

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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February 2026 Month Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Conservation District Mining East 319 Program Coordination-EPCAMR

- Worked on February 2026 Monthly Report and Progress updates

Beaverbrook Hazleton Beltway Center East Reclamation Project

- Completed a budget revision with the help of Johnny Green-PA DEP BAMR with the new forms that have been recently implemented there was a bit of confusion between the budget revision worksheet and the budget category sheet; Provided a few lines for the justification of the revision and signed the document; Continued to work on the reimbursement request; Provided PA DEP BAMR a copy of our written Financial Management and Procurement Policies for EPCAMR; We had no subcontracts under the referenced subaward/grant; We had no examples of a procurement made under the referenced federal subaward/grant since there were no purchases or subcontract agreements created; Completed EPCAMR's Annual Financial Report and Final Work Progress Report to close out the Project and submitted it to Judy Partingdon and Johnny Green-PA DEP BAMR for review and approval after revising the Application for Final Reimbursement document; Participated in a final Teams call with PA DEP BAMR to closeout the project

Amazon Community Fund Remove Illegal Dumps (RID) Program

- Requested that Maria Gereda-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist look through a previously submitted Final Report to PA American Water Charitable Trust that documented a number of other cleanups that were conducted by EPCAMR to add to the database; She has been looking through previous reports of EPCAMR online to tally up additional cleanups, where, when, total trash collected, total tires collected and recycled, number of volunteers, and number of hours donated; Directed Mark to order 250 Watershed themed *Open Your Eyes to Litter* books from Keep PA Beautiful, the minimum amount for bulk printing for future cleanups, and a smaller package of 25 books for free plus the shipping costs to have on display at the Office; Worked with Maria Gereda and created a shared Google drive document folder for all receipts with our Bookkeeper, Marianne Beane; Maria created an updated shared Google document of the KPB Advisory Committee Excel file and EPCAMR Executive Director added a few additional contacts from Friends of the Nescopeck; Sent Jody Fischer-President & CEO from [NeoNiche Strategies](http://www.NeoNicheStrategies.com) photos and a quote for the Amazon Community Connect Reception in Bloomsburg on March 18th that we were invited to as a grantee to receive an award; Secured LCCC as the space for the Illegal Dumping Forum on April 11th since the 25th of April was taken for another event on campus

Dogtown AMD/AML Development Plan Project with the Luzerne Conservation District

- Informed Derek Herb from Hawk Mountain Labs that EPCAMR has received the green light to monitor the Paddy Run AMD discharge beginning in March and requested the lab sample bottles and time of delivery drop off so we spend the right amount of time in the field and then drive to Hazleton to drop off the sample bottles; Requested that Derek drop off a 3 month supply of sample bottles to the EPCAMR Office

MSI Program

- Steve Cornia-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, reported that he was making progress with the Western Middle Mosaics and he finished with the digitizing for the Kingston Topo Quad map and would be communicating with Mike on what area to work on next

Keep PA Beautiful Affiliate Program

- KPB applied for the [CLPR](#) grant through Keep America Beautiful, and if they receive the grant, they want to distribute Cigarette Litter Receptacles to interested affiliates, for our county lakes; EPCAMR provided KPB with a list of lakes, city parks, parks along waterways, riverfront parks and county parks; EPCAMR asked our Conservation District partners for suggestions

Technical Assistance

Bowman's Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan

- Angie Tuttle, Stanley Cooper Chapter TU put out a call for volunteers to do some culvert assessments, habitat assessments, and biological sampling in the watershed and provided some dates in February and early March 2026 for EPCAMR to share to our social media outlet; On February 15th, John, Angie, the EPCAMR Executive Director, and Joe Simons met in Noxen to calibrate several probes to be placed in Cider Run and on the Main Stem of Bowman's Creek and created a few housing units out of PVC pipe; Continued to look for a contact for JDJ Associates up opposite Wilson Road, outside of Noxen, along Bowman's Creek

Pine Knot, Oak Hill, & Repellier Mine Pool Feasibility Study & Monitoring Project with the Schuylkill Conservation District

