



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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August 2017 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Presented an Environmental Education & Outreach and AMD Tie Dye event with **24** teachers under the direction of *Elizabeth Thorpe*, PA Student Leadership Coordinator, from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Centralia, PA on August 8th as a part of a teacher training program
- EPCAMR Staff conducted an Environmental Education & Outreach Program for **24** youth from the **PA American Water Summer Camp Program** in the Lackawanna Valley at the Peckville Library about macros, macro sampling, fish, the health of the Lackawanna River, and how to create AMD Tie Dye T-shirts at the request of the LRCA on August 1st in the Lackawanna River
- Directed *Abbie* to help publicize a cleanup event for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society through our August newsletter and the dedication ceremony event for the PHMC Historical Marker on September 4th; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/volunteers-needed-at-memorial-site-1.2225788>
- Followed up with *Dr. Jessica Nolan*, University of Scranton, Director of the Environmental Studies concentration, who is interested in bringing the Centralia Documentary to the University; EPCAMR will have to follow up directly with Joe Sapienza to see if that is a possibility over the Fall
- Completed a phone interview with *Donna Morelli*-Chesapeake Bay Journal writer who was writing a story on EPCAMR recent completed project with the City of Wilkes-Barre and LandStudies, Inc. under the NFWF Technical Assistance Stormwater Management Grant on the Green Infrastructure Plan we developed that will appear in the Bay Journal
- Reviewed PA AML Pilot Projects for 2016 as well as other projects in West Virginia and Kentucky with PA AML Campaign members and the National RECLAIM working group; The biggest problem with the list is the lack of details about the projects; Costs, benefits, additional sources of funding, stakeholder collaboration requirements met, timelines, etc. are still largely unknown
- Provided *Dr. Marianne Krasny*-Cornell University, with potential locations to display the upcoming SESYNC book that is being published by Cornell University Press where a chapter is co-authored by the EPCAMR Executive Director about his individual experiences growing up in the coal region

- Followed up with Beth Berkhauser, www.hexagonproject.org and discussed having her meet with Mrs. *Michele Kordek* at Greater Nanticoke Area School District to see if they are interested in incorporating using the hexagon AMD/Art project as an introductory program to demonstrate knowledge and as an assessment/evaluation tool to connect them with the international project; Her partner, *Melissa* also plans to tweak the AMD/Iron Oxide Unit Plan that all three of us having been working to create as a curriculum to be used regionally in the school systems throughout the Coalfields
- Talked with *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Wyoming Seminary Upper School Advanced Environmental Science Professor about incorporating EPCAMR's work into her students Founder's Day presentation in the Fall 2017; EPCAMR Executive Director will take the students on a watershed tour and a visit through the EPCAMR Technical Assistance Center at our Office to provide a review of our work in the region; Discussions by the students will be on the environmental legacy of coal and what is being done to restore mining impacted lands and rivers and streams that are polluted by abandoned mine drainage (AMD); Introduced her to *Beth Berkhauser* and her Hexagon Project because *Dr. Nerozzi* is also an artist who has created artwork with EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment
- Reviewed the August draft EPCAMR Newsletter produced by *Abbie Keefe*-OSMRE AmeriCorps Volunteer, with help from Mike and the Executive Director before sending out to our mailing list and Board Members

