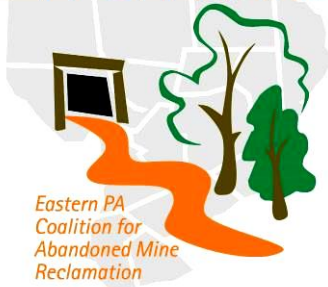


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Filmed an interview with *Joe Sapienza* along the Lackawanna River at the Old Forge AMD Borehole on the coldest day of the year on 1-8-15 to highlight the work of EPCAMR, LRCA, and Susquehanna Mining Solutions, LLC on how our partnership plans to remediate the AMD from the single largest point source of iron pollution loading to the Lackawanna River within the Chesapeake Bay; Provided *Joe* with some EPCAMR "GOT AMD?" Stickers
- Met with *Ms. Kordek*, Art Teacher at Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary to provide her with an outline of EPCAMR's anticipated classroom activities related to the **EE AMD & Pottery Art Project** with the 4th & 5th grade classes; Attended classes to begin the project
- Sat in on a Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference call; Selected some EPCAMR Staff to become a part of the Stormwater Management WorkGroup discussions to see if we can eventually look towards seeking some funds to provide technical assistance in the EPCAMR Region
- Attended the Lackawanna River Corridor Association's ShiverFest in Scranton to promote EPCAMR and LRCA's work on the Lackawanna River
- Prepared a Support Letter from EPCAMR on the Toomey-Casey Amendment related to the designation of coal ash as non-hazardous from Co-Generation Plants under ARIPPA that utilize CFB Technology; It would exempt waste coal power plants from general emission limits in EPA's Cross State Air Pollution Rule and emission limits only for hydrogen chloride (HCl) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) in the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS)
- Completed the Community of Learners, New Knowledge, and Networking & Evaluation Surveys and the 4th Quarter In-Kind Cost Share Contributions Form from PSAYDN; Submitted it to PSAYDN; Reviewed and provided comment on the PA Community of Learners draft Strategic Plan
- Participated in a conference call with *Louise Chawla*, author, Professor, and researcher from the University of Colorado who is working with EPCAMR on an e-book chapter on Civic Ecology, Significant Life Experiences, and Reclaiming Broken Places
- Met with *Chris Beeman*, GiveGab to discuss the development of an **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
- Informed *Jason Grubb*, Education Program Coordinator for the **Leave No Trace** organization that our EPCAMR link on their website as a member wasn't functional; It was eventually corrected; <https://lnt.org/get-involved/state/pa>

- EPCAMR Executive Director appointed to the Board of Directors for the PA Association for Environmental Educators (PAEE) as the NE Regional Director; EPCAMR is an Affiliate Member of PAEE and our logo and website information are shared on the PAEE website; www.paee.net
- Coordinated with *Cathy Tombasco*, Hazleton Area STEM School, Drums, PA to have a few EPCAMR Staff come down on May 7th, 2015 and create Seed Bombs of wildflowers with **35** gifted SAGE (Securing a Greener Environment) students as a part of a Career Day Forum for EPCAMR that will be used at future cleanup locations this Spring and Summer
- Researched the PennEast Pipeline Proposed Crossing Route under the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley and prepared a Technical Letter to FERC addressing concerns that EPCAMR has with the proposed route under abandoned mines that are beneath the Wyoming Valley; <http://penneastpipeline.com/proposed-route/>; Request was made by State Representative Aaron Kaufer to provide him with a copy of my technical letter on the pipeline concerns since the majority of the crossing was with going to be proposed to be within his legislative district
- Coordinated with *Cathy Tombasco*, Hazleton Area STEM School, Drums, PA to have a few EPCAMR Staff come down on May 7th, 2015 and create Seed Bombs of wildflowers with **35** gifted SAGE (Securing a Greener Environment) students as a part of a Career Day Forum for EPCAMR that will be used at future cleanup locations this Spring and Summer
- Suggested to *Gabby* and *Liz*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists, that EPCAMR needed to create an Educational Program Brochure that we can use for solicitations to businesses and industries that might support our future Educational Improvement Tax Credit approval and provide us with funds financially similar to one developed by Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center; <https://mlsvc01prod.s3.amazonaws.com/340f8461201/7d15314f-a348-40be-a76d-f17f3039476b.pdf>

Technical Assistance

- Met with *John Levitsky*, Watershed Specialist for Luzerne Conservation District, to review historic surface and underground mine maps in the Solomon Creek Watershed to assist the City of Wilkes-Barre in documenting abandoned underground mining impacts that would allow them to qualify for additional federal funding for stream restoration, flooding reduction, and habitat improvement projects
- Met with the Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board to update them on charrettes for the proposed Miner's Memorial Park, design elements for the Huber Miner's Memorial Park, the new Blue Coal marketing sign restoration effort and publicity generated from it by a recent article in the Citizen's Voice , the potential for an allocation of office space within the Earth Conservancy building, and GiveGab fundraising drive; Secured the delivery of the Blue Coal Sign from Connecticut Antique Shop
- Met with *Ben Brodsky*, EPCAMR Board Member from Schuylkill County, to provide him with a complete Waterboxx to take to his upcoming Forestry Committee Meeting since they are interested in acquiring several of the conservation Waterboxxes to promote tree growth on future reforestation projects
- EPCAMR was informed by *Terry Schmidt*, Skelly & Loy, Inc. that **Future Power** is interested in building a gas-fired plant near Good Spring, PA in Schuylkill County; They are interested in finding out more about the mine pools in that area; EPCAMR offered to host a follow up meeting to one that was held that we were not able to attend
- Forwarded information from *Dave Hamilton*, OSM to *Mike Dziak*, EC and *Geoff Shaw*, EC on the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP) that provides funding for AMD Treatment Systems that are new or existing

