



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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December 2017 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Reviewed the December 2017 Issue of the *Anthracite Report* from the PA Anthracite Council; Forwarded the copy to all Staff and suggested that they request to be signed up to receive a copy from *Duane Feagley*, Executive Director of our partner, the PA Anthracite Council
- Forwarded the link to *Abbie* on Rare Earth Metals exploration in Kentucky for a future social media post; EPCAMR may be asking the researchers to come to present at the 20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference in 2018 after following up with *Tom Gray*-Tetra Tech, who is working with the Department of Energy on a similar Rare Earth Metals Project; WVU, Penn-State University, and U. of Kentucky are all receiving funding from the Department of Energy; It's entirely possible to extract metals from AMD; https://www.newswise.com/doescience/?article_id=685611&returnurl=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmV3c3dpc2UuY29tL2FydGlibGVzL2xpc3Q=
- EPCAMR was mentioned in an American Energy Partners news article on our collaborative project with the SRBC and PA DCNR on the ***Mocanaqua AMD 3D Modeling of the Mine Pool Feasibility Project*** in the lower Wyoming Valley; <https://www.oilandgas360.com/seethruequity-initiates-coverage-on-american-energy-partners-inc-with-a-price-target-of-0-10/>
- Found the *Biodiversity Heritage Library*, an open-access repository for some of the most stunning images collected of life on Earth; It's made more than 2 million images of our planet's biodiversity available online for free; Anyone can explore the expansive collections, study the digitized materials, and even download the images for whatever scientific-or artistic-project you have in mind; Sent the link to the resource around to the EPCAMR Staff for future grants or technical report documentation development <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>
- Provided *Denise* the Executive Director's files and resources on Environmental Justice for her to review as she begins to develop a ***US EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Grant*** Application; Provided Denise with *Harlon Tabron's* contact information for the Living Youth Ministry at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Wilkes-Barre to see if they would be interested in becoming a partner in the grant
- Introduced EPCAMR to *Dr. Richard Stedman*, an Environmental Sociology Professor from Cornell University that works with *Dr. Marianne Krasny*; *Dr. Krasny* has invited the Executive Director up to New York in April 2018 as a Guest Speaker on EPCAMR's work in Northeastern & Northcentral PA

- Prepared a 2-page list of priority issues around AMD and water quality, nominated them, and submitted them to *Maddy Urbish*, Director for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, for consideration for 2018 under the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW), of which, EPCAMR is a member
- Reached out to *Emily Davis*, DHL Supply Chain, to see if they had any plain white t-shirts that they would like to have tie-dyed with EPCAMR's recycled AMD iron oxide pigment before they visited the area again in the Spring of 2018; EPCAMR is willing to donate the iron oxide for the activity
- Prepared a Letter to the Editor on the *RECLAIM Act* and submitted it to several local media outlets to discuss the importance of the passage of the bill in Congress, HB 1731; Jan Jarrett created a Twitter Document with contacts of legislators in PA to send out to their handles to tell them to not come home without passing the bill (#Don'tComeHomeWithoutIt); Informed member organizations of the PA AML Campaign; <http://citizensvoice.com/opinion/pass-reclaim-act-before-christmas-1.2275785>
- Provided *Mark J. Wiest*, Towanda, with dozens of electronic resources on AMD/AML throughout the EPCAMR Region at his request; Met with him in the EPCAMR Office and gave him some hard copy resources that EPCAMR had duplicates of on our shelves and provided him with a brief tour of a few AMD sites in the Wyoming Valley; Encouraged him to sign up to become an EPCAMR volunteer through our website
- EPCAMR signed on to a Sign-On Letter going to PA Senators to urge opposition to SB 799-an Act establishing the PA Clean Water Procurement Program ('BION Bill' - <https://tinyurl.com/y9ftnkkb>); Our primary concern is that the provision that allows for municipalities to seemingly be absolved of all of their PRP/clean water requirements in order to pay into a larger fund of money for clean-up to a technology which isn't approved by EPA and does very little for the Bay clean-up efforts; This poorly written bill would be detrimental to all of our work in getting PA to meet its TMDL goals; While we agree that technological innovations and public-private partnerships are an important part of meeting our state's pollution reduction obligations, this legislation, as currently written, is woefully vague and dangerous to municipalities and the overall clean-up effort
- *Mike Korb*, EPCAMR Vice President, forwarded a link to the CBT EE Mini-grant and it was forwarded around to Staff to research; <https://cbtrust.org/environmental-education-mini/>
- *Briana Button*, Community Outreach Coordinator at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA introduced herself to EPCAMR and we informed her that we would let her know of upcoming Spring/Summer/Fall 2018 events where students might have an opportunity to volunteer with our organization in the region
- Provided an AMD/AML Tour and Interview to *Renaud Dumesnil*, a NY Reporter with the European network ARTE TV on coal, abandoned mines, co-generation facilities, reclamation, environmental impacts of past mining practices in the Anthracite Region, the potential for the comeback of coal in NE PA, and the RECLAIM Act!; Provided him with background resources for the story; ARTE is the leading European TV network with 90 million viewers weekly (www.arte.tv)

