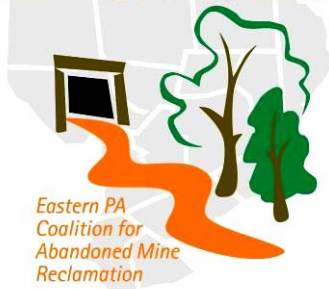


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Continued working with students, *Ms. Kordek* and *Ms. Kiwak*, Art Teachers at Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary to on classroom activities related to the **EE AMD & Pottery Art Project** with the 4th & 5th grade classes; Attended classes to begin the project; Worked with *Paul Golias*, Citizens Voice Staff Correspondent to interview the EPCAMR Staff, students, and *Ms. Kordek* for an article in the newspaper
- Attended the *FERC Scoping Meeting* at the Genetti's Best Western Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, to present EPCAMR's comments and concerns about the PennEast Pipeline proposed crossing in the Wyoming Valley beneath the Susquehanna River and underneath underground abandoned mines and mine pools that exist; Forwarded letter to Senator Baker, Senator Yudichak, and Representative Carroll; The PennEast pipeline, if approved, would be a 36-inch diameter, 108-mile long gas pipeline from Pennsylvania to New Jersey; It will use a 100-foot wide right-of-way during construction and will cross and impact the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Lehigh rivers and dozens of streams, wetlands, and forest ecosystems throughout Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania; <http://www.timesleader.com/news/local-news-news/151589871/Authority-wont-stand-for-pipeline-in-levee-area>
- Led discussions on a monthly *Choose Clean Water Coalition* Conference call; Discussed PennEast Pipeline concerns of EPCAMR's to the group
- Participated in a *PAEE Community of Learners Leadership Team* Conference call in preparation for the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting at the PAEE Conference at the Lake Raystown Resort, Entriken, PA
- Attended the *SESYNC Civic Ecology Workshop* in Annapolis, MD; Started a working draft with *Louise Chawla*, author, Professor, and researcher from the University of Colorado on an e-book chapter on Civic Ecology, entitled. "Significant Life Experiences, and Reclaiming Broken Places"
- Worked with *Chris Beeman*, GiveGab to build our online **Outdoor Environmental Education Fundraising Campaign** with a goal of **\$10,000** that would allow EPCAMR to purchase items, supplies, equipment, and a shed to continue to provide meaningful programs/events to our communities that we serve in the Coal Region; Provided e-mail lists of EPCAMR Board Members and EPCAMR Membership to engage them and encourage them to become a part of the fundraising process in addition to the EPCAMR Staff; Introduced to *Casey Keller*, Director of Customer Success from GiveGab to help us along through the process of getting the campaign off the ground
- Attended an informational meeting with *State Representative Aaron Kaufer*, Luzerne, PA to provide him with a list of environmental concerns, issues, and projects within his legislative district and to make him more aware of EPCAMR's work in the region

- Worked with Gabby and Liz on the *US EPA EE Model Grants Program* grant in the amount of **\$168,133** to provide EE to underserved school districts throughout the Wyoming Valley utilizing a similar multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates art, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into the programs proposed; Completed the narrative, Logic Model, Budget, and SF 424 Budget Form and submitted the grant; Total requested amount was **\$104,629**; A local grant and a headquarters grant was submitted by EPCAMR
- Completed a **\$5000** grant to the *PennEast Pipeline Community Grants Program* to fund EPCAMR to create some maps of the underground workings and surface mine maps and give a set of them away to adjacent municipalities along the River for free based on their municipality just for the Wyoming Valley
- Responded to a few questions from *Jeff McNelly*, ARIPPA as to whether or not the Chesapeake Bay Foundation or other groups are aware that AMD and AML damage and reclamation accomplishments upstream improve the Bay and improve the waters of the Commonwealth and other States affected by the Bay and if they are aware that accomplishments by ARIPPA plants for the last 25 years upstream improve the Bay; The first answer was yes and the second answer was somewhat
- Scheduled a *Seed Bomb Creation Activity* with Weatherly Area 6th grade students and *Mrs. Cathy Tombasco*, from Project SAGE that several of the EPCAMR Staff will be attending to create seed bombs out of native wildflowers to be utilized on future EPCAMR cleanup locations throughout the coalfields; Part of Weatherly Area's STEM Career Day; Weatherly Area School District donated 5 boxes of wildflower seeds
- Interviewed by *Erik Thiel*, student journalist, from Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke, for an article in reference to the partnership that we are building with the *Greater Nanticoke Area Community Garden* group
- Provided a NE Regional Director's Report to PAEE; Worked with EPCAMR Staff to provide a GIS layer of the 6 PAEE Regions across PA; Updated the NE Regional PAEE database with corrections and deletions; Introduced online to the members of PAEE from the NE Region and sent out an e-mail informing them of our work at EPCAMR the non-traditional EE programs that we serve throughout our service area; Discussed the upcoming PAEE Conference at Lake Raystown Resort on 3-12-15 thru the 3-15-15 and the 2016 PAEE Conference in the Poconos; Resubmitted my paperwork for final approval to be considered for the EE Certification Program to Fran Birespenn
- Provided *Haley Giannone's* Advisor, *Jeff Brunskill*, Associate Professor, at Bloomsburg University with a copy of her Internship Assignment Description along with a listing of a dozen specific projects that she'll be working on over the Summer 2015 with EPCAMR
- Completed a Skype interview about EPCAMR and our efforts to reclaim abandoned mine lands and rivers and streams impacted by AMD with *Marianne Krasny*, Professor at Cornell U. for the Civic Ecology Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) starting in April 2015; EPCAMR will be featured in the MOOC; <https://www.edx.org/course/cornellx/cornellx-envsci1500x-civic-ecology-4856#.VF0E6cIDFon>
- Requested a Field Note Book from the project "Looking at Appalachia" from *Matthew Newton*, who is coordinating the project; www.lookingatappalachia.org

