



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- *Renaud Dumensil*, Freelance Report/Videographer followed up with EPCAMR after the New Year and mentioned that as soon as the show on coal mining and reclamation airs on ARTE European TV Channel (<https://www.arte.tv/en/>) he would provide us with footage, video, and stills for our use for publicity and outreach
- Forwarded the January 2018 copy of PA Anthracite Council's "*Anthracite Report*" to EPCAMR Staff
- Discussed EPCAMR's nomination of AMD as a priority issue for 2018 for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed with Madeline Urbish
- Participated in an Innovative Mine Reclamation Webinar highlighted by the Central Appalachian Coalfields Coalition; <https://youtu.be/7i2PaNJJ1Qs>
- EPCAMR's Centralia Cleanup in 2017 was selected as one of the **National River Cleanup 2017** River Heroes for the "Cleanup to Watch"; <https://www.americanrivers.org/make-an-impact/national-river-cleanup/celebrating-2017s-river-heroes/>.
- Joined the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) Communications Work Group to serve as a resource for the other member organizations on issues related to AMD and abandoned mine reclamation within the Delaware River Watershed; Communicated with *Rita Yelda*, Outreach and Communications Manager, for the CDRW-New Jersey Audubon; www.delriverwatershed.org
- Forwarded a release on an available grant opportunity from the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office of the **FY18 Chesapeake Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET)** program funding;. A total of roughly **\$1,000,000**, subject to appropriations, may be available to fund 8-10 new projects; Applications are due March 9th, 2018; EPCAMR Executive Director requested that some Staff sign up for the upcoming webinar to find out more about the program since they are looking to grant projects in underserved communities and school districts that have never been previously awarded grants that provide hands-on environmental education programs within the Bay Watershed
- Forwarded the *PA GrantWatch* List to the EPCAMR Staff to continue to look for grant funds and programs that are within our mission for us to consider applying for in the future

- *Vera F. Thoms*, Dominion Corporate Philanthropy and Community Partnerships Officer, for Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation informed EPCAMR that we could apply for a **\$50,000 Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation Environmental Education Grant** in January 2018; EPCAMR Executive Director created an online cybergrants account to begin the application process and completed the application and submitted a grant that will focus some of our efforts in Tioga and Dauphin Counties
- Suggested that Denise sign up for the *New Nature Movement-Children & Nature Network* free newsletter for additional urban outreach and environmental education resources
- Provided *Mike Hewitt*, Program Manager for EPCAMR with materials to forward along to *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President for when he meets with Senator *Bob Casey* to discuss the RECLAIM Act; Provided the same information to *Ezra Thrush*-PennFuture- Choose Clean Water Coalition, for a conference call that EPCAMR will not be able to get on to discuss the RECLAIM Act and other information on SMCRA; Sent around a boilerplate template for a RECLAIM Act resolution to EPCAMR Members and supporting organizations and coalitions such as the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and the Choose Clean Water Coalition; Reached out to EPCAMR County Commissioners and Councils within our region and provided them information on the RECLAIM Act to see if their municipal governments would pass and adopt an official resolution in support of the RECLAIM Act
- EPCAMR was informed that the Loyalsock Creek was named the 2018 PA River of the Year; EPCAMR has been working for two decades in the watershed to remediate AMD sources and to support the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in the watershed with our numerous partners; EPCAMR congratulated *Carol Parenzan*, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper for submitting the nomination on behalf of the watershed and it's partners; Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association will receive a **\$10,000** Leadership Grant to help fund year-long "River of the Year" activities within the watershed; EPCAMR hopes to be a part of a few of them;
http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/01/loyalsock-creek-named-pa-2018-river-of.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+PaEnvironmentDaily+%28PA+Environment+Daily+Blog%29
- An interesting article on the use of iron oxide pigment was recently circulated in Athens, Ohio that discussed the resource recovery potential of AMD that EPCAMR has been working on for nearly two decades; https://www.athensnews.com/news/local/project-converts-toxic-run-off-into-paint-ingredient/article_a9bf6da6-e73e-11e7-8db3-5b949d420ee1.html
- Continued working with *Denise* on the **US EPA Environmental Justice Grant** and getting information necessary to be uploaded and edited in WorkSpace on www.Grants.gov and the US Government's System for Award Management (SAM) registration
- Began working on a draft Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation Grant for **\$50,000** to support EPCAMR's work in Dominion's regional coverage area that is within (Dauphin & Tioga Counties)

