



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2015 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted an EPCAMR Quarterly Meeting & participated in 1 AMR Conference Call
- Continued processing 82 TIFF, georeferenced 92 SID files and digitized features from 62 maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant in February.
- Completed and posted the 2012 EPCAMR Annual Report as well as 990s to www.guidestar.org
- Incorporated peer review comments into Northern and Southern Field Mine Pool Report.
- EPCAMR staff took daily flow readings at **Askam Boreholes**; reviewed a new treatment tech.
- Edited 4 shapefiles, created/printed maps for 7 CDs, provided a dataset to 1 & a set of maps each to 2 EPCAMR partners
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.huberbreaker.org, and 2015.treatminewater.com; Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff participated in a monthly staff meeting to coordinate efforts within the first week of the month.
- Sent out the EPCAMR Membership Form this year using MailChimp. The format of the annual plea was made more aesthetically pleasing. The header photo was a frog swimming in AMD.
- Prepared a reimbursement to the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) program and transferred files to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO). Worked with California DMO and Harrisburg staff to develop a strategy to spend down money in the grant. EPCAMR staff have been so efficient in scanning, georeferencing and digitizing that we have been producing at an hour/map rate faster than what was proposed. Therefore, rather than turning back money, we can do more than what was proposed in our scope of work [MSI].
- Hung a dry erase board in the office to help staff manage our shared workload and notify each other of upcoming events.
- Worked on the Registration Page on 2015.treatminewater.com to help direct the potential attendee on what parts of the conference he/she may want to attend and register for. Created a clickable flow chart to navigate the increasing number of registration options. This year, the conference committee decided to allow single day registrations in addition to the extra activities. The flow chart will lead them through a yes/no decision making process with an end product as a link to click to purchase the correct registration option. Updated and added items to the EPCAMR online store at www.epcamr.org/store to match registration options. Also updated the list of presenters on the Presentations page and created a custom search tool which will allow visitors to search presentations from several years of the conference as requested by the conference committee.
- Searched through last year's AMR Conference Registration list to hand pick the ARIPPA member attendees and sent a list to Jeff McNelly.

- Created 2 sets of maps for a local Ashley resident that had a hand in building the dam at “Chester’s Creek” (aka. Solomon Creek). The individual is a veteran who ties flies for several fishing supply stores, and patrols land in the Mountain Top area to deter illegal dumping.
- Downloaded, edited, combined in Paint Shop Pro and printed several maps related to the Second Geologic Survey for EPCAMR Past President, Ed Wytovich. The Pioneer Tunnel may want to sell these map prints in their museum and would have us make the reprints on demand.
- Travelled to Pottsville DMO to drop off and pickup mine maps. Delivered images of mine maps around the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour to Davey Williams as requested [MSI].
- Received a Verizon Wireless bill that warned that services would be shut off if we did not pay. The reason why we did not pay the bill yet was because we were told by the Government Account Representative, Tim Bilski, to wait until he was finished applying overage and equipment return credits. Spoke with Tim and he was able to quickly calculate an amount that we should have paid and recommended paying \$180 (2 months of services used) for the time being while he continues to apply credits.
- Created an agenda for the upcoming EPCAMR Board meeting, distributed to the board via MailChimp email and solicited items from board members.
- Researched and ordered toner for the Cannon MFC printer as the sample toner cartridges that came with the printer were running out. Decommissioned the Brother MCF Printer and sent back the compatible brand toners to GEI Wide Format, where they were purchased, for a credit (minus a 15% restocking fee) which was applied to the Cannon toner cartridge order. One Brother Brand toner (ordered directly from Brother) could not be returned in the same fashion, therefore, it was sold on e-bay and the \$55.60 was given back to EPCAMR (approximately ½ of what it was purchased for 2 years ago).
- Decommissioned the Gestetner Copier and pushed it over to the storage area for recycling. Reclaimed a desk from the storage area to put in its place for the interns to work at.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and hosted the EPCAMR 1st Quarter 2015 Board Meeting. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to update Tributary Strategy Maps for our cooperating county conservation districts. The Tributary Strategy maps were first produced back in 2005 and showed impacted environmental resources. Came up with a cost and sent an email to conservation district managers and watershed specialists in the region to garner interest. Several replied with affirmative requests for the updated maps.
- Completed the 2012 Annual Report and posted it to www.epcamr.org and with our 2013 990’s to www.guidestar.org. Continued to gather statistics and stories for the 2013 Annual Report.
- Read the new Set Aside Program Implementation Guidelines and reviewed relevant changes in an e-mail to EPCAMR Executive Director in preparation for comment submission to DEP. In summary, the changes do explain the risk matrices better, but still does provide a funding mechanism for cost/benefit analysis reports and does not make it any easier to qualify a watershed to receive Set Aside Funding. The Fish and Boat Commission quantifiable benefit to stream remediation tables are adjusted for inflation in the new guidelines, but still do not include thousands of miles of streams that are impacted by mine drainage due to an old 2005 Impaired Waters List which was originally used for the analysis (which are now 10 years old). The tables need to be redone with the new lists.
- Caught up on time sheets, organized files on my desk and computer.
- Followed up with Paul Coyle at the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) who had scanned maps from aperture cards for the Southern Anthracite Coal Field. Aided in answering a question about the scale of the maps, whether the maps were drawn planar or linear? In other words, do the maps preserve shape or linear distance of the underground mine features? Since the maps often show above ground surface features like roads and houses, we ascertained that the maps preserve shape going down. There are also grid systems that are common to a set of maps from the surface to the many underground coal veins. The underground structure references to above ground features, if not the maps would be much longer in areas of steep