- Travelled down to Schuylkill County to sample the AMD discharges; Frank shared the water quality data collected with EPCAMR Staff from 2-24-26; EPCAMR mistakenly forgot to place a set of sample bottles in the cooler that was found in the back of the vehicle and ended up driving them down to Pottsville District Mining Office to be picked up by the courier service to get shipped off to the PA DEP Lab; Informed Brandon Zimmerman from PA DEP BAMR what had happened to see if Wilkes-Barre had a courier pickup but since we didn't hear back right away we decided to make the trip to Pottsville to ensure the samples got to the Lab

Columbia University Rare Earth Element AMD Sampling Research

- Created an Invoice for \$4K to submitted it to Sean Kinney at Columbia University for time spent on the project to gather AMD samples and install water level loggers at multiple locations in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Watersheds

Shamokin Creek Watershed Assessment Plan with Tetra Tech

- EPCAMR purchased 12 HOBO water level loggers and 2 pressure transducers for the Shamokin Creek watershed for future installations; Scheduled a drop off of the transducers to provide to Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance; Provided SCRA with a copy of our AMD Sampling Book with photos from 2023 that was provided to Tetra Tech, but SCRA had not seen it yet

Scranton Area Foundation Executive in Residence Grant

- Signed the Scranton Area Foundation's recent grant agreement award to EPCAMR for the Executive in Residence Program with Moving Mountains Strategies, LLC for \$4500 to assist with our 30th Anniversary Developing planning and received the fully executed agreement back from the Foundation

Choose Clean Water Coalition

- Coordinated with Sara Romatnik-CCWC to make arrangements for Mike and Frank's travel arrangements to DC for the Capitol Day on the Hill on March 4th 2026; Mike and Frank filled out the Bay Day registration; Peter Marx-CCWC provided EPCAMR and the CCWC with copies of the final Appropriations letters that was forwarded to the PA AML Campaign; Received a Federal Update on various pieces of legislation from Peter Marx on February 10th and forwarded the notes to the PA AML Campaign; Participated in a Steering Committee Strategic Planning meeting with Due East and provided input into the process and completed a survey; Suggested a Watershed Swap idea in the survey to have lower Bay group leaders of non-profits spend time with upper Bay group leaders for a day or two and host them similar to a job shadow or watershed tour event; Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth (D-MD) sought CCWC support last minute to endorse a bill that she plans to introduce on March 4; The bill focuses solely on Maryland's Whole Watershed Program and there was general support of a number of the Coalition members, however, many organizations felt that they should have sought support much earlier and took an entire Chesapeake Bay watershed approach instead of a single jurisdictional, Maryland; Participated in a CCWC Federal updates call

Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) AMLConnect Network

- Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR Digital Media Coordinator provided EPCAMR Executive Director with an update on the AMLConnect Network framework and [website](#) that will be having a soft rollout soon with some of our partners after obtaining feedback; Provided Frank with links to articles on alternative energy projects including mine pool geothermal and on data centers; Sent him the link to the PA Data Centers to see where they are being proposed in PA; Updated him on the Energy Aggregators Pump Hydro Project for the Old Forge area that was highlighted in the Citizens' Voice newspaper [article](#); Talked about releasing our Phase 2 Report on an expansion of our previously funded US DOE Project; Frank is also working on updated statistics and maps for the Congressional Districts across PA of AML/AMD Statistical Summaries for the trip to DC with Mike and the Choose Clean Water Coalition's Day on the Hill; He also provided a copy of his report to Deb Nardone-FPW on the status of the project that was reviewed; Provided Frank and Mike with a copy of the Appropriations Letter that EPCAMR signed along with the Choose Clean Water Coalition; The one letter (Office of Surface Mining Reclamation And Enforcement – Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund) that we are concerned by the cuts to the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Fund in the FY26 Interior/Environment Appropriation bill and urge them to not make any further cuts. Four of the Chesapeake Bay watershed's states (MD, PA, VA, and WV) have received AML funds to fix acute water quality problems caused by abandoned mines; These pollution sources directly impact the Bay and local waters, including drinking water, and the AML cuts will impede restoration progress in our region; We urged them to include Report language that the appropriated AML IJJA funds remain for their specified use and not be reallocated in any future fiscal year

