



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2016 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Provided *Zakia Elliott*, PennFuture with a copy of The Mining Trio of Bills that are being considered by Congress related to abandoned mines, mine reclamation, mining schools, liability concerns, and economic development; http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/mining_package_1-pager.pdf
- *Dr. Loiuise Churner Chawla* and I provided final edits and comments to Dr. Marianne Krasny on a soon to be published book by Cornell University Press, on civic ecology practices across the world in our co-authored Chapter entitled, "*Returning Orange Waters to Blue: Reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands and Restoring Polluted Waters*"
- Followed up with *Mike Hewitt* and *Gavin Pellitteri* on a positive conversation with *Amidae Daniel*-PA Fish & Boat Commission Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Coordinator about allowing EPCAMR to become a certified **TIC** site in Northeastern PA; EPCAMR has established a partnership with the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU already for many years and they are willing to be a conservation partner on the project, the Luzerne Conservation District, and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Registered online to become an official TIC site; EPCAMR will set up a live video feed throughout the Fall of 2016 into the Summer of 2017 to show the progress and growth of the native brook trout eggs up to the fingerling size until their eventual release; <http://www.patrouinthe classroom.org/program-resources/curriculum-connections>
- Followed up with *John Dawes*-Foundation for PA Watersheds, on EPCAMR's discussions with *Congressman Barletta's and Marino's* Office Staffers to educate them on the RECLAIM Act
- Meeting with *Duane Feagley*-PA Anthracite Council and *Bobby Burns*-Keystone Anthracite to talk about upcoming issues with proposed permit fees within the Anthracite Industry in Frackville, PA
- Participated in a PAEE Directors Conference Call to receive and provide updates on Special Events to be reviewed at the upcoming PAEE Board Meeting; Reviewed PAEE 2016-2017 draft Budget
- Provided *Dave Hess*-PA Environmental Digest, with a narrative outline of our **PA DEP EE Monarchs on Minelands: Release the Butterflies Project!** for him to publish in the Weekly Digest
- Toured the new school grounds for the Bear Creek Charter School with *Paula Longo* to survey the 10-Mile Run stream for the upcoming September EartFest Educational Field Day

- EPCAMR was not able to attend the ***Art for Social Change Roundtable: A Focus on the Environment*** Meeting in Scranton due to our Board Meeting conflict; However, we were able to provide them with a powerpoint presentation of how we incorporate art into the environmental restoration work that we do in the region through the utilization of iron oxide pigment from AMD; *Maureen McGuigan*-Deputy Director of Arts and Culture for Lackawanna County will be showcasing some of our work to those able to attend
- Provided an update on AML activities in PA and HR 4456 – the RECLAIM Act and HR 3844-the BLM Foundation Act, to all partners in the *Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed* through the DRWC Listserve
- Directed *Gavin* to do some research on the POWER Plan funding that is available on the Federal level from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for economic development projects, however, Eastern PA counties don't seem to be eligible for some reason
- Directed *Gavin* and *Denise* to sign up to attend the upcoming September 2017 PA DEP EE Grant Workshop in Emmaus, PA at the Wildlands Conservancy
- Prepared an EPCAMR Letter of Recommendation and provided it to *Hank Zielenksi*-Fuels Manager-Northampton Fuels Supply Company, for the 2016 Nomination for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement "National Award and/or Good Neighbor" Award-Northampton Fuel Supply Company, Inc. Loomis Bank Operation, Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA—SMP Number 40940205; They landed an award for the Region
- Requested to be a guest blogger on PennFuture's site and prepared a written blog for publication and submitted it to *Zakia Elliott*
- United Way of Wyoming Valley made EPCAMR a community partner on their GiveGab website so that when we post volunteer opportunities they will be seen by all UWWV volunteers
- On August 2nd, EPCAMR Staff conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop for the Wonderful World of Watersheds Day Camp with **24** sponsored by PA American Water and the LRCA at the Peckville Library; On August 3rd, EPCAMR Staff conducted an in-stream Macroinvertebrate Sampling on the Lackawanna River with the campers and then identified the aquatic insects from the River

