordable. I attempted to tell them that we were a non-profit and asked for a discount. PetSmart and PetCo did not have discount programs and suggested I contact corporate. Pet Wonderland staff were visibly annoyed that I

asked for a discount. Learned of a local store called FinSanity in Wilkes-Barre, which had very strange hours and is run by a saltwater tank hobbyist who has a day job. He deals with many TIC programs and gives discounts.

- Helped the Earth Conservancy (EC) by climbing up on the roof, finding places where bats could potentially enter the building and patch them. Over the past few months, bats had been getting into our office. We suggested that EC place bat boxes outside as an alternative to our building and supplied them with literature about bats and their habits.
- Continued to battle telemarketing calls on our main phone line. I have been listening to see if there is a way to remove our number. Sometimes dialing 9 works, sometimes I have to wait on the line until an actual person picks up and explain that they are calling a non-profit organization. The calls are coming at a very annoying frequency.
- Created a progress report for the month of July for the EPCAMR board and PA DEP 319 program.
- Cleaned up and organized supplies in the storage room as accessing the area for several programs over the summer had cluttered the area to the point it was unusable.
- Closed out the PA DEP 319 grant closeout process and showed how EPCAMR staff met goals and objectives in state fiscal year 2016-2017. I also posted this information to our [EPCAMR website](#) and turned into a document for addition to IRS' GuideStar website.
- Administrative work: Caught up on time sheets and billed down on grants for the quarter in QuickBooks as a part of the treasurer's report for the upcoming annual (3rd quarterly) EPCAMR board meeting.
- Prepared the minutes from the last EPCAMR board meeting and updated the EPCAMR website in preparation for the board meeting to deliver board packets through the web.
- EPCAMR staff attended the Pioneer Tunnel Headframe press event. Several Schuylkill County officials were in attendance to see the new addition to the park which was funded by RECLAIM Pilot funding. Representative from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), staff from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and retired mine workers were also in attendance.
- Created a budget for 2018 for the EPCAMR board to review and comment at the upcoming meeting. EPCAMR staff will revise the budget, if needed, and will be voted on at the 4th quarterly meeting.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the annual (3rd quarterly) EPCAMR board meeting at the EPCAMR office. Being the annual meeting we also provided a picnic lunch and an optional tour. This year's tour was to go see the newly completed Solomon's Creek Dam Removal project on the other side of town. One board member attended the tour.
- Took recycling to Mascaro's. There was so many recyclables that it took 2 trips to deliver it all.
- Aided Watershed Outreach Coordinator, Gavin Pellitteri, in submitting a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).
- Reviewed and submitted strategic planning survey results to Executive Director and EPCAMR Strategic Planning committee. After a reminder at the board meeting 10 total board members responded.
- Took maps back to the PA DEP Wilkes-Barre BAMR office. All maps were scanned in this office. Picked up maps at the PA DEP Franklin Warehouse the next day. These maps are dirty, so a cleaning session with brushes, gloves and face masks will be needed each time these maps are picked up. [MSI]
- Cleaned up the office after cataloging the PA DEP Franklin Warehouse maps. Lots more dust and dirt... Replaced overhead lights in 2 offices while in the maintenance mood.
- Worked on a proposal to sample AMD sludge for a local coal company with Executive Director.
- Attended a retirement party for Jackie Rouse, Sullivan Conservation District Manager. We also met folks from Southwest Energy that were interested in a project at "Mine Acid A" (aka Connells B Vein Tunnel). Stopped by the Sullivan County Historical Society to look for mine maps and documents. Didn't find any maps, but found several historical advertisements which compared the semi-anthracite coal to semi-anthracite coal in the Schuylkill County.
- Sent invoices for membership to Dauphin and Lackawanna County Conservation Districts only to find out that our records were incorrect in QuickBooks. Checks were deposited back in January

to February, but were improperly recorded due to the deposit process. Deposits show up in the monthly statement from the bank as lump sums when several checks are deposited in the same transaction. Unfortunately, we were not keeping a record deposit stubs that went along with checks to the bank. Reminded those doing the deposits of our standard operating procedure (SOP) to photocopy the deposit slip before taking it to the bank and/or collate check stubs/copies intended to be deposited together so when the statement comes it will be easier to interpret the deposits. Consistency is key in accounting. Following a SOP helps.