Technical Assistance

- Provided the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with the proper information that needed to be put into a document on HBPS Letterhead related to a Vendor Statement on the selection process for the contractual work on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley, PA; This letter signed by Ray Clarke allowed for the payment process of invoices to continue to move forward so that Tetra Tech and others can be paid
- Provided comments to *Ed McCrea*, PAEE on a draft Financial Procedures document
- Reviewed responses from *John Stefanko*, PA DEP Deputy Secretary, Active and Abandoned Mine Operations, on draft comments submitted for the PA Environmental Good Samaritan Act amendment document sent to EPCAMR by Anne Daymut-WPCAMR
- Met with City of Wilkes-Barre Officials and a local resident, *Terry Schwiotz*, to explain to her the benefits of the W. Ross/W. River Street Green Infrastructure Infiltration Trench Project that was constructed as a part of our NFWF Stormwater Technical Assistance Grant with the City and LandStudies, Inc.; Sent pictures to *Laurel Etter*-LandStudies for their submission of the Final Grant Report to NFWF
- Reviewed EPCAMR's Summer Watershed Outreach Intern, *Spencer Zuraski's* John Kaminski Scholarship Application essay to provide him with some technical assistance and critique of the document to help him improve his chances of obtaining a scholarship from the PA Anthracite Section-SME

- Conducted a phone interview with *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR for her upcoming survey results compilation of abandoned mine reclamation community groups comments and responses related to AMD and AML progress in PA; The presentation is anticipated to be presented at the NAAMLPA Conference in Lexington, KY in September 2017; Shared the link to the survey online and through our EPCAMR Social Media outlets
- Provided some technical assistance and mine map symbology interpretation to *David Brocca*, the Director of the Knox Mine Disaster documentary that is nearly complete; A general rule of thumb for numbers: If they come in a 00-00-00 format, they are typically dates; They represent the progression of mining at different times; The "s" could also mean stop or surveyed; The maps were originally on linen and were constantly being added to with pencil, then pen; The pencil was a planned course, while the pen was the "final" course; Sometimes these are hard to distinguish on a copy of a copy of a copy; For a number found near a point with a circle around it (survey mark): If it has a 10th, it's usually a floor elevation; The other number has to do with linear distance from some starting point (usually an entrance); It was used in correspondence with the dip to calculate the elevation; For numbers near a bullseye (borehole) symbol, there will be a B.H. number (corresponds to a book somewhere with a stratigraphic column) and a short listing of significant layers and thicknesses; Other symbols include a "v" for vein followed by a number which represents the thickness in feet and "c" for extractable coal thickness in feet;
www.knoxminedisaster.com
- *Spencer Zuraski* informed *Phil Thomas-Trout Unlimited* that several EPCAMR Staff and volunteers have completed the Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Protocol Certification and have surveyed and assessed 20 culverts in the surrounding Wyoming Valley watersheds over the Summer; Continued to assess stream culverts in the Abraham Creek Watershed for the Coldwater Conservation Heritage Plan EPCAMR is working on
- Provided *Kristin Sweeney*-PA Anthracite Section SME member, with EPCAMR's contact information for *Zach Laubach*-Commonwealth Equipment, Ashley, PA to see if they were interested in sending a representative to an upcoming August 24th SME Meeting and PADOT Alkali Silica Reaction Talk
- Began working on a NFWF Technical Assistance Grant Application with *Dr. Aaron Clauser*- Clauser Environmental, LLC (www.clauserenvironmental.com) for a Green Infrastructure planning/design grant up to **\$50,000** for some small culvert replacement projects within the City of Wilkes-Barre; Uploaded a Capability Statement to our draft grant application online through NFWF that was obtained from *Dr. Clauser*; Obtained a Letter of Support from the City of Wilkes-Barre in preparation of submitting the grant in mid-September 2017; Forwarded him some previous work that we completed with LandStudies, Inc. on an earlier NFWF Technical Assistance Grant; <http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Pages/tcqp2017rfp.aspx>
- Provided *Dr. Elizabeth Hughes*, Earth Conservancy, with several reports and documents that list the types of AMD parameters that have been historically monitored in the Nanticoke Creek watershed
- Worked with *Mike* to complete a Professional Services Contract Proposal for Pagnotti Enterprises to sample 100 AMD discharges in the Anthracite Region at the request of *James Pagnotti*; Submitted the proposal for his review