Technical Assistance

- Worked with *Mike Hewitt* to draft up a Scope of Work and Budget (**\$32,000 initially**) for the ***Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel & 3D Mine Pool Modeling Phase I & II Study*** and forwarded it along to *Andy Gavin*-Deputy Executive Director-SRBC for further review and consideration before the August 24th Commission Meeting before deciding to act on the proposal at their September 8th Meeting; EPCAMR is in partnership with AES, LLC, CSI Environmental LLC, PA DCNR Pinchot State Forest (through a State Forest Research Agreement that was also submitted to PA DCNR); Reviewed SRBC's comments and edits to our proposal and made the necessary changes and allowed AES, LLC to provide comments before resubmitting it for final review
- Continued working with *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*-Chemistry Professor at Wyoming Seminary Upper School to help her draft a final proposal request for permission to monitor photosynthetic microbial algal communities around AMD discharges with Advanced Placement students as a research project on EC property at the Askam Borehole, Hanover Township, PA and other AMD locations throughout the Wyoming Valley; Encouraged her to apply for a grant to support the project and informed her that

EPCAMR would support it in partnership with Wyoming Seminary and Wilkes University; Confirmed our support with the school with *Branden Diehl*-Foundation for PA Watersheds;
<http://pennsylvaniawatersheds.org/apply-for-a-grant/>

- Provided *Ms. Ruth Kelly*, resident of S. Wilkes-Barre, with a series of underground mine maps for around her home across from EL Meyers High School, along Carey Avenue, Carlisle, and Hanover Streets, following a research investigation into the number of maps in that area; Made a trip to her home personally to educate her on the symbology and meanings of information and mining engineering terms included on the map; Ms. Kelly is a retired EL Meyers High School Nurse who was employed during my high school career
- Directed *Gavin* to follow up with *Carol Kafer*-President of the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association and update her on his discussions with Corey Richmond-Sullivan County Conservation District and *Neal Wolfe*-Hedin Environmental about AMD treatment repairs to the ***White Ash Land Association's Tunnel A Project***; Considered having the Sullivan County Conservation District apply for a WPCAMR Quick Response grant for the project once an estimate is given by Hedin Environmental
- *Dan Pryzwara*, Land Grant Surveyors (LGS) (www.landgrantsurveyors.com) provided EPCAMR with some information on his new firm that he is working with since he moved on from LandStudies recently; EPCAMR encouraged him to become a vendor at the 2017 PA AMR Conference in Wilkes-Barre, PA in June 2017; LGS specializes in surveying, 3D scanning, modeling and aerial imaging

Community Volunteer Service Coordination

- Communicated with *Michael Rendon*-Environmental Steward Program Director of the Conservation Legacy Program in Denver, CO to assist with recruitment of two OSMRE AmeriCorps positions with EPCAMR; Revised a draft volunteer job description for both the Education and GIS position; *Emma Savely*-Program Assistant for Environmental Stewards, will be sending along approved applicants with their resumes, cover letters, and other documentation for consideration over the coming weeks ahead; Reviewed *Rachel Grube* and *Abbie Keefe's* resume and requested that they come in for an interview; Reviewed *Robert James's* resume and scheduled him for an interview as well
- Completed paperwork and an agency Intake Form to continue to participate in the Federal Community-based Work Study Program that would allow King's College students to work with EPCAMR and forwarded it to *Maura Modrovsky*-Community Outreach Coordinator, Shoal Center-King's College for approval
- *Nicholas McDonald*, Keystone College student from Clarks Summit, PA signed up through MailChimp to become an EPCAMR Volunteer; Suggested he contact the LRCA since he was much closer to them in the Lackawanna Valley
- *Tim Gregory*, Carbondale, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer through MailChimp and is interested in future cleanup events
- Completed *Jason Laboranti's* Final Evaluation of his 2016 Summer Internship with EPCAMR and submitted it to *Dr. John Bodeman*, Bloomsburg University in order for him to receive his grade
- *Robert James*, Nanticoke, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer through MailChimp

