December 2016 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMMR staff as they scanned 288 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 86 & digitized 46 maps for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant. QA/QC checked work. Dropped off / picked up maps from PA DEP Wilkes-Barre BAMR Office. Interviewed by Scranton Times.
- Participated in an AMR Conference call, an AML Campaign call, met and received maps from Frank Dombrowski, and reviewed a documentary called “King in the Mountain”.
- Raised brook trout in the TIC Tank, continued YouTube live video stream and testing water quality all in the name of EE.
- EPCAMMR staff worked on GIS layers for the Rausch Creek, Schuylkill Co. Mine Pool project. Sampled the Plainsville Borehole Discharge, Luzerne Co. EPCAMMR staff uploaded data to www.datashed.org.

Education, Outreach and Admin.: 

- Met with Frank Dombrowski who learned about EPCAMMR through our Facebook page. He had several maps from the Mineral Springs Colliery that he wanted scanned and interpreted. We did so and he donated a majority of the maps to EPCAMMR. The maps will be candidates for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) mine mapping grant (MMG) if other state maps do not exist for that area.
- Participated in an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) campaign call regarding the RECLAIM Act. Spoke with local representatives to show our support for the program.
- Created and shared a google photos album with Heinrich Böll Foundation and EPCAMMR staff. Wrote up captions on photos before I forgot the details and in preparation for a presentation.
- Updated grants awarded and applied for lists for the EPCAMMR board and staff. Created short codes for the individual grants for inclusion in timesheets to make it easier when billing staff time.
- Sent an email to EPCAMMR board members to gather questions for the strategic planning process. Unfortunately, only one board member replied with a few questions. It could have been timing around the holidays. Will try again next year.
- Prepared an order of Ornaments made with recycled paper and iron oxide for Susan Turkmanovich – PA American Water.
- Spoke with Joh Levitsky – LCD about the Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory System (AMLIS) and a problem area that was showing up on Shickshinny Creek. The feature was misplaced and should be on the main stem of the Susquehanna River. The feature calculates cost to treat
the AMD pollution from all upstream sources in Luzerne/Lackawanna County. Discovered several more of these problem areas with only one feature that calculates AMD pollution costs on rivers and streams throughout Pennsylvania indicated by 9000 level problem area numbers. The total costs came up to $2.6 Billion in “P2” AMD treatment projects that would be eligible for Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) Title 4 AML Trust Fund expenditures. Unfortunately, only $1.4 Billion was promised to PA in the fund.

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference call. Followed up by contacting Arielle Avashai – Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Appalachian Regional Office to see if they would help by funding the bus for the field tour.
- Update [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) WordPress and plugins. Also updated board list page and Trout in the Classroom (TIC) page to show the YouTube live feed of the tank.
- Interviewed with MSI MMG staff about the mine map processing initiative by the Scranton Times.
- Created an invoice for MSI MMG work and sent completed files on the travel drive for the month of October. Picked-up more acid-free tape for the program.
- Created an invoice for 319 Program work and sent board reports for the months of September, October and November separately. Posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org).
- After a donated vacuum cleaner broke, picked up a new vacuum cleaner at Kohl's for 50% of the listed cost.
- Reviewed the new documentary “King in the Mountain” by Dave Edwards. We were able to view a test of the video because we were in the video. He will be releasing it sometime this year and it will be an excellent feature length film.
- Updated [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) PDF order form. When the website was updated to a new theme, the form was rendered unprintable.
- Updated the TIC chemistry sampling forms to include Nitrites and Nitrates readings. Added a buffer (baking soda) to the TIC tank after some research into the Nitrogen Cycle in an attempt to improve the environment for nitrogen fixing bacteria. Research suggested that the alkalinity needs to be above 100 mg/L to start the process, then the Denitrification cycle adds alkalinity to the tank.
- Continued building the annual report for 2016 using Excel and Word.

**Technical Assistance:**

- Dismantled HP Design Jet 800 plotter and researched a fix after speaking with a local computer repair outfit in Scranton. They quickly evaluated the issue and recommended that we get rid of the plotter because parts were not available to fix it. Researched online and found a YouTube video that showed how to repair the electronics module. The company that produced the video had parts available online. Notified the local company, who stated that they do not work with other company's parts, so I decided to take a stab at fixing the plotter with the YouTube tutorial. I was able to fix it. A few days later, a sales person called from the local company to sell me a new plotter. Go figure. I asked to speak to their owner. The owner defended his staff actions. The experience seemed a bit predatory. I won’t use the company again.
- Helped MSI program staff sort out several copies and scan one good set of United States Geological Survey (USGS) coal investigation (C series) maps for the western middle and southern coalfields from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilke-Barre Office map collection.
- One of the AmeriCorps computers, the Dell Precision M6500’s monitor began blacking out. Dismantled the laptop, reseated the connections and rolled back the graphics driver. The problem was remedied. Recommended that she keep the computer on a chill pad.
- Trained Rachael Grube - AmeriCorps and Gavin Pellitteri - Watershed Outreach Specialist, how to digitize underground mined out areas, mine openings and mine elevation points. They digitized the Buck Mountain and Lykens veins in the Markson Colliery for the Rauch Creek
Project. Checked the work and instructed them to move on to more georeferenced maps of the Good Spring #1 Colliery. Sent work to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission once complete along with a listing of the stratigraphic sequence of veins in the area [SRBC].

- Sampled the Plainsville Borehole Abandoned Mine Discharge (AMD) with Gavin Pellitteri - Watershed Outreach Specialist, John Levitsky – Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) watershed Specialist and landowner Gary Price [FPW].
- Received travel drive back from PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO). Downloaded SID conversions from August and September. Aided staff with fixing about a dozen georeferenced files upon requested.
- Scanned two very delicate and gigantic surface maps for Pagnotti Enterprises. The process took several hours because of the condition of the maps. One map needed to be scanned in 3 pieces. Placed the map images on a thumb drive for transfer to their office.
- Received and reviewed a copy of “Temporal fluctuations for AMD in regard to chemistry” by Jill Burrows – Lehigh University. Although I was involved in helping her find several AMD sites in the anthracite region and asked to be updated on the progress, I was not asked to peer-review the report. I am not sure all of the conclusions were sound. I wrote up my opinions in an email to her anyway.
- Performed some quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) for the MSI MMG as there had been many mistakes going out the door. Made some internal changes and asked staff to slow down and make sure they were doing things properly. Hoping these modifications would help.
- Continued digitizing the Good Spring #1 colliery with Rachael Grube – AmeriCorps. Drew Orchard north dip and other veins above the Mammoth.
- Began photo-merging National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) aperture cards for the Mammoth and Good Spring collieries in an attempt to fill in maps that were missing from the state and the Rausch Creek Lands collections. Taught Abbie Keefe – AmeriCorps how to photo-merge since she already knows how to use Adobe Photoshop and has great attention to detail. Tried using a JPEG 2000 compression format, but TIFF format seemed to be the best (although very large). We found we could drop the DPI below 400 since the aperture cards were film taken at a fixed distance (approximately 200 DPI). One other problem is that these maps were a snapshot of mining in the 1970’s before it was complete.
- Processed over a dozen Windows updates for the server. I am always concerned with these updates since they can cause stability issues, but these updates seemed to be fine.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.