Technical Assistance

- Participated in a conference call coordinated by *Kristie Fach*, Wildlands Conservancy with partners in the Hazle Creek Watershed to discuss the results of our collective yearlong monitoring and data collection at several AMD discharges as well as the further development of a Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan (QHUP) for the watershed being led by *Jim Wetzel*, Weatherly Borough Planning Commission

- Completed a **\$5000** PennEast Pipeline Community Grant application on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to request funds to support the reclamation of the Huber Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley, PA
- Searched for maps and reports that show losing and gaining reaches of the Lackawanna River, completed by NIER and Montgomery Watson years ago at the request of *Marty Gilgallon*, PG, President of PA Tectonics, Inc.
- Prepared and submitted to *John Balay*, Manager, Planning & Operations-SRBC, comments for the draft *2015-2017 Water Resources Program* for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission; Summarized comments based on EPCAMR's thorough review in support of the Plan and on recently completed collaboration opportunities EPCAMR and the SRBC have had to continue to work on together within the Basin, particularly AMD related issues; The comments serve to show the strong support that EPCAMR has for the work of the SRBC in relation to remediating AMD within the basin and our continued desire to work with the SRBC
- Obtained a copy of a 1970s *US EPA Tioga River AMD Abatement Project* that included some crude mine pool mapping of the Morris Run Basin in the Upper Tioga River Watershed, should EPCAMR consider submitting a response to the RFP from the Tioga County Conservation District to assist with a Mine Pool Study in the Northern Tier for Morris Run; EPCAMR received short notice of this opportunity and wasn't able to capitalize on having enough time to prepare a budget and response while finishing up some other higher priority projects
- Talked with *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds about submitting an LOI for a proposal to assist some Anthracite municipalities that got hit with their deficiency letters from the US EPA for the lack of a MS4 Stormwater Public Education and Outreach Plan; EPCAMR would like to tie it in to several of those that received the letter that are in need of the development of best management practices and an inventory within their municipal boundaries of their stormwater management, particularly since they are on abandoned mine lands and in areas where infiltration of stormwater is NOT the best thing to do around here, which ends up leading to more AMD to treat at various discharges around the Valley; EPCAMR would like to take the lead on developing some outreach efforts and other programs with these municipalities to make improvements to both their understanding of stormwater management, downspout disconnections, community gardens, construction of dry basins on former AML lands, and some low impact green designs; EPCAMR has the GIS Capabilities and the Staff to conduct the outreach, we're just in that rock in a hard place called the Anthracite Region, where funding is pretty hard to come by; Suggested talking with *Eric Eckl*, Water Words That Works, LLC and *Mark Gutshall*, LandStudies about the project ideas and potential funding partnerships or technical assistance
- *Laura Wilson*, a community organizer for Stop PennEast.org, was looking for information on what happens to arsenic and blasting; Referred her to some soil scientists in PA; http://papss.org/wordpress/?page_id=108
- Provided *Mike Dziak*, Earth Conservancy, with the application to Trout Unlimited for *AMD Technical Assistance* to evaluate the effectiveness of the *Askam Maelstrom Oxidizer Treatment System* on Nanticoke Creek and the Askam Boreholes
- Convened a Skype Conference call and discussion with graduate students from *Michigan Tech University* on a class project where they would like to have community organizations who are looking to use minewater geothermal for heating and cooling purposes; They have created a **Minewater Geothermal Guidebook** guide book that they would like for groups to test drive; EPCAMR followed up with *Nicolette Slagle* and provided MTU with a letter of support from EPCAMR for their application to the US EPA for additional funding for Phase II of their work
- Provided *Olivia Hanson*, Wilkes-Barre, PA with a copy of the surface mine map and underground mine map area surrounding her property in Wilkes-Barre at her request; She's now going to be obtaining Mine Subsidence Insurance
- Provided technical documentation to *Eileen Cipriani*, West Wyoming Borough Council, on the proposed PennEast Pipeline that would potentially be located within the Borough limits; She had asked for background information and EPCAMR's comments on the proposed pipeline and it's implications on the underground abandoned mines in this area of the Wyoming Valley; Provided the same documentation to *Jen Quinn*, Outreach Coordinator for the Choose Clean Water Coalition; Provided *Jim Tomaine*, WVSA Executive Director with a copy of EPCAMR's concerns with the proposed PennEast Pipeline