- Aided Watershed Outreach Coordinator, Gavin Pellitteri, in submitting a grant to Patagonia.

Technical Assistance:

- Tackled an issue with the server. Troubleshoot several issues and ended up swapping out one of the RocketRAID cards since that was a typical suspect. Rolled back a few optional windows updates which fixed the error. A windows update must have made the server continually crash on startup. Learned to only install recommended updates and leave the optional ones for later unless research suggests it's needed. Manually backed up the X drive to the Y drive and the M drive to the N drive (backed up with errors). [MSI]
- Aided the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) with their GIS computer. After switching to a new computer, they were unable to get their maps to show data. They needed the sources updated in their map document (MXD) file. Downloaded transducer data from the Old Forge Borehole and changed the desiccant on the way back from the LRCA office.
- Reviewed a recommendations document prepared for the Askam AMD Treatment System by John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Watershed Specialist. Provided comments before it was sent to EC.
- Discovered a glitch in the Mocanaqua Tunnel dataset in the Stackhouse Colliery area (Shickshinny side of the river). It seems that data was 500 feet too low. It seems they based the mine elevations off the elevation of the river. In that area the elevation of the river is at about 500 feet in mean sea elevation, so the 4DVX files need to be adjusted in earthVision and veins need to be re-digitized. Began adjusting the files and drawing tunnels. [SRBC]
- Reviewed, signed and sent back a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for ESRI ArcGIS 10.5.1 and Pro 2.0. This is different from other times when we signed a blanket MOU for all Technical Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) software and hardware.
- Looked at Rausch Creek Mine Pool model and suggested some isolated dry spots within the mine to possibly inject sludge from the Rausch Creek AMD Treatment Plant. Mine maps BMSA_0126 and BMSA_0127 from the Pottsville District Mining Office were identified for further research into the proposal. [SRBC]
- Upgraded my Dell Precision M6500 laptop from ArcGIS Desktop 10.3.1 to ArcGIS Desktop 10.5.1 and installed GIS Pro 2.0 to test out their capabilities. As I found later, 10.5.1 works very slowly on my computer. Began troubleshooting to find out why.
- Georeferenced several difficult maps with ArcMap 10.5.1 to test out the new program and make sure it produced acceptable files for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Program.
- Server acting up again, researched a solution. Some articles pointed to errors on the drives and how to check for them. Found errors on the N drive (not the one crashing) and fixed them. This seemed to stabilize the weekly backups.
- Sampled the Askam Treatment System and sent results to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Georeferenced several difficult maps and conducted some quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) work for the MSI program. [MSI]
- Georeferenced OSMRE Folio maps for the Pioneer Tunnel to show subsidence potential under roads, rail, and buildings. Taught EPCAMR Past President, Ed Wytovich how to interpret map symbology and specifically how to read the maps for the Pioneer Tunnel.
- EPCAMR staff sampled the Plainsville Borehole AMD Discharge and newly planted saplings in WaterBoxx self-watering containers. [FPW]
- In correspondence with Patrick Jaquay, PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO), (mainly about cleaning of the PA DEP Franklin Warehouse maps) we found out about a new process to

make mosaics of mine maps for the MSI program. It will be counted in the digitizing work and will make viewing the maps on minemaps.psu.edu a lot easier for the general public. Mosaics will be constructed on topographic map coverage area per vein and will be a part of the next grant round. Patrick invited us to his office to be trained. [MSI]

- Researched more into the slowness of ArcGIS 10.5.1 to find that I needed to update our ArcSDE geodatabases that are stored on the server. Within that process SQL needed to be updated to at least the 2014 version. Contacted OSMRE TIPS representatives to get an ESRI program called Database Server Workgroup which was not included in the delivery of ArcGIS 10.5.1 software. Also needed special permission to install the program. [MSI]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.