



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### January 2016 Progress Report

#### Education & Outreach

- Conducted an EPCAMR AMD/Outreach Program for the Boy Scouts of America's Annual Merit Badge Program at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA to **20** scouts
- Prepared and submitted a **\$10,000** grant to the **POLARIS TRAILS Grant**, Returned EPCAMR's license plate to Blue Ridge POLARIS, Wapwallopen, PA since we were informed that as a non-profit, we were not required to have a plate and could instead use an orange reflective sign, similar to that found on farm equipment
- Attended the Butler Mine Tunnel Presentation, given by *Craig Robertson*, at the Pittston Library as a co-sponsor of the event with the Greater Pittston Historical Society;  
<http://pittstonprogress.com/news/butler-mine-tunnel-contamination-revisited-at-mining-history-month-program-1.1998239>
- Met with *Carol Parenzan*, new Executive Director of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper to talk to her about AMD projects, problems, and possibilities for working together in the middle portion of the watershed from Shamokin Creek north to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River
- Shared with *Sarah Bodor*, NAAEE Affiliate Network examples of EPCAMR EE programs that could be fundable in light of the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the inclusion of environmental education; Funds would go to a local school system or nonprofit partner working with a school system and for environmental education, field-based hands-on or service learning experiences to improve mastery of STEM content/skills, or Environmental literacy programs; The examples were submitted to Congressman's Sarbane's Office
- Provided *Sarah Eckert*, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement Program Analyst, who coordinates the National OSMRE/AmeriCorps Program with a draft agenda developed for an AMD Field Tour for the team of National OSMRE/AmeriCorps that will be visiting PA; EPCAMR to host them for two days (2-2-16 and 2-3-16) of tours and discussions on our work in the Anthracite Region on AMD and abandoned mines
- Reviewed the new Chesapeake Bay Strategy Plan for PA;  
<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pages/Chesapeake-Bay-Office-.aspx#.VqErGfkrKCg>

- Passed along to some area teachers some information from *Susan Turcmanovich*, External Affairs Manager, about Pennsylvania American Water's Stream of Learning Scholarship; The program is open to any high school senior who lives in PAW's service area and plans a course of study related to the water/wastewater industry (science, engineering, environmental studies.); The student does not have to be attending a college in our service area, but must currently be a customer
- Provided contacts to Liz and Gabby for local community groups and college and university community service coordinators to help them reach out about the upcoming RECLAIM Crew Volunteer coordination event EPCAMR is planning for 3-15-16 at the Anthracite Café

## Technical Assistance

- Attended the Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) Technical Advisory Committee, Harrisburg, PA on 1-7-16; Attended the full MRAB Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on 1-21-16
- Attended a technical meeting with SRBC, CSI Environmental, and Hydration, LLC to discuss a future proposed consumptive use project within the Basin in the Anthracite Coal Region on some previously identified AMD discharges; EPCAMR is partnering with the private entities to secure funds to develop mine pool models within areas identified by all parties involved; Provided CSI Environmental with some funding links; Followed up on referrals to other parties that might potentially become involved or partners in the project, including PA DCNR and Talen Energy; Communicated with Talen Energy via e-mail on our consumptive use AMD proposed project
- Conducted an AMD Field Tour to Old Forge AMD Borehole with CSI Environmental, LLC, Hydration LLC, and LRCA Executive Director and EPCAMR President, *Bernie McGurl* to show them the discharge and the impacts it is having on the Lower Lackawanna River
- Conducted an AMD Field Tour to Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel with CSI Environmental, LLC to show them the discharge and the impacts it is having on the Susquehanna River in Conyngham Township, PA and areas south along the River
- Facilitated a meeting with *Mike Dziak*-CEO of Earth Conservancy and Larson Design Group who are interested in working on abandoned mine reclamation projects and providing consulting services on restoration projects
- Met with *Bob McDonald*, a candidate for the 120<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, who was interested in learning more about EPCAMR's work and projects that are ongoing or needed to be supported within the particular district that he was concerned about
- Reviewed the Aggregate Advisory Board (AAB) Regulatory, Legislative, Technical Committee draft recommendations for an upcoming AAB Meeting with *Josie Gaskey*, PACA; Participated in an AAB conference call
- Dropped off hundreds of printed OSM Folio Maps for the City of Wilkes-Barre to *Butch Frati*-Operations Director covered under the ***PennEast Pipeline Community Connection Municipal Outreach/Education Grant Program*** and picked up additional historic mine maps to scan for the City
- Attended the final Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force Meeting to review the final recommendations approved by the 48 members of the immediate Task Force members, Harrisburg, PA

- Worked on overhauling and updating the EPCAMR Website with *Mike Hewitt*, EPCAMR Program Manager
- Followed up with *Bridget Cafaro*, GiveGab to thank her for their support of our 2015 online Fundraising Campaign and to tell her that EPCAMR looked forward to working with them in 2016 when we start another campaign at some point in the year
- Submitted a request to OSMRE TIPS Training Center in Pittsburgh, PA to have EPCAMR host an EarthVision v9.13D Mine Mapping Training at our Office in May 2016 since we are a TIPS Partner
- Reached out to the City of Wilkes-Barre to see if they were interested in partnering on a PA American Water Grant before the deadline on 4-1-16