- Followed up with Shruti Wasnik and Frederick Douglas from Cosmos Technologies in Pittsburgh; Asked Fred if Cosmos had been able to seek the ability to be considered on the PA DEP's list of Engineering Companies that can submit bids and RFQs and proposals under the AMD and AML Program; If not, we strongly encouraged him to do so; Provided them with a summary of some of the available funding programs that are available for AMD Treatment; Informed them of our upcoming Fall [2026 PA AMR Conference](#) in October
- Larson Design Group reached out to EPCAMR to see if there was some interest in providing some level of services for the PA DEP BAMR proposal for the Old Forge AMD Borehole; Provided some input and a request for a scope of work to be able to quote the possible workload; Hadn't heard back from them by the end of the month
- Forwarded an application for free legal services made available through Pittsburgh-based [Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services](#) related to data centers to Gary Leander, Friends of the Nescopeck
- Provided some suggestions to Nancy Corbin-new part-time Executive Director for the Pocono NE RC & DC on social media management and sent along all electronic files of the latest brochure and C-SAW application documents from 2024, in case they were to be updated and reprinted
- Call with Andy McAllister-WPCAMR and John Walliser-[PEC](#), to discuss waste coal co-generation and some of the policies PEC is working on in Harrisburg, most notably House Bill 501; That bill expands the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, but would relegate waste coal to a lower tier; The driver behind that change is significant cost concerns — see this [IFO report](#), as well as a new [PUC report](#), both of which point to accelerating costs associated with Tier 2; In the era of energy affordability, this sticks out. PEC is looking for other options that might be out there that could still support the industry (and perhaps efforts like the Coalitions) as appropriate without having those costs borne by ratepayers; The pricing is crazy on the market right now in terms of compliance costs and we don't know how long the Co-Gen can remain competitive without the tax credits
- Jacob Harris, a Civil Engineering student at Wilkes was given a recommendation to visit the following links to learn more about projects completed by PA DEP BAMR and the problem area that you are referring to [Agendas and Handouts](#) and [Agendas and Handouts1](#)
- EPCAMR provided a Letter of Support and Commitment to a Sloan Foundation Energy Systems grant application being submitted by Dr. Kaitlyn Spanger, Penn-State University; to serve in an Advisory Capacity on her proposal that plans to be on a project that focuses on solar transitions in rural communities through the lens of energy democracy; The proposal plans to highlight and more deeply understand the ways that rural communities are resisting, engaging with, and building more democratic renewable energy systems

Education & Outreach

PA AMR Chronicles Podcast Series with WPCAMR

- Requested the final script of questions for Eric Cavazza-Tetra Tech from Anne Daymut-WPCAMR; Interviewed Eric on February 5th over the lunch over; Showcased the Tetra Tech video ad; Scheduled Ed Wytovich for the March 6th appearance on the podcast;
- Worked with Mark to create a [news release](#) on Maria Gereda's new role at EPCAMR as a full-time GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist after having been an intern and AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate for 5 months; Mark submitted it to the Business Section of the local newspapers

Scranton Area Community Foundation (SACF)-Lackawanna County (*proposed*)

- EPCAMR submitted our Listening and Learning Letter of Inquiry for the Scranton Area Community Foundation's 2026 Community Support Initiative; Based on the timing indicated in our LOI, our organization's funding needs appeared to be more medium or longer term to the Foundation; They are taking our request seriously and have retained our information for their next review cycle, which will take place in the coming months; This sequencing allows them to respond as thoughtfully and responsibly as possible while continuing to plan for future funding opportunities; They will follow up directly as they approach the summer review period

LIU #18 AMD and Visual Art Design Environmental Education Grant Program

- Scheduled an updated FBI Clearance fingerprinting at IDentiGO through the [FBI Background Check – Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18](#); Rich Mackrell-LIU provided EPCAMR with the proper service code; Maria Gereda provided EPCAMR Executive Director with her documents that were then uploaded to the shared Google Drive provided by the LIU; Reached out to Rich to facilitate getting a hold of Pittston Area Elementary Art Teacher to schedule the EPCAMR visits; Presentation on EPCAMR's work to students at Heights Elementary; Connected with Sarah Strong and scheduled the dates

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Jill Whitcomb-PA DEP Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Programs, sent around a note about PA becoming the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council, that is working to ensure forward progress, provide direction for Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration efforts, and keep the lines of communication with our stakeholders, open; She scheduled a meeting on March 10th at 1PM to get feedback on Governance and Structure, for Pennsylvania's Advisory Committee members to share their thoughts, specifically for PA members
 - PA is the "Content Lead" for 3 sections of the Governance document
 - Leadership – Partnership (Executive Council/Policy Steering Committee)
 - Implementation – Advisory Committees
 - Operations and Accountability – Prioritization