- Set up 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; Weatherly Borough was awarded **\$7000** for the development of the **Quakake AMD Assessment Project** that will start in the Spring 2015;
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/14287?id=20673&typeid=1>
- Provided *Tim Stahl*, PA DEP Civil Engineer with the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (PA DEP BAMR) with links and resources to information on cost effective solutions to improve coal waste soils that are within a river floodplain
- EPCAMR Staff and *Amanda Hamstra*, sampled the flow and chemistry at the Askam Maelstrom Oxidizer AMD Treatment System along Dundee Road, Hanover Township, PA for the Earth Conservancy
- Worked with *Cliff Denholm*, Stream Restoration Inc. to choose which AMD Passive Treatment Systems EPCAMR can sample this Spring 2015 for the sampling event under their Growing Greener Grant
- Met with *Palmira Miller*, PEC Community Illegal Dump Coordinator to provide her with some EPCAMR contacts for her future cleanup coordination efforts in NorthCentral PA
- Scanned some mine maps brought to us by *Ed Wytovich* and his elderly miner friend from Schuylkill County

Project Coordination

- Met at EPCAMR Office with *Davey Williams*, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, and *Jim Charowski*-PA DEP Bureau of Mining & Reclamation, Harrisburg to review EPCAMR's procedures and workflow patterns on the **Mine Map Grant** where we are scanning, cataloging, digitizing, and geo-referencing historic mine maps for the Commonwealth of PA for the Anthracite Coal Region
- Met with the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA DOT, US ACE, US Fish & Wildlife Service, PA DEP, and Skelly & Loy, Inc. representatives at the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project** in Ashley, to walk them along the stream corridor where the check dams, the failing dam, and the stream bank erosion problems are located to discuss staging areas, permitting issues, waiver possibilities, and agency issues and/or concerns about the mitigation project that EPCAMR will be coordinating; Followed up with *Paul DeAngelo* from Skelly & Loy, Inc. to provide him with paperwork that showed that we had met with the Ashley Borough Council to make them fully aware of the project; The Ashley Trout Stocking Association and Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited were also informed of our project for future support and volunteers
- Prepared a Progress Report, News Release, and Reimbursement for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project** for the period of 5-25-14 through 12-31-14; Submitted the paperwork to our new Project Officer at the PA DEP *Gregg Davis* and asked about where the Joint Permit Application for our project stood, since we still haven't received our approval to move ahead to construction and the development of the bid package for the project yet, with the June 30, 2015 deadline looming
- Followed up with *Dave Rinehiemer*, PA DOT about obtaining a waiver to repair the Loomis Borehole on the Sans Souci Highway, northbound lane, heading towards Wilkes-Barre, outside of Nanticoke, in Hanover Twp., which has collapsed and needs to be filled with cement and grouted, along with the placement of a new cast iron collar; EPCAMR will be working with PA Tectonics to repair the borehole, which is an integral location to monitor the mine pool levels in the Southern Wyoming Valley as a part of the **Wyoming Valley Borehole Monitoring Project**, that is currently unfunded; Worked with W-B Career & Tech Center Machine Shop Class and student *Bryce Waters*, to grind and solder "MW" (monitoring well) on to two old sewer plate covers that we'll be using at future borehole locations, including the Loomis as a new plate cover as we begin to daylight covered up boreholes

- Forwarded the Scope of Work for the **ISI/Waterboxx Phase III Project** to *Gabby* and *Liz*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists for their review and to give them the opportunity to start putting the grant in motion after the Winter 2014
- Researched information on a Franklin Coal Car that the Huber Breaker Preservation Society and EPCAMR are looking to rebuild and incorporate into the Huber Miner's Memorial Park in Ashley, PA; Following up with *James Pagnotti*, Pagnotti Enterprises, who believes that he has the original mechanical drawings for the coal car that we can have a copy of for the complete restoration
- Submitted a Progress Report and Reimbursement for the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project** in Sullivan County, PA to *Mario Carello*, PA DEP Moshannon Office Project Officer
- Followed up with *Nick Lylo*, PA DCNR District Forester and *Kate Gibbons*, PennFuture NE Office on the **Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Plan Grant** submission and discussion on letters of support and scope of work for the project