### **Community Volunteer Service Coordination**

- Followed up with GiveGab EPCAMR Volunteers online
- Worked on mine map preservation and taping of seams on historic mine maps from the City of Wilkes-Barre with *Brandon Trovitch*, EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and member of the Abandoned Mine Research, Inc. group
- *Mikayla Begg*, White Haven, PA, who attends Millersville University, signed up looking for a Summer 2016 Internship and or volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR through MailChimp

### **Project Coordination**

- Picked up shipment of Waterboxx parts and supplies from delivery truck in the Hanover Industrial Park that EPCAMR has been waiting on to initiate our ***Waterboxx Phase III Research and Tree Planting Project*** and informed *Marly Nuitin*- Groassis, and *Loren Cole*-ISI that our shipment was finally received in order for him to send out payment; Completed an Interim Report and provided it to ISI and Groassis on the status of the project; Waterboxxes will be distributed in the Spring 2016
- Communicated with *Bob Hedin*, Hedin Environmental about wrapping up the reporting requirements for the ***Lewis Mine AMD Treatment System Rehabilitation Project***; Reviewed *Aaron Pontzer's*-PA DEP Inspector's Water Quality Data and Inspection Reports and forwarded them to *Corey Richmond* at the Sullivan CD and *Carol Kafer* at the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association (LCWA); Talked to Rich Rexer about blocking off the temporary access road to the lower flushing pond as requested by PA DOT; Began working on Final Reporting requirements and submissions for the grant closeout
- Reviewed Program Stats from Gabby and Liz on the ***PennEast Pipeline Community Connector Mine Mapping Municipal Outreach Project***; Applied for another round of funding for **\$5000** to finish printing the remaining maps for the other municipalities that requested paper poster sized copies of the underground mine maps since EPCAMR exhausted all of our funds for printing costs with the first grant; Provided *Jaclyn Nawa*, PennEast with an update on the progress with the project to date and they were thrilled with the results
- EPCAMR Staff finalized our ***POLARIS TRAILS Grant*** Brochure and Video and submitted it for our final receipt of the remaining **\$1000** from the original **\$10000** grant we received to purchase the Ranger ETX and some supplies; <https://youtu.be/tWa3fJC9Sbl> (EPCAMR Video created to promote TRAILS PG)

## **Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops**

- Participated in the monthly NAAEE Steering Committee conference call
- Participated in a monthly PA AMR conference call to continue planning the 18th Annual PA AMR Conference to be held at Indiana University of PA, Indiana, PA ON June 22-23, 2016; [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com); Followed up with *Erica Tomlinson*, Tioga County Conservation District Manager to see if her Watershed Specialist *Lori Maloney*, would be willing to present on how to establish a trust fund for an AMD Treatment System; Followed up with *Melissa Meade*, to see if she'd be interested in presenting on her website work ([www.anthracitecoalregion.com](http://www.anthracitecoalregion.com)) and social media work in the field of anthracite history and culture; Followed up with *Chante Coleman*, Field Director for the Choose Clean Water Coalition to see if she wanted to present as well; Provided Mike with the introductory paragraphs for the website
- The EPCAMR Watershed and Urban Outreach Staff attended a NCAC Meet the Funders Luncheon in Scranton, PA on 1-28-16 to introduce ourselves to several foundation and corporate funders who presented
- Provided a description to *Scott Cope*, PAEE for the website, of the *EE Capacity Workshop* that EPCAMR will be coordinating and facilitating with the PA Leadership Team at the annual PAEE Conference on 3-13, thru 3-15-16 at the Inn at Pocono Manor; [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net)

## **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; Followed up on EPCAMR Staff IRA Accounts; Mailed out EPCAMR Staff W-2s
- Completed the December 2015 and January 2016 monthly PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report; Completed our October through December Quarterly 319 Reimbursement and submitted it to our Project Officer, *Donna Wagner*-PA DEP BCR; Received word from Donna that the mileage rate reimbursement went to .545/mile for 2016; EPCAMR accepted the revised Attachment E of our grant agreement and let *Donna* and *Doug Goodlander*- Conservation Program Manager know in writing
- Held our EPCAMR Monthly Staff Meeting on 1-11-16; Meeting with Watershed Outreach Specialist Staff on 1-15-16; Began working with Staff to develop a working draft of an updated Strategic Plan for EPCAMR to provide to the Board at a future date for additional comments and suggestions; EPCAMR Staff have also taken on the challenge of collectively overhauling the website to make it more modern and fresh; [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org)
- Reviewed resumes for *Gavin Pelliteri*, *Joe Tona*, *Olivia Termini*, and *Christopher Cook, Jr.*
- Reviewed Annual Employment Tax Newsletter from Kovalchik & Kollar; Reviewed PA Unemployment Compensation Rate Notice and filed it
- Worked with Mike on updating our SAM Registration
- Began working on a Bank of America Organizational Support Grant online; Called United Concordia Dental to change address for EPCAMR in their database
- Dealt with BC/BS Highmark Login issues with the Administrative side of the website portal; Inquired about free ALLClear ID identity protection services for EPCAMR on all member accounts