- Promoted the final public screening of the “**Centralia: PA’s Lost Town**” documentary at Montgomery County Community College for *Joe Sapienza*, Director of the film; It’s where Joe began his film and television roots; <http://mc3.edu/component/content/article/9-uncategorised/10091-centralia-pennsylvania-s-lost-town>
- Received some positive correspondence from Senator *Robert P. Casey, Jr.*’s Office in regards to EPCAMR’s support for the Corporation for National and Community Service due to our partnership with them for years with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement and Conservation Legacy

Technical Assistance

- Followed up with *Heather Barone*, Environmental Project Manager for NextEra Energy Resources, LLC out of Juno Beach, Florida who will be following up with EPCAMR after the New Year to discuss what type of technical professional services that we could provide to them related to AML and GIS that they are looking for in the region for renewable energy projects; Provided her with an EPCAMR Brochure of our services and left an open invitation to visit with us and receive a tour in the Winter as we head into 2018 or wait until the Spring 2018 to set up a meeting at our EPCAMR Office with Staff
- *Essie Karnes*, President of the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association, Dauphin County, PA forwarded EPCAMR information on by-law changes that their watershed group will be making on January 15th, 2018 during their re-organization meeting; EPCAMR provided her with information on EPCAMR and our work in the watershed and with the Dauphin/Schuylkill County Conservation Districts, since she is new incoming President; Provided her with information on liability insurance through POWR since they will be implementing liability waivers for volunteers and a copy of our EPCAMR brochure
- Provided *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds with images and a GPS location for the Plainsville AMD Borehole at his request
- Forwarded a new newsletter from the NADO Research Foundation (www.nado.org) on Developing New Economies in Coalfield Communities to the EPCAMR Staff and encouraged them to subscribe to it because of a number of diverse funding sources mentioned; <https://www.nado.org/newsletter-archive-growing-stronger-economies-in-our-nations-coal-communities/>
- *Pete Horger*, a Senior at Keystone College studying Environmental Resource Management with a minor in Biology is interesting in working with EPCAMR on his Keystone Capstone Project; Pete met EPCAMR Staff at a Creekwalkers Event at Keystone College earlier in the year and a PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Workshop where the Executive Director was a guest speaker on AMD and watershed restoration opportunities; He’s looking at the water quality of the Lackawanna River or any of its tribs; His friend *Doug McCarty* completed a project with us last year at the Old Forge AMD Borehole; *Pete* is also a board member of the Lackawanna Valley TU Chapter;

Provided him with an idea to take temperature readings up and down the River above and below the Jermyn AMD Outfall all the way to the confluence with the Susquehanna River, if possible, and at incoming tributaries to see if there are thermocline differences in various areas of the River that might affect fish migration; Provided him with dozens of resources and documents on the Lackawanna River Watershed and work that EPCAMR, LRCA, and SRBC have done in the region over the last 30 years