Informed Alex LoCurto-Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, that EPCAMR Executive Director would have a conflict on the February 19th [SAC meeting](#) due to having our EPCAMR Board meeting at the same time; Provided questions to Jessica Blackburn-Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, for Secretary Jessica Shirley based on EPCAMR's testimony on the Impaired Waters List (Unassessed Waters); Volunteered to be on the Water Quality Subcommittee

PA DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB)

- Provided Dan Snowden, with Maria Gereda's contact information as the alternate member from EPCAMR on the MRAB, in place of Michael Hewitt

PA DEP Aggregate Advisory Board (AAB)

- Attended the Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting virtually

PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB)

- Jordi Cormas-NC EJ Coordinator provided EPCAMR with a link to a [national EJ Data Mapping Society](#); Joined the Society since it had a free membership; Provided Jordi an example of a regional [dataset](#) specific to PA that EPCAMR helped to create on AMD/AML Burdens in Coalfield Communities and a second example of another PA specific [database](#) on Data Centers; Provided input on PennEnviroScreen revisions; Informed EPCAMR of the Bay in the Balance Conference on

March 2-4th that was heavily Ag-focused and nothing on AMD; Julie González, Environmental Justice Data & Mapping Society Coordinator at FracTracker Alliance provided a link to the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Local Data for Equitable Communities" grant](#) opportunity focused on community-driven data and equity work; The grant has a tight turnaround date of March 3rd, however, we will keep the RWJF in mind for future grant opportunities; Passed along to Adam Cutler, Chair of the EJAB, a sign on letter to see if the OEJ Office is aware of the potential changes and to see if the letter can be sent around to member of EJAB to act individually; EPCAMR signed on to the letter sent by the Choose Clean Water Coalition to formally not support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed revisions to its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulations, specifically the proposal to eliminate the Environmental Justice Expedited Processing (EJ EP) criteria adopted in the 2023 FOIA Regulations Update, Phase II; Attended the EJAB Meeting virtually

- Mark Jones-EPCAMR AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer reached out to Ryan Klemish-Environmental Health & Safety Manager with Pittston Co-Packers to see if there are ways that we can partner
- Attended the Intersections Film Series -- "[Devil Put the Coal in the Ground](#)" screening online
- Presented to Mike Shimko's Wilkes-Barre High School's STEM Classes on February 5th on 3D Printing of Mines, Macros, and Mining artifacts; The classes are going to take on a community service project by printing additional sets of macros for EPCAMR to use in our environmental education programs; EPCAMR Executive Director informed the students of volunteer opportunities within the School District and EPCAMR's work in the region; Mike informed me that the students have started printing the 3D models of the macros and other replicas; Mike provided EPCAMR with a link to an interesting animated YouTube [video](#) of the Knox Mine Disaster that we posted to our social media outlets; Reached out to Laura Keating at Wyoming Seminary who also had students interested in 3D printing activities for EPCAMR since we haven't been able to connect since January 2026
- Provided Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR Digital Media Communications Coordinator, with the latest Reimagine Appalachia minutes from February 3rd
- Participated in an Appalachian Voices conference call on the AML funding repurposing and forwarded the minutes from the call to Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR Digital Media Communications Coordinator
- Mark Jones registered EPCAMR to table for LCCC's Spring 2026 Career Fair on March 25th and a Trades Career Fair on April 8th
- Created an organizational account on the FrackTracker App with the assistance of Cullen Smith and Matt Kelso from FrackTracker Alliance
- Coordinated with Katie Hughes, from Junior Achievement (JA) Inspire about EPCAMR booth needs and logistics for April 14, 2026
- Pushed out through our social media outlets the [Stanley Cooper Trout Unlimited](#) 33rd Annual Conservation Banquet that will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes Barre;
- Pocono NE RC & DC is looking for a physical location and mailing address for their Office and mail; EPCAMR suggested that they ask Earth Conservancy
- Joe Simons introduced Ed Frye-PA DEP to EPCAMR Executive Director