- Received two technical documents from *Corey Richmond*, Watershed Specialist, 319 Sullivan County Conservation District on the Loyalsock Creek Watershed related to Tunnel A AMD Treatment System Evaluation and a Biological Survey from Trout Unlimited

Project Coordination

- Received the Joint Permit Application Approval for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** on 2-4-15; Worked with our PA DEP Project Officer Gregg Davis to get an updated printout and spreadsheet of the remaining balance in the grant for construction and other budget categories for the project; Discussed the possible need for an extension letter for the project; Provided the grant balance to Skelly & Loy to give them a better idea of how much funding we had for the eventual construction costs prior to the bid packages being put together; Obtained a complete permit package for Skelly & Loy from *Harold Ash*, Exeter Borough Project Manager, for PennEastern Engineers, LLC
- Met with *Gabby* and *Liz* to finalize the *PA American Water H2O Grant* for submission; The grant will focus on the cleanup and restoration of the **Spring Run Rehabilitation and Restoration Project**, a sub-watershed within the Solomon Creek; A riparian stream corridor planting will be completed, a very large litter and tire cleanup, and outreach within the community to seek additional volunteers to participate in the efforts will be conducted
- Received the Huber AutoCad drawing file for the **Huber Miner's Memorial Park Project** from *Tim Connolly, Jr.*, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer/Project Manager for Tetra Tech, to provide to *Tom McClane* from McClane & Associates along with a quote from GreenWay Products using EcoRaster, a recycled product that can be used to create a permeable gravel parking lot construction design for the park

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; Communicated with Jennifer Brooks-Stahl, Conference Coordinator at the Ramada Inn about our contract and upon further review made the necessary corrections to it for her to make final; Awarded **\$5000** in funding from the PA DEP to support the Conference; Confirmed Michelle Dunn's presentation from Keep PA Beautiful; Requested Quote from Cole Transportation for tour bus on June 25th; Asked PAEE PA Community of Learners Leadership Team members if they would like to present; Working with various photographers for framed photos for the Conference for the silent auction; Requested that the Directors for the upcoming Knox Mine Disaster documentary consider previewing the trailer of the film at the Conference; <http://www.knoxminedisaster.com/> ; www.treatminewater.com

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Devanshi Padsala*, Plano, TX, signed up to become a virtual volunteer artist with EPCAMR; She has an interest in painting and sketching
- *Mallory Pinkowski*, Swoyersville, PA signed up through our VolunteerMatch database to become a volunteer with EPCAMR and also interviewed for a Summer Internship; She's currently a Senior at Temple University in the Geology Department and is interested in volunteering part-time as a Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern

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
- Prepared for and attended the EPCAMR Board Meeting on 2-19-2015
- Requested EPCAMR's Staple's Rewards Account Tax Exemption Number to be able to use it online
- Reactivated our Grants.gov account and administrative authorizations for Mike on the site
- Prepared a 2015 EPCAMR Annual Membership Appeal Letter and provided it to Mike to upload along with our revised membership level document for the website and to be sent along to all current members and organizations supporting EPCAMR
- EPCAMR will again be administering **\$2500** EPCAMR/ARIPPA Small Grants Program in 2015; Developed the updated grant submission package with Anne Daymut-WPCAMR and Mike-EPCAMR
- Requested Letters of Support from each of the Superintendents from Wilkes-Barre Area School District, Bear Creek Charter School, and Greater Nanticoke Area School for EPCAMR's intended submission to the PA DCED Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) to be able to continue to provide outdoor environmental education programs and future grant opportunities to each of their school districts
- Completed Probationary Evaluations for *Elizabeth Rosser* and *Gabby Zawacki*, Watershed Outreach Specialists
- Registered EPCAMR for the Computers for Learning Government Program to determine our possible eligibility for recycled computers from the Federal Government's General Services Administration (GSA)
- Obtained all clearances for EPCAMR Staff to be able to provide to schools that request them when we conduct educational programs inside or outside of the school; Forwarded the necessary clearances to Greater Nanticoke Area School District in order for our Staff to continue to work with *Mrs. Kordek* and *Mrs. Kiwak* on the AMD & Pottery Art Program with the 4th and 5th grade classes
- Reviewed the AMD Set-Aside Guidelines for public comment provided to us by *Glenn Rider*, PA DEP Bureau of Restoration & Conservation
- Purchased a 35mm slide/negative scanner due to a number of requests to have images scanned for historic documentation and archival purposes from the EPCAMR Board of past projects, photographs, presentations, and other important materials presented over the years; Purchased a new larger format black & white TOSHIBA e-studio 3206 scanner/copier for scanning larger maps (11" x 17")
- Conducted our monthly EPCAMR Staff Meeting