Project Coordination

- Reached out to Shawn Frye-Blaschak Coal Company to see if they would be interested in donating the **Centralia Cleanup Project** in the Fall 2016 to cover some expenses; Skip Stuart mailed a donation in towards the Cleanup; *Charles Connell*, a 75-year old gentlemen and EPCAMR Volunteer confirmed his attendance at the September 24th event and also made a donation online; Coordinated some calls to partners who will be assisting with the cleanup including *Tom Hynoski*-Fire Chief of Centralia and *Keith Mostik*-Mostik Bros. Hauling and Disposal in Mt. Carmel; Worked with Mike to turn a flyer we created for the event into a PDF and poster image file; *Willis Bretz*, a portrait photographer, based out of Washington DC, was interested in talking with former and current residents to set up a photoshoot with them, however, after talking with many residents on his behalf, they were not inclined to have their pictures taken; www.willisbretz.com
- Followed up with *Tim Connelly*, Tetra-Tech Engineering Civil Senior Engineer, to discuss revising the narrative, budget, and Scope of Work for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's recent PA DCED Grant for **\$100,000** written and submitted by EPCAMR as a partner for the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation**; Attended a meeting with Senator *John Yudichak*, his Staff, and representatives from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to update them on the status of the project and the concerns over the lack of movement on the adjacent parcel by the PA DEP on the remediation of the soil contamination from the demolition of the Huber Breaker by Paselo Logistics back in April of 2014; Provided *Mark Grochocki*-District Director for Yudichak's Office, with *Melanie Kessler's* information, who is the Economic Development Analyst-PA DCED, in charge of administering the grant; Provided the HBPS Board and *Andy Friefeld*, EPCAMR Park Development Coordinator Intern with additional information on the bidding requirements under the PA DCED Grant and the draft budget; Met with *Christine Dettore*- Regional Advisor-PA DCNR to discuss the project with her for future consideration of other funds, including the Pocono Land & Water Conservation Landscape Initiative, being administered by PEC NE Region
- Applied to the PA F&BC for additional Rods, Reels, and Tackle supplies through Walt Dietz-PA F& BC NE/SE Education and Outreach Coordinator, since EPCAMR is an approved **Fishing & Tackle Loaner Program** Site in the Northeast; Completed a requisition for educational supplies and submitted it
- Sought a formal response from the Grants Center through our PA DEP Project Manager-Gregg Davis, as to whether or not our request for an extension on the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction** grant through June 30, 2017
- Received the results of the fish electroshocking survey with *Gabby Zawacki*, completed by the EPCAMR Staff, TU Staff, and *Joe Simons*, volunteer with the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU from *Kathleen Lavelle* to be added to our **Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Plan** watershed assessment that will be soon submitted to *Tali MacArthur*-PA Trout Unlimited; TU made a plan to go back out with EPCAMR to complete a culvert assessment in the Laurel Run watershed as an additional Appendix to the Laurel Run CHP; Provided Gabby with several dozen photos from the electroshocking survey to include in the report appendix; Reviewed the final draft of the plan to be submitted to PA Trout Unlimited following making comments and edits to Gabby's draft
- Followed up with *James Young*-Larson Design Group on our **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project** to see whether or not they are interested in contracting with EPCAMR to complete the E & S Plan Submission and the Waiver Restoration; There are a few issues that remain now that the section of stream has been redesignated as a Wild Trout Stream in July 2016 that could create some hurdles in the permitting approval process that we didn't have prior to the designation; EPCAMR is working with *Ben Lorson*-PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA DEP in Harrisburg to address those concerns before we can complete the two remaining items above

before going to construction; Ben forwarded EPCAMR a Dam Removal Authorization Checklist; Met with John Levitsky-Luzerne Conservation District and Gavin at the site to evaluate the flora and fauna on either side of the streambank to make a recommendation for an improved seed mix for the area and forwarded our recommendations to *Jeff Boyer*-River Logic Solutions who incorporated it into the updated E & S Plan; Submitted an Invoice to the PA F&BC Comptroller's Office for the PPL Utility Pole Deepening