Project Coordination

- Prepared and submitted two quarterly progress reports (*April 1 through June 30th and July 1 through September 30th, 2017*) to *Gregg Davis*, Project Officer from PA DEP BAMR for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project**; Another report will be forthcoming from October 1st through December 31st after the New Year; Provided *David Weisz*, one of the new management team leaders with a summary of the project after meeting with him and others on-site on December 7, 2017 and providing them with a rundown of where we are at with the process of trying to get a Bid Showing and eventual construction contract selected to perform the stream channel restoration on their property and am awaiting word back from their attorneys to be able to proceed and for them to sign off on a new landowner access agreement
- EPCAMR Staff travelled to the PA DEP NE Region's Franklin Warehouse to meet with *William Richards*, in Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA to return scanned maps and to pick up and catalog additional maps for the **MSI Mine Map Program** to be scanned over the Winter 2017; Reached out to *Bobby Burns*, President of Keystone Anthracite to see if EPCAMR can include his company's collection of Girard Estates Mine Maps in our next grant to the PA DEP MSI Program in February 2018 to be scanned, digitized, and geo-referenced and he agreed; EPCAMR needs to make a trip down to his Office in Gilberton to get a count on the number of maps in the Office after the New Year; Worked on the update to the GIS Technician job description with responsibilities, duties, and expectations with *Mike*
- Completed a Summary Final Report for the Foundation for PA Watershed convening grant of **\$750** that went towards hosting the *Timon Wenhert*, a German Economist, from the Wuppertal Institute, and a Panel Presentation co-hosted by EPCAMR and Wilkes University; Submitted the report to *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds
- Followed up with *Tim Altares*, PA DEP Liaison for Centralia to see if DCED has been able to sign the Keep PA Beautiful Right of Entry Form to allow for the placement of surveillance cameras in Centralia
- Forwarded *Mike* and *Gavin* some maps of proposed final contours, plans, section lines, and grades at the proposed **PA AML Pilot Swoyersville-Harry E. Bank Reclamation Project Area** and cubic yards of material to be removed and left in place provided by PA DEP BAMR; Held a meeting with Olympus Power, Panther Creek Partners, and Northampton Generating Company, on proposed contractual obligations and agreements for the anticipated project should the funding be made available through the PA DEP; Sought previously used boilerplate agreements for other PA AML Pilot Projects in Western PA from the PA DEP; *Dean Baker*, PA DEP BAMR sent EPCAMR a copy of one from the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden and the GFCC Forms

- Prepared and submitted a Progress Report and Invoice from July 1, 2017 through November 30th, 2017 to *Ben Lorson*, PA Fish & Boat Commission Project Officer, and the Comptroller's Office, for the ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Construction Project*** in Ashley Borough, Luzerne County, PA; Further discussions will be had in January 2018 on how to fix some of the minor rock movements in the stream that happened during unusually high water events just after the installations of the cross vanes; River Logic Solutions, LLC and EPCAMR will be waiting to hear from the regulatory agencies and PA DOT on how to proceed; PA Fish & Boat Commission is holding the release of the final construction payment to River Logic Solutions, LLC until we can resolve the construction issues before the Spring 2018; **\$3032.50** remains in the Construction Budget once the PA F & BC releases the last invoice total for the construction to EPCAMR for River Logic Solutions, LLC; That remaining amount was originally intended on being used for a possible planting along the lower bank and a sign for the project listing partners and an explanation of the dam removal, cross vane structures, floodplain bench, bank stabilization, and the improvements to the trout fishery on Solomon Creek
- Met with EPCAMR Staff, *Gabby* and *Rachael* to compile, scan documents, print maps, and submit the ***Upper Toby Creek CHP Grant*** to PA Council of Trout Unlimited for **\$5000**
- EPCAMR was turned down for funding from ***Patagonia's World Trout Initiative*** because of what they perceive are our organization's support of hatchery operations through TU "Trout in the Classroom."; EPCAMR Staff are preparing a response letter to clarify to Patagonia our reasoning for raising native brook trout eggs to educate underserved youth in the coal region and that we don't mix the release of the trout with Wild Trout populations in the Anthracite Region
- Followed up with the Dominion Foundation to see when they review their Letter of Inquiries since it had been nearly two months since EPCAMR's request to be able to apply for one of their ***\$50,000 EE and Stewardship*** grants

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Encouraged *Michael Pacovsky*, a student at King's College to sign up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR and to submit his application for review for a possible internship in the Spring of 2018 at the end of March 2018
- Reported EPCAMR's cleanup results from the Centralia/Big Mine Run 4th Annual Cleanup to *American Rivers* to *Ms. Lowell George*, be considered for a River Hero Award in 2018; www.AmericanRivers.org

