



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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February 2017 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Met with *Tyler Broo* and *Rudy Georgetti*, students from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, who will be working on a service learning project with EPCAMR over the course of the Spring 2017 semester on business marketing and social media planning development for EPCAMR after following up with their Professor *Dr. Loeb*; Forwarded the students and *Dr. Loeb* any information that EPCAMR had related to our Strategic Plan and Marketing Plan Development
- Participated in a conference call with *Branden Diehl*-Foundation for PA Watersheds to discuss the RECLAIM Act and another conference call with members of the PA AML Campaign; Provided a quote from EPCAMR for an anticipated Press Release on the RECLAIM Act developed by *Jan Jarret, Ad Hoc, LLC*
- Participated in a conference call with the PA EE Certification Committee to finalize the testing for candidates at the upcoming PAEE Conference in March 2017; Forwarded along the link to the Praxis II EE Cards; Flashcardsecrets.com/praxisii
- Participated in two EE Capacity Leadership Team conference calls to plan the Workshop at the upcoming PAEE Conference in March; Announced the PAEE Conference Award EE Professional winners to the PAEE Board for approval and then sent each of them letters and invitations to attend the Conference
- Participated in a conference call with *Ezra Thrush* and *Emily Rinaldi*-PennFuture, to discuss the development of the agenda for the upcoming **AMD Sub-Group of the Choose Clean Water Coalition** regional meeting hosted by EPCAMR; Invited regional partners to attend through e-mail and social media outlets; Convened the CCWC AMD Sub-Group Meeting on 2-24-2017; Provided *Peter Marx*, CCWC with a list of environmental issues for consideration by *Congressman Cartwright* to review within his District, broken down by Counties; EPCAMR was chosen to be highlighted on the CCWC conference call for a 'Watershed Win' for our work in bringing together nearly **30** community partners to the AMD Sub-Group Meeting by *Chante Coleman*, Executive Director of the CCWC

Education & Outreach

- Attended the Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited Board Meeting to update members on several EPCAMR Projects that they are involved with including the Trout in the Classroom and our work on Solomon Creek, Laurel Run, and more recently, Abrahams Creek
- Sent a letter to EPCAMR's federal Congressmen asking to support the AmeriCorps Program and the Corporation for National Service
- The Graham Academy (<http://thegrahamacademy.com/>), Kingston, PA has an interest in finding out more about our ***Trout in the Classroom Program***; Followed up with a phone call to Carol Magrain to see if she has students who were interested in visiting our Office, feeding the fish, doing an art activity around native brook trout, and then possibly assisting EPCAMR with our release of the fingerlings in early June 2017 on Solomon Creek, Ashley, at the Borough Park
- The Western PA Conservancy provided EPCAMR with a 30-day extension to complete the final edits to our new brochure targeting outreach to Tioga and Dauphin Counties, both of which are in the Dominion Service Area; EPCAMR will be wrapping up the final edits in the draft and submitting our receipts for the **\$450** grant that covered paper costs, ink, and various types of stock paper to make additional copies and posters
- Received a Letter of Support from the North Schuylkill School District and the Hanover Area School District, in support of EPCAMR's renewal application to the PA DCED for our Educational Improvement Organization recognition so that we can qualify for future Educational Improvement Tax Credits
- Requested an update on when EPCAMR would be receiving the **\$10,000** grant from the Bank in Hazleton would be releasing the funds so that we could plan for the after-school programs in Carbon, Schuylkill, and Lower Luzerne Counties to take the youth from the City Streams to some of the Valley Streams to educate them on watershed issues and AMD
- Developed a Graphics Design Project for an Independent Study with *Kayhla Waters*, Nanticoke, PA, who is a student at Albright College, Reading, PA where she will come up with additional characters and landscape designs based around our previously created *AMD Avengers vs Pollution Posse Activity Book* to teach students about water quality and watersheds impacted by AMD and abandoned mine lands
- Attended the PA Anthracite SME Board Meeting in Hazleton, PA and requested sponsorship of our upcoming 19TH Annual PA AMR Conference
- Coordinated and presented at the ***PA DCNR Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum*** hosted by EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy at our Office with several regional high schools from Luzerne County on AMD; EPCAMR Staff led the students on an AMD Tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley

Education & Outreach

- EPCAMR offered to do an INSTAGRAM Takeover of the **Keep PA Growing Greener INSTAGRAM** to showcase EPCAMR projects, pictures, events, programs, and infographics on AMD and AML for 2 weeks; (<https://www.instagram.com/keeppagrowinggreener/>)

Technical Assistance

- Reviewed and provided additional comments on the **ASTM Title IV & Title V Coal Mining GeoSpatial Data Standards** and sent them back to *Arielle Avishai*-Physical Scientist, OSMRE
- Provided *Lorena Boniquez*, Author and Photographer from Wilkes-Barre, PA with a quote on EPCAMR's understanding of some AMD seepage that is coming from the area around the Knox Mine Disaster for her book and sent along some photos of the area describing what we have seen on the ground and from aerial photography; She is also the founder of the Wilkes-Barre Metro Film Office and her book, "*Lost Coal Country of NEPA*" is being published by Arcadis Books in a few months; Introduced Lorena to David Brocca, Director of the soon to be completed Knox Mine Disaster Documentary; www.knoxminedisaster.com
- Received EPCAMR's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Report from *Amy Wolfe*-Executive Director for Trout Unlimited, on the Fishery Survey for the Laurel Run Watershed that will be amended to be included with our completed **Laurel Run Coldwater Conservation Plan**
- Provided *Jim Seif*, former PA DEP Secretary with updated information on the RECLAIM Act, abandoned mines and AMD for PA at his request
- *Morgan Prince*, Wilkes-Barre, PA and a student of *NYU College of Arts and Sciences*, requested assistance with reviewing her professional resume; Reviewed it and made constructive comments and forwarded them to her to make revisions if she chose to do so; Sent her name around to several area legislative offices since she was looking for a Summer Internship
- *Gabby* forwarded two websites she found that have all the information and data from the EPA since some of it no longer exists; http://web.archive.org/web/*/www.epa.gov ; <http://www.epadatadump.com/>; The link to the TMDL Search on the EPA website for Region III is <https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/waters/f?p=131:72:::::>
- Followed up with Council President *Jeff McLaughlin*, Forty-Fort Borough and confirmed that the municipality did receive the underground and surface mine maps from the OSM Folio Series in 2015
- Received a copy of the set of revised design and engineering plans for the **Huber Breaker Miners Memorial Park Reclamation**, Ashley, PA from *Tim Connolly, Jr. P.E.*, Tetra-Tech
- Provided *Tali MacArthur*, PA Council of TU, with a copy of EPCAMR's Strategic Plan and the NPS Management Plan for PA that shows we are targeting funds such as the CHP program for funding for watershed assessments, fishery assessments, and watershed implementation projects

Technical Assistance

- Researched grant proposal requirements from *Casey Slater*-PA DCED about the previously submitted ***Sulphur Run Culvert Flood Mitigation and Restoration Project***, Ashley Borough, Luzerne County, PA to PA DEP Growing Greener; The request to look into it was by Councilman Gerry Maldonado; The grant program *Casey Slater* was referring to was the Keystone Communities Program (<http://dced.pa.gov/programs/keystone-communities-program-kcp/>); Forwarded the information along to *Greg Gulick*, Ashley Borough Manager, and provided him with contact information for *Casey Slater*; The programs do offer a flexible tool for use in community and economic development for a variety of uses including planning activities, façade grant programs, accessible housing programs, and development grants; It looks like it opens annually in the Fall 2017 and closed by mid-January 2018
- *Dr. Jennifer Demchak*, Professor of the Geosciences Department at Mansfield University, Tioga County, PA and her colleague, *Dr. Jeanne Kagle*, Professor of the Biology Department, have proposed writing a book tentatively titled, "Where the streams run red: the ecological impacts and remediation efforts of AMD in PA." and submitting a grant to the Pennsylvania Academy of Science for consideration; EPCAMR reviewed the chapter outlines and provided suggestions and offered to write a chapter (Chapter 7) on the History of Watershed Groups in PA, should the grant proposal be funded