- Completed and submitted all documentation, budget reports, receipts, in-kind reports, and narrative reports to *Lori Mann*-NAAEE for our Phase I Reimbursement of **\$5000** towards the ***PAEE EE Capacity Project***; Signed up for SurveyMonkey for Phase II of our Project with EE Capacity to utilize to develop a professional development survey of Environmental Educators across PA in both traditional and non-traditional settings in partnership with PA DCNR Jennings Environmental Education Center Staff; Forwarded the username and password to Jennings Staff to enter the backend of the site to create the survey and provided edits and comments to *Miranda Crotsley*-PA DCNR, before the completion of the development of the survey questions
- Compiled a database list of potential “green infrastructure” best management plans and projects for the City of Wilkes-Barre and submitted them to Emily West-LandStudies, who is updating the comprehensive list for the eventual Green Infrastructure Plan being developed for the City under a ***NFWF Stormwater Technical Assistance Grant***; Gabby provided Emily with some MS4 recommendations for the Laurel Run sub-watershed of Mill Creek; Provided Emily with a link to the City Parks and the wards that they are located in around Wilkes-Barre; <http://wilkes-barre.city/parks/>; Completed a GIS Data Request Form for Luzerne County, submitted it to *Dave Skoronski*-GIS Department, and entered into a reciprocal agreement with the County to provide them with any new data developed during the course of our project with the City of Wilkes-Barre and LandStudies; EPCAMR is looking to see if the City can provide the tax parcel data to LandStudies to identify property owners and acreages; Reviewed Site #1 Construction Plans provided by LandStudies for the proposed bio-retention area in the City
- EPCAMR sent a letter to US EPA Administrator *Gina McCarthy* to help save monarchs by encouraging her to revoke EPA's approval of Dow's next-generation toxic weed killer, Enlist Duo, a powerful herbicide that is on the market as a part of our ***PA DEP EE Monarchs on Minelands: Release the Butterflies! Project***; Forwarded *Denise* book covers for around a dozen resource books on Monarchs that we'll probably purchase should funds remain in the grant; Met at the PA DCNR Nescopeck State, with *Diane Madl*-EE Specialist and her EE Staff to discuss the possible use of the demonstration butterfly garden Monarch Waystation for a second field trip for the W-B STEM students; Met with *Mr. Shimko*, EL Meyers High School to drop off swamp milkweed plants to his class for their cats
- Facilitated a meeting of many partners related to a potential large culm bank reclamation project at the former Harry E. Colliery on the ***Harry E. Banks Reclamation Project***, Swoyersville Borough, Luzerne County, PA with Olympus Power, Northampton Fuels Supply, Panther Creek Partners, PA DEP BAMR, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, Swoyersville Borough Council, Swoyersville Mayor, Planning Commission, Code Enforcement, and State Representative *Aaron Kaufer's* Office; Met on-site to discuss the future direction of the project; Project could become a Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC) or a potential RECLAIM-like economic development AML Project for 2017; 4.4 million cubic yards of waste material could be removed and reclaimed that would generate a long-term fuel source for the Co-Gen Industry; Provided *Representative Kaufer* with documents on the RECLAIM Act and other related AML topics