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; Submitted corrections needed on the contract for the Conference to the Ramada Inn Conference Center; Completed the introductory paragraphs for the website and worked with Mike to update the site incorporating the Committees ideas for the theme and backgrounds for the site; www.treatminewater.com ; Prepared and submitted Letter of Request for funding to the PA DEP for **\$5000** to support the Conference; Worked up the Meal Plan Menu for the Conference and submitted it to the Ramada Inn Conference Center
- Completed the registration paperwork for EPCAMR's presentation at the **Schuylkill River Watershed Congress** on 3-14-15 and forwarded it along the *Chari Towne*, Delaware Riverkeeper
- *Gabby*, *Kelsey*, and the Executive Director attended an **NCAC Grant Workshop** in Hawley, PA

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Provided orientation to EPCAMR's two newest Watershed Outreach Specialist Interns who are Seniors from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA, *Jessica Johnson* and *Amanda Hamstra*; Worked with *Maura Modrovsky*, King's Community Outreach Coordinator to complete paperwork to allow *Amanda* to qualify for the Federal Work Study PG
- *Dorothea Ford*, Johnstown, PA (wordstheydance.com) and *Judith Salmer*, Drums, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer Photographer, Gardeners, and Creative Writer/Artist
- *Rae-Ann Hansell*, Pringle, PA has a JH/SH Life Skills Class and her son from the West Side Career & Tech Center (WSCTC) interested in community service work; Forwarded her contact information to *Ray Clarke*-Huber Breaker Preservation Society since they were looking to conduct small cleanups, painting and scraping tasks, such as those that are readily available to be completed at the Huber Miner's Memorial Park; Told her that he'd surely follow up with her in the Spring 2015; Informed her that EPCAMR has another solar kiln that needs to be constructed, since he's in the Carpentry Class at WSCTC
- *Lauren Fletcher*, Kingston, PA a teacher at Wyoming Seminary Lower School has students interested in helping out with any large AMD Tie Dye Workshops that EPCAMR might coordinate in the Summer 2015
- *Paula Kaschenbach*, Ashley, PA is an avid gardener and has signed up to become a gardening and landscaping EPCAMR volunteer and is willing to help out at the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park
- *Kristen McNuaghton*, Archbald, PA signed up to become a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR for events that we might coordinate in the Lackawanna Valley

- *Emily Long*, Scott Township, Lackawanna County, PA signed up to volunteer with EPCAMR as a Water Quality Volunteer Monitor; She works for PA American Water as a Water Treatment Plant Operator
- *Shantice Bogard*, signed up with EPCAMR through GiveGab to assist EPCAMR with Marketing/Graphics Design assistance; EPCAMR will follow up with her since she lives outside of our service area and could do things online
- *Adam Zwolinski*, Nanticoke, PA and *Jen Ercolani*, Plains, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteers through VolunteerMatch

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Instituted monthly EPCAMR Staff Meetings and held our first meeting on 1-6-15 to review agenda items, projects, proposed projects, grant timelines, grant deadlines, delegation of tasks and responsibilities, and to receive updates from all Staff in their various program areas
- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts and made some edits in QuickBooks to the Accounts and Categories of Expenses; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports; Meeting at FNB with *Kelsey Biondo* to open up her IRA
- Reviewed the Foundation for PA Watersheds Letter of Intent Process for 2015 and followed up with *Branden Diehl*
- Followed up with *Duane Feagley*, PA Anthracite Council and informed him that it was best to send us their newsletter electronically to save them some postage
- Completed the November and December 2014 Board Reports
- Completed and sent the PA Child Abuse Clearance Forms in the mail to the appropriate agencies and the Criminal Backgrounds for the EPCAMR Staff
- Met with *Janice Perry*, IRA Advisor to have her open an IRA Account for *Kelsey Biondo*
- Discussed with *Branden Diehl*, Foundation for PA Watersheds EPCAMR's interest in submitting a grant
- EPCAMR Staff met with a TOSHIBA representative to obtain quotes on a floor model black & white copier that can print up to 11" x 17" sheets of paper; The EPCAMR Gestetner black & white copier was at the end of its useful life
- Communicated with WPCAMR on a recent House Resolution HR that is seeking to amend the SMCRA; It will revise the formula for determining the funds that can be withdrawn from the AML Fund and transferred into the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan to pay health benefits to retired miners; Currently, the Federal Government can withdraw up to \$490 Million from the AML Fund to be used to fund UMW pensions; This greatly expands that funding amount, eliminating any dollar limit and expands the participant coverage; The bill is sponsored by Rep. David McKinley (R) out of W. Virginia and includes 82 co-sponsors; None of the co-sponsors represent PA's Anthracite Coal Region; The PA Coal Alliance (PCA) is opposed to the bill; The PA Anthracite Council (PAC) opposed the legislation as well; The National Mining Association (NMA) seems to think that the bill is not expected to move; EPCAMR is wondering if this is something we should prepare a letter of opposition to and send out to our State Representatives; <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/2918>
- Completed an online OBTT Courses through NEPA Alliance on Time Management
- Continued working with Verizon Wireless Representative to get several credits straightened out on our Account
- Provided EPCAMR's FID/ EIN Number to *Tom Clark*, for the SRBC **Rausch Creek Mine Pool Study State Grant**
- Interviewed *Haley Giannone*, Bloomsburg, PA, a Geography and Planning student, for a Summer 2015 Internship