Project Coordination

- Hosted a meeting on the **Mocanaqua Tunnel AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study** with *Brad Domitrovitsch*-AES, LLC and PA DCNR Staff on the process of navigating the State Forest Research Agreement as a part of the project since the discharge and the mine pool is located within the recently acquired Pinchot State Forest in the southern Wyoming Valley; Provided the PA DCNR Staff a summary of meeting notes from the meeting; Provided *Brad* with links to tract information on the Pinchot State Forest; Updated SRBC Staff on meeting and an update on the beginning stages of digitizing, geo-referencing, and building of the 3D Earthvision model for the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel and surrounding mine pool area; Updated Brad on mine pool modeling work that Rachel and Mike are working on and requested that he follow up with PA DCNR on what will be needed in terms of requests as we get closer to knowing where we will be wanting to drill into the mine pool
 - <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/pinchot/index.htm>
 - <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/pinchot/maps/index.htm>

Pinchot State Forest Tract Maps
Crystal Lake Tract
Elmhurst Tract
Harveys Creek Tract
Mocanaqua Tract
Montage Tract
Moosic Mountain Tracts
Seven Tubs and Deep Hollow Tracts
Thornhurst Tract

Project Coordination

- Participated in a conference call update with SRBC Staff on the **Rausch Creek Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study** to give them an idea of the number of mine maps that have been digitized, geo-referenced, and put into the 3D Earthvision model for development of the eventual calculations of mine pool volumes, multi-colliery hydrologic unit connection determination, estimated coal volumes, areas suitable to drill boreholes for possible pumping and redirection of flow to the surface or to other mine pools
- Sampled the **Plainsville AMD Borehole** with *Gavin* and *Mike* for chemistry and flow
- Submitted a Report on the **Phase III Waterboxx Research Project** to *Dr. Loren Cole*, ISI, LLC for the first year of the project and requested an Invoice to begin on the second year in the Spring of 2017 when EPCAMR will be distributing **59** additional Waterboxxes; Schuylkill Headwaters Association requested assistance in finding out who is selling seedlings this Spring and EPCAMR followed up with some nursery ideas for the to give a call
- Provided *Theron Bisko*, Skelly & Loy, Inc. with all of the surface maps, cross-sections available, and transparent OSM Anthracite Folios geo-referenced by EPCAMR to PA Map Cycle 1 Aerial Photos of each of the coal veins (Checker, Pittston, Top Clark, Bottom Clark, & Marcy) that lie beneath the Hicks Creek stream channel in our project area for **the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project**; *Theron* said that he will provide a description in the bid documents and include a disclaimer that the Contractor may not rely on the drawings as a source of technical data; Submitted several quarterly reports and an Invoice to *Gregg Davis*, our Project Officer for PA DEP with a request to move some funds around into other categories; *Gregg* requested that I revise and submit the documentation on PA DEP Growing Greener Project Progress Report Forms
- Signed additional grant agreement paperwork and mailed it back to *Tali MacArthur*-Program Director, PA Council of Trout Unlimited in order to obtain a fully executed grant agreement for EPCAMR to complete the **Abrahams Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan**; Began informing municipalities via e-mail and through personal phone calls about EPCAMR's plans for surveying the watershed in the Spring through the Summer and Fall of 2017
- Provided *John McGovern*, President of the Ashley Trout Stocking Association, another partner in our project, with the final design and construction plans for the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Habitat Restoration** Project in Ashley Borough Park, Ashley, PA; Followed up with *Derrick Williams*, PPL about determining when the utility pole relocation/deepening project along Solomon Creek was going to occur since the payment was advanced and paid; He suggested that I call PPL directly and supply them with the reference work order number to follow up with *Bill Youngblood*, PPL Field Supervisor, that will be assigned to the project;
- Forwarded *Gavin* the results from EPCAMR's delineation of the **Bernice Mine Pool Basin** and water quality results EPCAMR historically collected in Sullivan County in order for him to better understand the water quality and geology of that area within the Loyalsock Creek watershed; Forwarded him the Site A White Ash # 3 AMD Treatment System Evaluation Report and the *TU Loyalsock and Birch Creek BioAssessment* Surveys for his review; Forwarded him several past newsletters from the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association so that he could become more familiar with projects and events going on in the watershed

