



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### August 2025 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. Continued QA/QC of **HU's** Western Middle Anthracite Mosaic work.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, a monthly PKN-OAK-REP call with **SCD**, & **PA AMR Conference Committee** calls.
- Sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on Nanticoke Cr. for **EC**, 3 AMD TS, upstream, downstream on Loyalsock Creek Watershed for **LCWA & SCD**. & installed 3 transducers in Wyoming Valley with **Columbia U**.
- Updated [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com); [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); & [www.AnthraciteHistory.org](http://www.AnthraciteHistory.org); administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in an AMR Conference call.
- Continued to catalog georeferenced work in PHUMMIS for May. [MSI]
- Helped setup the first AMD Chronicles podcast for Bobby. This was one of the projects that came out of the EP/WPCAMR Joint Visioning Session.
- Caught up on AMR Conference Registrations. Made updates to [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) based off a review by Cristy from ARIPPA.
- Completed cataloging georeferenced work for June and cataloged 3 maps from May that were missing of the 52 maps that were scanned in 2014 but never cataloged. This took 6 hours alone as PHUMMIS was lagging. Sometimes it would take 30 seconds to a minute to bring up a record or search. While this doesn't seem like a lot of time, multiply that by 133+ records that needed to be updated. 133 minutes is 2.2 hours just waiting for the database. Asked Patrick for additional time to add the Industrial Archives Library (IAL) scanned maps and those 52 to PHUMMIS. I plan to train interns to catalog maps after they scan them.
- Took the day off to help family as services for my stepfather were being organized.
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in weekly AML Calls.
- Walked in to a message in the Google Admin Console saying "Your account has been suspended. This G Suite legacy free edition account is being used for commercial purposes. You must transition to a paid Google Workspace subscription to resume using Google services." Initially I went here to add a new domain to Gmail for AML-Connect.org and setup an info email for Frank, but followed instructions to contact support and find out next steps. The AI chat said, "Your G Suite legacy free edition account has been suspended because it's being transitioned to Google Workspace. All G Suite subscriptions, including the legacy free edition, are required to transition to Google Workspace. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, you may be eligible for Google Workspace for Nonprofits, which offers the service at no charge." I thought we had already been transitioned to Google Workspace for Nonprofits. That is what our subscription information indicated. There was information saying we needed to verify our

organization with GoodStack. I proceeded with GoodStack and then it said the process can take up to 3 business days, if there are questions it could be up to 14 business days. Printed materials and waited for a response from GoodStack until proceeding to activate Google products.

- Processed AMR Conference registrations and followed up on questions from the committee.
- Checked the Google Admin Console and the warning message was gone. Assumed our account was verified, but haven't seen an email from Google or GoodStack.
- More follow up from Google saying they submitted my account manager request to the current administrators (which is me and another account that I have access to) and are waiting for approval. I logged into both accounts as an administrator, but there were no approval prompts. So hopefully a real person from Google can help out there. Looked into the free and discounted software available through GoodStack to gather information to discuss with other staff. Some are also available on techsoup, but some are not. For example, LinkedIn Fundraising Tools and Adobe Acrobat Pro are available for discounts. Follow up from LinkedIn showed the pricing with the discount was \$30/month paid for a full year which still seems expensive. The Adobe Acrobat Pro would only cost \$15/year which would be worth it. Frank had interest in Otter.AI which is offered at a discount from techsoup (\$41 for the first year subscription and \$29 for renewals to access 40% discount). Let him know that Bobby and I use Read.AI for free and he would compare them and let me know if he wants to proceed.
- Spoke with Bobby about Franks request for Otter.AI and Adobe software. Decided to purchase the business edition of Otter.AI for him, the Photoshop and Premiere Elements bundle and Adobe Acrobat Pro yearly subscription.
- Worked on Shick Rocky Paddy report Section 7 to help interns format the data collected in the field. Broke up some big tables into parts so they would display better printed portrait letter sized paper.
- Worked in Quickbooks to prepare the Treasurer's Report for the upcoming EPCAMR quarterly board meeting. Caught up on timesheets to bill down restricted accounts and completed the Treasurer's Report. Completed the agenda and minutes.
- EPCAMR staff hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting
- Participated in a monthly PKN-OAK-REP call to update the team on progress. Planned for field work on September 4th. Relayed important information to Bobby regarding site access. Corresponded with Eric Bella at Lehigh Engineering to answer some questions about landowner access agreements and the location for a new Oak Hill Borehole. Worked a little on mapping a site for a new Lytle Borehole. Need to research historic water level ranges of mine pools so we know how deep to place transducers. [SCD]
- Spoke with Wayne about Clinton and Tracy Air Hole AMD project. They are looking to place treatment systems, but running into issues with the landowner regarding the initial locations they chose. Asked us to help place sites maybe pump, pipe or manipulate the mine pool to change the location. Initial work can be done using 319, but if extensive, we can make a case for separate payment.
- Participated in an AMR Conference Call. Updated [www.treatmiewater.com](http://www.treatmiewater.com) website with a new PHREEQ and AMD Treat Workshop Page, added approved presentations, and updated the registration page. Processed 1/2 the registrations in my email. The registrations were coming in at a relatively steady rate only 2 months away from the conference.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Recovered a password database for Bobby that was lost by Microsoft One Drive. His computer has a 250 GB Solid State Drive to run programs (C Drive) as do many others here at the office. Unfortunately, this isn't a lot of space to store personal files. It was a choice of speed over space for the money. OneDrive was setup (not by me) to store his original files on the Microsoft Cloud when it detected he was running out of space. When it does this, it creates another copy of files on the C Drive doubling the space used (counter intuitive). I discovered a few years ago we could place a larger capacity standard hard drive in computers with the small SSDs and transfer the Desktop, Documents, Pictures and other personal files on this second internal drive to free up space on the C Drive. When I did this for Bobby a few weeks ago, I