- Communicated with *Mark Malach*, Civil Engineer Manager-PA DEP, about EPCAMR's willingness to assist Ashley Borough with seeking and applying for funds to help to alleviate flooding and stormwater issues with Sulfur Run that is a mining impacted tributary to the Solomon Creek watershed within the municipality; Provided Mark with a copy of our previously submitted Growing Greener Grant from 2015 that was not funded; EPCAMR was approached by a Ashley Borough Councilman, *Gerry Maldonado* to follow up with the PA DEP on projects and assessments we've completed in the watershed over the years and the Executive Director even researched and prioritized several funding options for the Borough and provided a list to the Borough Manager, *Mr. Greg Gulick* for his review; EPCAMR realizes that Ashley Borough needs to become a Project Sponsor before any movement on the Sulfur Run project gains traction

Project Coordination

- Authorized the placement of \$30 into the Other Budget category in our PA DEP EE Grant for our ***Plainsville AMD EE STEM Outreach*** Program with the 6th grade Plains-Solomon Elementary students in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District; Prepared the upfront working capital advance for the **\$3000** in funds to implement the program and forwarded it to *Ann Devine*, Project Officer on August 9th which was immediately approved and sent for payment
- Informed *Ben Lorson*, PA F&BC Project Officer that EPCAMR had submitted the Invoices and Progress Reports through the 22nd of August 2017, to the Office of the Comptroller for reimbursement for Construction expenses and EPCAMR Program Administration and Oversight of the ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project***; EPCAMR Staff attended a field trip to the site for a stream-side cleanup and to obtain a flow measurement above and below the project area with our interns *Josh Rinehimer* and *Spencer Zuraski*
- Informed *Ryan Cherwinski*, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) that EPCAMR would be awarding them a **\$1193** ARIPPA Mini-grant to cover the costs of new signage at the Site 15 AMD Treatment System for the Corbin Mine Drift along State Route 901
- Informed *Bernie McGurl*, Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) that EPCAMR would be awarding them a **\$507** ARIPPA Mini-grant to cover the costs of a set of pre-cast concrete steps to be installed at the Old Forge AMD Borehole location along the steep streambank in Old Forge
- Informed the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association (MCWA) that EPCAMR would be awarding them an **\$800** ARIPPA Mini-grant to go towards the costs of limestone sand to be placed along the banks of Red Brook Run in the headwaters of the Mehoopany Creek watershed near Coal Bed Swamp on State Game Lands 57
- Provided the list of award winning organizations for the ***2017 ARIPPA/EPCAMR Mini-Grant AMD/AML Awards*** to *Cristy Doyle*, ARIPPA prior to the ARIPPA Technical Symposium in Harrisburg that EPCAMR Executive Director attended to make the announcement of the awards and the projects; Forwarded her a Powerpoint presentation created by *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR and myself to showcase some photos of the winning organizations about their projects