pitch. Linear distances are often recorded along a gangway to attempt to preserve them when it was important to know the linear distance.

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee Conference Call to coordinate efforts with the committee as they continue to iron out details and get speakers/sponsors for the conference in 2015.
- Spoke with Mike Martin, a representative from Horizon Technologies who was promoting a diamond plate water treatment technology that flocculates TDS in an electrically charged module. A screw press is typically incorporated to compress the solids, but that could be left off and sent to a pond/wetland for passive settling and to save on operating costs. This technology seemed similar to another technology that was being used in the wastewater industry, but this company was European based and has been treating water similar water to AMD in England. The electricity cost is approximately 2 cents per thousand gallons and would consist of two 40' flow through modules. The representative requested specifics on a discharge for a better quote. I forwarded off Askam Borehole Treatment System data, after approval by Earth Conservancy of course, and he responded with more statistics. At approximately 4,600 gpm it would cost \$94 a day or \$2,800 a month to run the proposed system. They also requested "as built" designs of the current system, at which point I turned the information over to Earth Conservancy to continue a dialogue.

Technical Assistance:

- After the Toshiba e-studio copier was repaired by a technician, I was able to hook up the unit to the Admin computer and share the printer through the network. We will localize our printing to this copier since the service contract includes toner and maintenance, saving our color copier and hopefully extending its operating life.
- Georeferenced several maps that were difficult to find the location for the MSI Mine Map Processing Program. Reviewed and supervised MSI Program other staff work [MSI].
- Gathered results from sampling the Askam Discharge, placed them in a table and printed/e-mailed to Earth Conservancy [EC].
- Aided Earth Conservancy with updating their AutoCAD software to the 2015 version [EC].
- Dealt with several updates to the Windows Server 2012r2 operating system. Server updates are a little more difficult to manage than a regular computer.
- Printed a series of maps from the OSM Mine Map Folios that showed several levels of underground coal mines below the Susquehanna River and the proposed Penn-East Pipeline in preparation for a public hearing that EPCAMR Executive Director attended.
- Adjusted current mine pool boundaries, underground mine boundaries, barrier pillars and flow direction lines for the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). The work had been done months before but ArcGIS crashed and all the edits were lost [SRBC].
- Switched the "donate now" button on www.huberbreaker.org homepage to point to their Give Gab campaign.
- Conducted oversight on QuickBooks and added invoices for recently reimbursed programs.
- Created a "de-listed streams" layer in ArcGIS by spatially comparing the 2004 (303D list) and the 2014 Integrated List of Non Attaining Streams. There were 222 miles of streams that were removed but after consulting with former and active DEP staff, this method produced some errors that had to be removed. Initially there were several streams that were placed on the 2004 (and prior lists) that were not actually polluted. They were removed from the 2014 list, but should not be counted as "de-listed" or cleaned up. Donna Wagner was able to get find the history of the delisted streams lists from the assessment department at DEP. Used these figures to build a better list.
- Aided EPCAMR Mine Map Program Coordinator, Kelsey Biondo, in preparing updated Tributary Strategy Maps for 7 county conservation districts in our area. Originally when the maps were produced in 2005 they coincided with Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy reports that each

conservation district was tasked to complete, there were several iterations with different backgrounds and supplemental GIS layers to show particular environmental resources in each county. One map in particular was the main request by all that showed 303D listed streams and reclaimed abandoned mine lands. Sent the maps to their respective county conservation districts along with invoices for reimbursement of expenses. Some districts inquired as to other maps we could make as well for future reference. We responded with a link to our GIS database list of layers on www.epcamr.org.

- Transferred SID files from the travel drive recently received from the PA DEP California DMO (November) to the X drive.
- Provided borehole data to Jim LaRegina, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., related to the mine pool levels under Scranton.
- Finished incorporating peer review comments into the Northern and Southern Anthracite Coal Field Mine Pool Report for the SRBC. Sent the revised report to Tom Clark via e-mail and uploaded the appendix maps (several hundred megabytes) to transferbigfiles.com where they can be downloaded since they would have been too large to attach to an e-mail.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.