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Natasha Rostova*, Shavertown, PA and King's College student signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer through MailChimp; Followed up with her and put her in touch with Abbie Keefe-EPCAMR's OSMRE AmeriCorps Volunteer
- *Aaron Delaney*, Nanticoke, PA signed up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR through MailChimp
- Talked with *Chris Lyche*, a GeoScientist, from the University of Penn, who is interested in working with EPCAMR on an independent Capstone Project over the Summer 2017 related to AMD, however, is in need of research funding

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Participated in a conference call with members of the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee to continue to flush out details for the upcoming **June 2017 19TH Annual Conference** at the Best Western Plus, Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, PA; www.treatminewater.com; Contacted *Breaker Brewing Company* in Wilkes-Barre Township, who offered to provide a **5%** discount off food to any Conference attendees that wanted to stop up to the Brewery during their off-time that wear their name tags; Confirmed Benny Brewing Company as a sponsor and last stop on our AMD Tour *Lorraine Luciano*, USDOJ Department of Ethics Office- Attorney-Advisor, with WPCAMR's address that Director *Joe Pizarchik* can send his reimbursement for the Mayfly Award that he received in 2016; Requested the Food Menu from *Emily Davis*, Banquet Coordinator-Genetti's Best Western Plus, for the PA AMR Conference Committee to make the final selections of food, desserts, refreshments, and break foods; Coordinated about the format of the media that we'll play at the Conference, with *Joe Sapienza II*, Director of the *Centralia: PA's Lost Town* full-length documentary that will be featured at the Conference; Provided *Joe* with a link to the copy of the Mines Study 83 'Red Book' on Centralia (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015078477695;seq=1>); Pagnotti Enterprises became a Sponsor of the Conference through EPCAMR's request and requested the use of their high resolution logo for the website and program from *Kent Fuller*, PA Anthracite Section of SME became a Sponsor and provided EPCAMR with their high resolution logo; EPCAMR Staff completed the tentative tour route for the AMD Watershed Tour; Followed up with speakers who needed to submit their abstracts and bios
- Promoted PEC's **PA Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations, Watershed Connections: Bringing People Together** scheduled for March 5th-6th, State College, PA at the Ramada Inn
- EPCAMR became a Sponsor of the **2017 PAEE Conference** at McKeever Environmental Education Center, McKeever, PA; www.paee.net
- EPCAMR became a Sponsor of the **2017 Anthracite Heritage Conference** coming up in May at Eckley's Miners Village, Eckley, PA; <http://eckleyminersvillage.com>

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; Balanced the EPCAMR Checking Register
- Met with *Bobbie Guarini*-First National Bank to discuss possible future banking needs for EPCAMR
- Hosted and convened the Quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting in the EPCAMR Conference Room
- Reviewed PayPal Policy Updates and forwarded to *Mike*
- Met with *Tim Ferrence*, EPCAMR Board member, in Dorrance, PA to sign some checks for EPCAMR business and to discuss getting out with Friends of the Nescopeck water quality volunteer monitors to obtain chemistry and flow measurements, including from the Jeddo AMD Mine Tunnel
- Completed the January 319 Progress & Board Report and forwarded to *Mike* for submission to PA DEP along with our Program Reimbursement
- Provided a reference for *Carly Cirangle*, a former student EPCAMR Human Resources volunteer from the University of Scranton, for a new job as a Human Resources Associate for a non-profit called the Fund for Public Health NYC, New York
- Provided a reference for *Samantha Schafer*, a former EPCAMR GIS Specialist, to Anadyr Adventures, Valdez, Alaska who is seeking to become a naturalist sea kayak guide