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Requested that *Abbie* look into the www.picturemosaics.com site on pricing and how to create a poster for the ***20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference*** out of photo collections from the Coalitions or PA AMR Conference Committee organizations; Suggested that we budget at least **\$409** for the Conference Tour that we're planning as a contract fee from Cole Transportation; The entire tour route needs to be defined, in terms of timing and mileage stops round trip before we can obtain a quote; Tried reaching out to *Joan Pitzer*, WV for costs on musical entertainment or another blue-grass like band referral for the Conference; Staff began working on the draft template for the 2018 website;

Followed up with *Jay Russell*, Graymont Limestone Quarry, near Pleasant Gap, about coordinating a tour at the quarry as a stop and requested a sponsorship from them

- EPCAMR Staff, *Gabby Zawacki* and the Executive Director were asked to make a presentation on our work with the Stream Continuity efforts of the NAACC on culvert assessments in coldwater fisheries in the Coal Region to the Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited on January 9th, 2018; EPCAMR Staff were trained by *Phil Thomas* and *Kathleen Lavelle* from the Trout Unlimited Staff as Lead Observers and are now looking for additional volunteers to become trained in the protocols and stream culvert assessments. We'll talk about projects and grants that EPCAMR are working on and have proposed for working in watersheds within the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys; Requested a Letter of Support from Scott Brady, President of the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU for our ***Upper Toby's Creek Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan*** grant application to PA Council of TU that EPCAMR will be submitting this month
- Reviewed the updated "Save the Date" Cards for the **2019 NAAML/PA AMR Conference** scheduled to be in Pittsburgh, PA, September 7-12th, 2019, provided to EPCAMR and the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee by *Eric Cavazza*; There has been no decision yet on the website domain and registration process yet
- Followed up with *Dennis Pennington*, PA AIPG Section Leader to discuss further promotion and planning of the March AIPG Symposium that EPCAMR and EC will be hosting in the Anthracite Region at our Office
- Attended the PAEE Board Meeting in State College, PA to continue planning for the coordination of the March 12 & 13th, 2018 Annual PAEE Conference; www.paee.net
- Asked Denise if she was getting training webinars from www.Grants.gov; https://blog.grants.gov/2017/12/12/questions-and-answers-from-grants-govs-town-hall-webinars/?utm_source=alerts&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=applicants&utm_content=Deadline
- Provided *Cassandra Krul*, OSMRE AmeriCorps from the Pittsburgh Office with some details on sits that were visited during her Anthracite Region Tour with EPCAMR at the end of November 2017

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register; Completed payroll prior to the Holiday Weekend around Christmas and submitted it to OneSource; Met with First National Bank to place withheld funds into the EPCAMR Staff IRA Accounts
- Received and downloaded a copy of our PA Invest Statement for 11/30/2017
- Schuylkill Headwaters Association domain registration (www.schuylkillheadwaters.org) renewed on December 4th; Sent a reminder to Mike to invoice them for payment

- Completed November and December 2017 EPCAMR Board and 319 Program Progress Reports and forwarded them to Mike for the website and to be submitted later to *Donna Carnahan-Wagner*, PA DEP 319 Program Officer, along with our Request for Reimbursement; Also sent along monthly Reports from July, August, September, and October since we can retroactively bill back to July 2017 under our new PA DEP 319 Grant; Received our fully executive contract agreement from Tamara Seiler, PA DEP Management Technician, for the Grants Center (**Project Number 1722, Conservation District Mining Program East, Document #4100078980**) in the middle of December 2017 and sent down several months of request for reimbursement and our banking and routing information for ACH fund transfers to expedite the reimbursements
- Confirmed attendance via WebEx Conference Call for the **PA Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board and Reclamation, Technical, and Legislative Committee Meeting** on January 11th
- Provided *Denise* with the November 2017 EPCAMR Checking Statement in order for her to reconcile it against the Quickbooks Account
- Met with *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President, to review the merit raise adjustments and Personnel Evaluations, as well as the proposed GIS Technician position fulfillment in the MSI Program
- Informed *Mike* that we received correspondence from New Egg, one of our vendors about having to apply for our sales tax exemption with a new form in 2018 when ordering online
- Forwarded a note to *Gabby* related our Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Care Coverage on the Annual Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act Notification
- Requested that *Abbie* place a post on our social media sites before the Holidays to use our **AmazonSmile Account** to help generate some donations for EPCAMR when people make purchases and select EPCAMR as the non-profit to receive a portion of the funds from the sales;
smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2859500