- Forwarded change order documents from Neal-Lynn Contracting for the installation of the 6 lights in the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley, PA; Documents were sent by Tetra-Tech through EPCAMR to get to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- Reviewed the Mocanaqua Tunnel 3D Mine Mapping Progress Report and Invoice prepared by Mike that was submitted to SRBC to update them on the progress with the 3D Modeling and Mapping of the project area in the southern Wyoming Valley; Informed *Pierra MacCoy*, and *Tom Clark*, SRBC, that AES would be putting together a Progress Report on their work and submitting it to EPCAMR that will be forwarded for reimbursement to SRBC; Received AES's Invoice from *Brad Domitrovitsch*-President and will be filing it with the next quarter report to SRBC
- Forwarded several photos to *Spencer Zuraski*-EPCAMR Summer Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern to sort and organize from areas around the Abraham Creek Watershed where the EPCAMR Staff was conducting culvert assessments as a part of the Coldwater Conservation
- Called *Len Brown*, the CFO from Highland Manor Associates, in Cherry Hill, NJ to inform him of the update on the extension to the grant and the anticipated Pre-Bid Showing in early September 2017; EPCAMR has asked if we could use the rear of the parking lot for a few hours to walk the channel with the prospective contractors and access; Provided Mike Lower with the signed landowner agreement form only to find out from *Len Brown* that they had sold the property to a new company; EPCAMR had to now make contact with the new Administrator of Highland Manor Association; EPCAMR reviewed the Bid Package and everything looked to be in order except for the Bid Showing Date, which will now have to be changed until I hear back from the new Administrator if it's ok to utilize the area; Asked Mike if we needed to coordinate with Exeter Borough or the Borough Engineer to review the Bid Package; Followed up with Mike to see how he made out with the PA DEP on the PA SPGP-4 revision to the PA SPPG-5 and the request for a PA DEP Permit extension beyond December 31, 2017; The new project extension is June 30, 2018 that was provided by the DEP Growing Greener Grants Center
- Executive Director prepared and submitted another **\$5000** grant to Community Aid, Inc. for continuation of our ***annual Cleaning Up Our Anthracite Lands & Streams (COALS) Illegal Dumping Program***
- Worked with *Denise Hernandez*, Urban Watershed Outreach Specialist to close out EPCAMR's ***Monarchs on Minelands PA DEP EE Grant***; A few items were needed to send down to *Ann Devine*, PA DEP EE Grants Program to close out the grant
- Worked with *Gavin Pellitteri*, Watershed Outreach Specialist to prepare a ***NFWF-Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program*** grant focused on aquatic connectivity of trout streams in the EPCAMR Region, technical assistance to local municipalities and aquatic organism passage (AOP) protocol training to volunteers and local Trout Unlimited Chapters; Sent a survey to *Gavin* to complete on the application process at the request of the NFWF program once we received our complete application proposal number (#58524)
- EPCAMR Staff attended the unveiling of the Pioneer Tunnel Headframe PA AML Pilot Project in Ashland, PA at the Pioneer Tunnel Museum

- EPCAMR Staff went to the Franklin Warehouse to clean off old PA DEP BAMR Mine Maps that will be scanned under the MSI Program

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Directed *Nick Avery*, a Master's student in Non-Profit Management at Wilkes University to seek out Don Kane, Jr. from the HPBS to help with the cleanup within the Anthracite Region's Huber Miner's Memorial Park
- Forwarded the flyer on the upcoming October 21st **4th Annual Centralia Cleanup** to *Megan Boone-Valkenburg* to pass around to the University students interested in attending; Sent the flyer around to the Columbia, Northumberland, and Schuylkill County Conservation Districts as well as the Pioneer Tunnel Museum in Ashland to help with promoting the event
- *Spencer Zuraski*, Mansfield, PA signed up to become an official EPCAMR volunteer following his internship with EPCAMR for the Summer 2017
- LOWE's delivery of cleanup supplies for the **4th Annual Cleanup Centralia Cleanup** was dropped off for the upcoming October 23rd EPCAMR sponsored event
- Met with *Parika Mehta*, a volunteer photographer, from the Downingtown area, who travelled to the EPCAMR Region to take a tour with the Executive Director to some AMD sites in the southern Wyoming Valley for the **Give A Shot Campaign** to help EPCAMR with some of our outreach
- Followed up with *Matt Williams*, Back Mountain, PA who is interested in working with EPCAMR on coming up with an Eagle Scout Project at the **Solomon Creek Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project** location in Ashley Borough; Waiting to hear back from him to see when we could meet at the site or the EPCAMR Office in the Fall
- EPCAMR was informed that *Abbie Keefe's* and *Rachael Grube's* volunteer Watershed Stewardship Volunteer positions through OSMRE/AmeriCorps were funded with EPCAMR serving as the host and sponsor for the two of them once again for their second year of community service
- *Emily Sandly*, Keystone College student, Scranton, PA, signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and is a Penn-State Master Watershed Steward