- Worked with *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District to develop a comprehensive ***Feasibility Study Proposal for the Plainsville AMD Borehole*** discharge in Plains Township; Obtained approval his District Board to pursue funding sources for the monitoring plan in partnership with EPCAMR; John met with Plains Township Board of Commissioners to gain their support and update them on our efforts to set up a monitoring station on the property with the permission of *Mr. Greg Price*; Obtained an iron oxide core sediment with total metals and PCB sampling quote from *Jeff Gittleman*, Hawk Mountain Labs for future reference

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Provided *Liz Rosser*-PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Program Coordinator with an electronic PDF version of the two presentations on EPCAMR Volunteer Opportunities and AMD Remediation and Reclamation that I had given at the Master Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Workshop hosted by EPCAMR in July
- Posted all of the PA AMR Conference presentations from 2016 on the website hosted by EPCAMR; <http://2016.treatminewater.com/presentations/> ; As the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee was looking into future fundraising ideas for 2017, EPCAMR forwarded them the Small Games of Chance License Application for PA Non-Profits; http://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforBusinesses/Documents/Small%20Games%20of%20Chance/sgoc_overview.pdf ; Informed the Committee that Mike and I were obtaining quotes from Mohegun Sun, The Woodlands Inn, Best Western at Genetti's, and the Hylton in Scranton for next year's Conference in June 2017
- Submitted my presentation and summary for the ***4th Annual Delaware River Watershed Coalition Forum*** entitled, "*Climate Resilience in Abandoned Mine Reclamation and National Efforts Under the RECLAIM Act to Support Economic Changes*"; I'll highlight the discussion around climate change and resilience related to abandoned mine land reclamation and AMD remediation in PA and throughout the coal-impacted communities within the Delaware River Watershed; I'll also give an update on EPCAMR's work through the PA Abandoned Mine Land Campaign and our national partners in other Appalachian States to gain support for the national RECLAIM Act to provide environmental restoration and reclamation-related jobs to coalfield communities throughout Appalachia that will promote economic development and water quality improvement projects to our historic mining impacted watersheds, including the Upper Lehigh River and the Schuylkill River Headwaters
- Mike and I attended an August 10th ***TIC Teacher Workshop*** in Benner Springs, PA at the Fish Hatchery, to become more familiar with the curriculum, operation and maintenance of the fish tank. and opportunities for future funding to continue the program; Provided Stanley Cooper Chapter TU with a budget for the costs to operate the tank to raise the trout and they were deliberating on making a donation towards the cost at an upcoming Fall Meeting

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Created the August 2016 EPCAMR Staff Agenda and sent along to Staff
- Completed the June 2016 monthly close-out report for PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report
- Updated our QuickBooks for Non-Profits software package
- Met with *Mike Bodnar*- Bodnar Engineering to discuss future opportunities for his small firm to get involved in EPCAMR Projects related to AMD or AML
- Provided *Amy Saraka*, Member of the Newport Township Crime watch Organization (NTCO) with a fillable PDF document of the ARIPPA EPCAMR/WPCAMR Mini-Grant AML Application to be filled out, completed, and returned to EPCAMR; Forwarded the 2016 Mini-Grant Award amounts to *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR to announce at the ARIPPA Tech Symposium; <http://epcamr.org/home/2016/epcamr-awards-4-mini-grants-2016-thanks-2500-arippa-donation/>
- Received a quote from *Ken Walker*-Walker Supply Company on a 44" SureColor T7270 Printer after some concerns about the continuous maintenance on the EPSON DeskJet 44" Plotter that EPCAMR has had for nearly a decade
- Attended and presented at the EPCAMR Board Quarterly Meeting on August 18th at the Luzerne Conservation District; Filed *John Welsh*'s resume (<http://www.johnwelshphotography.com/about/>) with EPCAMR who was nominated as an incoming new Board Member; *Mike Korb*-Senior Mining Engineer for Tetra-Tech (<http://tetrattech.com/>), was also appointed to the Board and nominated to become the Vice President, should he choose to accept the position
- Met with Advanced Business Solutions to obtain a quote for a new plotter