shut down and uninstalled the One Drive app. Today we noticed the password database was missing and attempted to recover it from the One Drive, but it was asking for a Microsoft Password. I asked Bobby and he did not remember it, therefore the files were unreachable on the Microsoft Cloud. We attempted password recovery and there were issues with his iPhone not recognizing the QRcode for the authenticator app. I was able to get in using my Android phone and changed the password, but the files were no longer on the Microsoft Cloud either. Ended up recovering an older backup of the database from File History Backup on the server. Microsoft is discontinuing their 356 service which was free to nonprofits. This means we would have to start paying for the desktop programs. This all points toward the need to get away from Microsoft products. Uninstalled Microsoft Office programs from my computer which freed up ~7GB of space and kept the Libre Office programs which is merely a 10th of the size (~700MB).

- Sampled Loyalsock Upstream, Downstream, & in/out of 3 treatment systems (Connell B Vein, Connell C Vein and Gutten Drift) with Steve and Frank. [LCWA]
- Started working on preparing 4DVX files to be digitized for Bear Creek again after a break on this project. Processed cross sections 15-21 in the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR).
- Evaluated Libre Office as a PDF editor as we continue to consider transitioning from Microsoft Office products and working with Frank on converting to PDF documents for use in the Frackville Project. PDF's open in LO Draw and can be edited only in blocks which is not preferable. Copying with formatting from Adobe Acrobat Pro and pasting into LO Writer seems to work but some funny formatting comes along. Images are not brought over. Copying without formatting brings over the unformatted text only (similar to copying from a PDF opened in a web browser). Tested PDF Gear, a free program that I use at home. This program has a converter tool that allows export from PDF to DOCX or RTF format which are both readable by LO Writer. In trials on our 202 page Mine Water Resources report, the DOCX was corrupted during the export, but the RTF seemed to open nicely in LO Writer with only minimal formatting issues.
- Followed up on an email from Martin Briggs, one of the USGS scientists working on monitoring Nanticoke Creek with Earth Conservancy. He was asking for flows when they did their salt tracer June 10-13. I downloaded transducer data on July 31, the last time we were out monitoring Askam and Nanticoke Creek, and processed the data to produce a calculated flow and temperature chart as well as a table of hourly flows for the time period requested.
- Continued working on 4DVX files for Bear Creek processed cross sections 15, 20, 21, 30, and 32.
- Continued research on switching from Microsoft Office to LibreOffice. The only missing piece for me was that moving on to LibreOffice is that you can't make a connection to Google Drive. But I think I found a workaround. Downloaded Google Drive for Desktop and installed it. It basically sets up a new virtual "G Drive" in your PC list of hard drives to access/edit/delete/organize everything from the online Google Drive. The program wanted to sync my documents, photos, and all, but I don't need that. We have a server here at the office that backs up our files daily. I want to have it just sync the shared stuff on Google Drive (on the internet). You can choose to mirror the drives (makes an exact copy on your hard drive to sync when you are online) or just stream them (only works if you are connected to the internet). Streaming is the default. So I set up a new folder on one of the internal drives on my computer to use as a sync space. It only syncs things that I have edited here in Libre Office... You basically save things in Open Document Format (ODS or ODT) or Microsoft DOCX or XLSX format, and you can save and open them both online and in LibreOffice. Simple yet effective. The only problem remaining is that if someone else is editing your document in Google Docs and you edit/save it from LibreOffice, you may write over their edits. Microsoft Office uses a Real-time Presence service to avoid this, but I feel like communication with other editors would go a long way to remedy that issue. You could also have the same document open in Google Drive and in LibreOffice to see if someone is actively editing before you save in LibreOffice. Or avoid this completely and do all collaborative editing in Google Drive only.
- Continued working on 4DVX files for Bear Creek processed cross sections 34 & 36.

- Installed 3 transducers in stilling wells at South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes, Buttonwood Airshaft, and Loomis Discharges with Columbia University professor and grad students. [COLU]
- Sampled Askam Treatment System and upstream/downstream points in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed. Checked on Loomis Transducer installed earlier in the week. [EC]
- Adjusting mine pool and barrier pillar boundaries in the Repplier, Pine Knot and Thomaston collieries based on underground mine map elevations for PKN-OAK-REP project. Correspondence with team to plan a weir (or not) for the Repplier Discharge sent along recon photos and found a historic photo that showed the discharge with a "trolley line" above it (this could be the concrete slab). Took a snapshot of the Buck Mountain vein map in the area showing the detail on the rail lines. [SCD]

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.