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Participated in the 2018 PA AMR Conference Planning Committee Conference Call to begin developing a program for the **20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference** in State College, PA at the Ramada Inn Conference Center June 20-21st, 2018; Wrapped up our evaluation of the June 2017 Conference at the Best Western Plus-Genetti's Hotel in Wilkes-Barre
- Reviewed and provided comments to *Anne Daymut's* draft letter to NAAMLPA regarding our PA AMR Conference Planning Committee's desire to be a partner in the 2019 Conference in Pittsburgh
- Completed the US EPA Region 3, Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable sponsored, Online Webinar on **Heavy Metals-Mining Site Characterization and Treatment Session 3**; <https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/FRTRSummer17-3/>; Received a Certificate of Participation for completing each of the 3 webinars for professional development
- Inquired as to whether or not there was any scholarship assistance for the EPCAMR Staff to attend the **Transforming Appalachia Conference** in Pittsburgh in October 2017; www.arc.gov/conference A reply was given that there was no scholarships provided or comped tickets to attend the event for non-profits, which was really unfortunate that it was priced out of even having those that desired to attend not be able to afford to attend it when we are a regional non-profit technical assistance and educational provider in Appalachia

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to OneSource; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Followed up with the EITC Program to find out the status of our renewal application as a qualified educational improvement organization so that we could receive donations from industry and corporations to assist with our environmental education programs across the EPCAMR Region; Directed *Denise Hernandez*, our Urban Outreach Specialist to follow up directly with *Nicholas Odata*, our assigned Analyst to find out what the hold up is with our renewal
- Provided *Nora Loehle*, from the Heinrich Boll Foundation with several small receipts that the Foundation was willing to reimburse for the recent *Timon Wenhert* International Guest Speaking Engagement at Wilkes University
- Met with the Auditor from the State Worker's Insurance Fund Program to review our books and payroll reports; EPCAMR was able to close out our 2016-2017 payroll audit following the visit
- Sent an agenda to *George Ellis*, ARIPPA Executive Director to see if he was interested in attending our 3rd Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting on August 17th at the EPCAMR Office; Convened the EPCAMR Board Meeting
- Requested annual costs from *Tammy Monahan*-OneSource for our 2018 draft EPCAMR Budget for payroll costs, quarterlies, and annual tax filings

- Interviewed and brought on *Llywellyn Westrick*, an Environmental Studies/Geography Senior from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA for a Fall 2017 Watershed Outreach Work Study Internship; <http://epcamr.org/home/2017/epcamr-brings-llywellyn-westrick-kings-college-senior-fall-work-study-internship/>
- EPCAMR Executive Director signed up to attend Master Classes for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Annual Non-Profit Institute & Philanthropy Forum at Wilkes University on October 12-13th for Executive Directors of regional non-profit organizations to experience a mix of professional development and networking, learning tools and resources; Obtained a discounted annual membership; Sponsored by the AFP NE PA Chapter, Wilkes University, and Dawe Consulting; <http://conference.afpnepa.org>
- EPCAMR Program Manager and Executive Director continue to review and compile results of our Strategic Planning Update Survey that had been sent out to all EPCAMR Board Members for completion; Hoping to have a Summary Document at our November Quarterly Meeting with a solid percentage of participation from our Board
- EPCAMR Program Manager and Executive Director attended *Jacquie Rouse's* Retirement Luncheon at the Sullivan County Conservation District who will be officially retiring after 40 years; Jacquie has been a long-standing EPCAMR Board Member, supporter of our work, and partner on all AMD and AML projects in Sullivan County
- Received a resume from *Alexis McDermott*, Bloomsburg University student, Bloomsburg, PA who may be interested in a Spring 2018 Internship with EPCAMR; She met EPCAMR Staff at the Peckville PA American Water Camp where we created AMD Tie-Dye t-shirts for the youth camp along with our partner, the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA)
- Completed *Josh Rinehimer's* Summer Watershed Internship Evaluation with *Dr. John Bodeman* from Bloomsburg University
- Attended the PA Anthracite Section SME Board Meeting in Hazleton, PA at the Top of the 80's