- Provided EPCAMR testimony virtually as a part of a panel before the House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee on the Unassessed (Impaired Waters) List and recommendations for how to remove streams from the list
- Worked with Mark Jones on a column for a Call for Volunteers considering the 250th Anniversary of America this year and a call for National Service, that EPCAMR forwarded around to the regional newspaper outlets
- Provided an EPCAMR Letter of Support for the acquisition of wetlands for Wildlife Habitat for Environmental Education Experiences at The Lehman Sanctuary to Chris Miller
- Connected with Jaime Saigrin-Legislative Director for [American Rivers](#) to fill him in on abandoned mine drainage and abandoned mine land issues in PA to help him create an informative response for Senator Fetterman's Office; Provided him a lot of resources and our most recent testimony on Impaired Waterways in PA; Discussed seeing if there was a way to get a reciprocal membership with American Rivers; Jaime connected EPCAMR with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Adam Schellhammer; Suggested American Rivers exhibit at our PA AMR Conference in October
- EPCAMR signed on to AppVoices FY27 OSMRE appropriations requests letter
- Attended the PATU Executive Committee meeting virtually
- Asked for a flyer on the Hybrid Zones AMD Art Exhibit at Penn-State HUB-Robeson Art Gallery and Earth & Mineral Science Museum, to help publicize it on our social media and the talk that the Executive Director will be a part of with Rachel Bacon and Meredith Davenport; Glynnis Baker provided EPCAMR with graphics and the flyers they developed for EPCAMR to promote
- Amy Berrios-PA DEP informed EPCAMR that they would like to print multiple copies of the pages of our [AMD Avengers vs The Pollution Posse Activity Book](#) for "Bring Your Child/Children to Work Day" at the Rachel Carson State Office Building and she informed us that it would be on multiple floors of the building, not just the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Logan Colonna and Camila Amaya Ramos, Wilkes University students, contacted EPCAMR to interview the Executive Director on EPCAMR's work and potential career paths for students in the region for a class assignment from Dr. Julie McMonagle
- Presented testimony at the PA Environmental House Committee hearing on Stream Impairments and submitted my written testimony ahead of the scheduled hearing at the request of Chairman Greg Vitali
- Attended the Trout in the Classroom State-wide Committee meeting virtually
- Replied to Kent Jackson-Reporter for the Hazleton Standard Speaker on some of his questions about data centers and the use of mine water for cooling; EPCAMR doesn't have a specific number on the amount of water that is needed for any particular data centers who might even be considering the use of mine pool water; Those needs and numbers are going to be very specific to their eventual location and a much better detailed understanding of the surface and underground mine pools and interconnections to one another and AMD discharges for a given location; Detailed mapping, geological investigations, hydrogeology patterns of the movement of the underground mine water, and stability of the mines above these areas should be considered with due diligence; Water quality

monitoring of existing AMD discharges should be performed to establish a current baseline of conditions of the receiving streams (both upstream, downstream, and of the AMD discharges themselves) so that communities have a baseline of current water quality and groundwater well monitoring; There could be a potential for mine subsidence if the mine pool water levels are drawn down to the point where the void spaces above the water levels in the mine pools cause a condition where the roof of the mines could dry out, fracture, freeze/thaw, and eventually fall or erode areas within a mine that could cause an issue that reaches the surface; If temperatures of the mine pool water changes due to the type of open/closed loop geothermal systems, it's possible that the mine water temperature could become warmer, which could increase the rate at which the metals commonly found in the AMD could drop out much quicker, causing a change in the chemistry, temperature, and other dissolved oxygen levels in the AMD that reaches a receiving stream or where the discharges is conveyed to a river or stream that could have a detrimental downstream impact on water quality and quantity as well as potentially fishery and aquatic biology (macros) in the streams

- Bill Kiniry, Head of Advertising-State Affairs tuned into the Executive Director's testimony on the 2026 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Report and noted how we connected AMD restoration priorities directly to the need for better baseline monitoring data across affected watersheds; State Affairs, operates the largest network of statehouse newsrooms in the country, read daily by elected officials, senior staff, and policy insiders across all 50 states; During active legislative moments, many organizations choose to engage those audiences directly through their publications to inform and shape the conversation where decisions are actually being made; He offered a quick overview of their state-level coverage and examples of how it's used; EPCAMR replied that we'd be curious as to what the cost is of the various levels that we've seen on their website and maybe we can then propose in a future grant, the costs associated to see if we might be able to take advantage of some of the services and features that State Affairs provides; We don't have Staff dedicated to PR and Policy Development due to a limited organizational capacity to support those types of positions financially at the moment
- EPCAMR released our Repurposing Flooded Abandoned Stripping Pit Mines for Cooling Purposes, Heating Storage, and Solar Development Potential at the Dismantled Wheelabrator–Frackville Energy Company Co-Gen Plant at the Morea Mine Complex, in northern Schuylkill County funded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) in Support of the Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets Opportunity Final Report and video to the PA AML Campaign, posted it to the website, our social media outlets and it had been forwarded to all of our Northern Schuylkill County partners; The very extensive report, research, data collection, stakeholder outreach, and recommendations were co-authored by the EPCAMR Executive Director and Media & Community Systems Specialist Frank Sindaco for EPCAMR; We'd like to thank our former AmeriCorps VISTA, funded through Conservation Legacy's Stewards Individual Placements Program, Morgan Romanowski for creating the graphics and statistics for the Social Vulnerability Analysis for each of the Schuylkill County municipalities; Upon completion of the project, EPCAMR was able to add additional information researched to the Final Report on Solar, Geothermal, and Data Center Projects; Opportunities and hurdles to deployment are also extensively discussed; The Morea Mine Complex is thoroughly evaluated, and community profiles and social vulnerability data was created for the surrounding municipalities in northern Schuylkill County; EPCAMR took it one step further and developed the data tools and statistics for the all of Schuylkill County in case any of the other municipalities would like to utilize the data we've created for them as a public service

Volunteers

- Stanley Shimko, King's College, started his Community Based Federal Work Study internship the second week of February 2026 and will be working on Tuesday and Thursdays in between his other college classes; Provided Stan with the volunteer activity description (VAD) of a number the projects that he'll likely be working on during the semester; Kelly Gibbons-King's College provided a summary explanation of the Work Study program for EPCAMR to use in our news release; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a news [release](#) on his arrival with Stanley's assistance
- Completed the Final AmeriCorps Evaluation Reports for Maria Gereda and Dennis Dukinas and submitted them to Amberly Borday-Conservation Legacy
- Provided Ian Padden, our returning Bonner Leadership student intern from Wilkes University with some internship tasks to complete for the Spring 2026 semester; Mark Jones also added some tasks to the list that are priorities for the Spring
- VISTA Site MOU Signature Partner Placement Request Agreement completed for EPCAMR and returned to Jeff Davis-Conservation Legacy; April Badtke, Stewards Individual Placement Program Executive Director informed EPCAMR that our 2 Summer Associate positions have been forwarded on for approval and that we would hear back shortly; EPCAMR was informed that our application for scholarships to support the two Summer Associates were approved fully for a total of \$600 covered by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
- Applied for a Year 1 Digital Marketing Specialist through AmeriCorps VISTA
- Carolyn Phillips, interviewed for an internship as a part of the King's College Community Based Federal Work Study and EPCAMR Executive Director approved of her becoming an intern; Prepared a [news release](#) once she was brought on the EPCAMR Team

Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

2026 PA AMR Conference at Holiday Inn, Grantville

- Attended the venue with a small number of members of the Planning Committee to walk through the facility and rooms to discuss layout and AV needs

King's College Environmental Science Lab AMD/AML Watershed Tour

- Forwarded Dr. Tara Mangan a link to our EPCAMR YouTube for her students to watch two recently uploaded videos on our Mine Mapping efforts that are in a 2-part series; Provided her with the PowerPoint presentation that was provided to the students in our Conference Room prior to the field tour visits we made on two occasions during February on the 10th and the 12th

2026 PA Brownfields Conference at Wind Creek, Bethlehem

- Participated in a conference call with Vincent Carbone-[HDR, Inc.](#) and Elizabeth Hughes-Earth Conservancy who will be presenting on a panel with the EPCAMR Executive Director

Choose Clean Water Coalition May 2026 Conference, Lancaster (May 18-20th)

- Riverdale Manor has agreed to allow the AMD Tie-Dye Bandana Workshop to happen with some stipulations, however, none of them are dealbreakers; Submitted proposal scores to Drew Robinson-CCWC; Began to plan for what EPCAMR needs to bring, in terms of supplies for the AMD Tie-Dye Bandana Activity

2026 PA Recyclers of PA (PROP) 36th Annual Conference, DoubleTree-Lancaster (July 21-24th)

- EPCAMR Executive Director will be presenting on a panel on Illegal Dumping on Abandon Mine Lands & EPCAMR's efforts in cleaning up waste tire piles as a Keep PA Affiliate on July 23rd 2025

EPCAMR 30th Anniversary Banquet & Reception

- Cristy started a discussion on Banquet pricing and Sponsor Levels with the Development Committee; Mark Jones came up with the idea of donation of "x" amount of dollars would allow EPCAMR to purchase "x" supplies; Provided Mark with names and contacts of people and colleagues that might provide a written testimonial for the 30th Anniversary of EPCAMR; Worked with Cristy on drafting the Sponsorship Solicitation

PA American Water Camp, Peckville

- Susan Turcmanovich requested EPCAMR's participation in the Annual Water Camp along the Lackawanna River at the Valley Library scheduled for August 5th, 2026

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for February 2026 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent monthly for February 2026; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB monthly as needed; Made reconciliations in Quickbooks with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services and provided her with a copy of the PA Invest Statements once we got back in after having trouble getting in since a new management company has taken over the accounts; Completed bi-weekly payroll submissions through ADP for OneSource
- Created a positive review for Cheryl Gnoinski, [School Spirit Sales](#) online who printed our EPCAMR hoodies and t-shirts; She left the weblink open for members to order additional t-shirts/hoodie
- Steve Cornia did some research and found out that our DJI Mavica 2 drone is on the Consolidated Screening list and is listed under the "Entity List" which means it can be used on a case-by-case review and not be flown over any federally funded projects, however, it doesn't mean that it can't be flown on all other projects that are not funded by federal funds; Effective December 22, 2025, pursuant to the American Security Drone Act (ASDA), all grantees and contractors expending federal funds are prohibited from using, operating, or purchasing, under any federally funded award, any drone platforms or other uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) that are included on the [Covered Foreign Entities \(CFE\) List](#) due to national security risks; Sami Stahle from Kleinfelder forwarded EPCAMR some information she received from the State on the new rule

- Worked with Mark Jones-AmeriCorps VISTA to register EPCAMR for the [NEPAGIVES](#) Fundraiser on June 4th, 2026, for \$50 and to start building our page for potential donors to visit; Downloaded NEPAGIVES Social Media and Marketing Toolkit
- Sent Steve Moytka, Kulpmont Borough, our 2026 EPCAMR renewal letter and request
- Created a new profile in the Foundation for PA Watersheds new grant portal for EPCAMR thanks to an update from Maggie Anderson-Grant Administrator
- Scheduled the small conference room for the EPCAMR Personnel Committee meeting and the large conference for the EPCAMR Board meeting on February 19th with the Earth Conservancy; Included the previous Board Meeting Minutes that Mike provided to the Executive Director into the Final Agenda notice; Reviewed all financials and budget sheets and reconciled them along with the Jobs List and Prospective Grants Sheet with Mike; Convened the Personnel Committee meeting prior to the Board Meeting on the 19th; Convened the EPCAMR 1st Quarter Board Meeting; Passed the revised Rate Sheet for Professional Services for the private sector for EPCAMR
- Reviewed the EPCAMR Marketing materials produced by Mark Jones and proofread by Cristy Sweeney from the Development Committee; The Development Committee is interested in seeking support from former State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski to see if he's interested in helping find potential donors and funders for the Committee to pursue and a make an ask
- Zoom call with an owner and VP of Sales for [Runaso](#) from Canada that had familiarity with retrofitting mobile vehicles into mobile science labs; EPCAMR spoke to them just to get a better understanding of the services they provide; EPCAMR Executive Director was considering pursuing future funding for a mobile AMD Science Classroom and needed to know some estimate of costs
- Sent around to Staff a SCORE [video](#) after watching it and thought it would be a good presentation for everyone to review and watch about the various types of grants that are out there; As directed by our Development Committee, we all need to be looking out for grants that fit our mission and goals; We noticed that some of the grant databases come with a ridiculous monthly membership fee however, there are free databases; We still have Candid and the Foundation Center available to us up at the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) Office in Oak Street in Pittston
- Registered Maria Gereda and the Executive Director to attend the AML/AMD Grant Program Statewide Grantee Training at Toftrees, State College on April 2nd
- Continue to work with OneSource to correct matching funds contributions to EPCAMR Staff IRAs that are unresolved