- Mike has set up a new online video account for EPCAMR with Daily Motion (<https://www.dailymotion.com/EPCAMR>) since we're experiencing difficulties with YouTube in getting our account back online
- Received an application for existing ***Trout in the Classroom*** participants to consider to apply for some funds to support the educational programming side of the release of the fish or for tank supplies and materials
- Worked with *Gabby* and *Abbie* on coming up with a ***\$5000 Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini Pre-K-12 Environmental Education Grant Program*** in partnership with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District on Invasive Plants, AMD, and Native Plants targeted to a 7th grade class of **25** students; Created a new online EPCAMR account for submission of the grant; EPCAMR will educate the students on the importance of clean water, how native plants naturally filter pollution from impervious surfaces that enter local waterways, on AMD at the Plainsville Borehole location along the Susquehanna River floodplain, and how invasives can destroy the health and stability of native plant life and local ecosystem dynamics over time; Prepared the application and budget; Received a Letter of Support from the Greater Nanticoke Area School District Superintendent, *Ron Grevera*; Forwarded the grant narrative to Val Bartle, Dean of Students, to forward to *Dr. Grevera*; Requested a partnership and Letter of Support from *John Levitsky*-Watershed Specialist for the Luzerne Conservation District and received it the same day
- EPCAMR signed on to a letter that requests that the Maryland Department of Environment either deny the certification or establish conditions on Exelon's certification sufficient to offset project-induced effects of nutrient and sediment discharges, since it should play a large role in mitigating the significant pollution to the Chesapeake Bay that comes from the Conowingo Dam; Strong conditions can play an important role in shaping a pollution control strategy for the dam for the next 45-50 years; Several recommendations and cleanup actions suggested as a part of the conditions were listed as a condition on the license and that Maryland Department of Environment require any measure to reduce or eliminate pollution to reflect the need for adaptive management
- EPCAMR offered to set up an EPCAMR AMD/Outreach Display at the Harrisburg State Museum ***Legends & Lore of the Keystone State*** Event and discuss our work and role in cleaning up Centralia over the last 5 years as well as our involvement in the development and creation of the newest documentary out on Centralia, called "*Centralia: PA's Lost Town*", directed by *Joe Sapienza II*
- EPCAMR signed on to a Letter opposing the *Senate Resolution 104*, a piece of legislation that calls for the Governor to remove the moratorium on drilling in Pennsylvania's protected State Forest land; This resolution would be detrimental for our public forests and put our water quality at risk across the Commonwealth, but especially the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River watersheds
- Attended the Nanticoke Conservation Club Meeting, Nanticoke, PA to discuss April 28th Illegal Dump Site Cleanup along Newport Creek and Pipe Road

Technical Assistance

- Forwarded the name of the Grant Administrator for the PA DCED Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park Construction and Reclamation Project to *Joe Sabol*, Bookkeeper for Neal-Lynn Construction; Forwarded new grant information to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society on the PHMC Keystone Fund for Historic Preservation
- Asked *Tali McArthur*, Program Manager-PA Council of TU, if she needed any assistance at the Keystone Coldwater Conference in Penn-State in March 2018; *Gabby Zawacki* offered to help with registration and exhibitors
- Made an inquiry into *Kurt Bauman*, NCAC/NEPA Alliance to see if the EPCAMR Staff can come up and utilize the NCAC Office and Foundation Center Online Directory to conduct some grant research over the Winter in the next few weeks; Staff attended a meeting at NCAC to review grants on January 26th, 2018 for the entire day; Created a Google document "*Grant Prospects*" on our shared drive for all Staff to access and add to and research for future opportunities; Forwarded a Grants Directory from Senator Yudichak's Office around in PDF format to all Staff
- Provided some insight to *Dr. Ken Klemow* and *Julie McMonagle*, Wilkes University Professors, who are looking to create a new Environmental Science/Biology Major within the Departments of Biology and Environmental Engineering & Earth Science (EEES); They were looking for feedback on coursework, technical classes, types of jobs that are in the market, and marketing of the new major
- Informed *Eric Cavazza*, Director of the PA DEP BAMR that EPCAMR would like to be a part of the future establishment of an AML Pilot Implementation Working Group that would include key agencies and organizations in the 6 AML Pilot States (PA, WV, KY, AL, VA, and OH)
- Reviewed the ***Merchant Hydro, LLC Preckle Pumped Storage Headwater Hydro Dam Project*** in Lackawanna County that would involve the utilization of mine-influenced water from the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool that's connected to the Old Forge Borehole, Duryea Outfall, and Duryea Swamps and corresponded with *Bernie McGurl*, EPCAMR President and LRCA Executive Director to come up with some type of response to the plan and potential for a partnership with Merchant Hydro, LLC who will need some assistance in the further development and localized mapping of the mine pool in the area of the project; Bernie was going to attend a hearing in Harrisburg, PA to hear *Adam Roussele*, Merchant Hydro, LLC make a presentation before a House Energy Committee
- Reached out to *Bobby Burns*, President, Keystone Anthracite Coal Company, Girardville, to see when EPCAMR could come down and get an estimate on the number of mine maps from the Girard Estate that we might be able to scan into the PHUMMIS as a part of our proposed multi-year grant to the ***Commonwealth of PA's Mine Subsidence Insurance Program*** that we'll be submitting in mid-February; Continued working on the development of the draft grant application with *Mike* and the EPCAMR Staff
- *Matt Osmulski*, GIS Specialist for Susquehanna County Department of Public Safety followed up with EPCAMR to let us know that if we needed any information for watersheds or work in Susquehanna County, he'd be glad to assist; He was a former intern with *John Levitsky* from the Luzerne Conservation District and had worked with EPCAMR on a few projects
- *Daniel Bochicchio*, Skybernetics, reached out to EPCAMR and wanted to discuss the use of drones for AML reclamation, mine fire investigations, AMD assessments using aerial thermal imagery, and other uses in the EPCAMR Region in a study with West Chester University, USGS, and the PA DEP

- Provided *Tom Clark*-SRBC with some background information on the Hans Yost Creek in the Deep-Mahantongo-Pine Creek Watershed; SRBC is potentially considering treatment options at the AMD discharge to remove the downstream area from the Impaired Waters List
- Provided EPCAMR Staff with a link to a new online viewer of impaired stream listings from PA DEP; <http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/integratedreport/index.html> and the PA DEP 2016 Data-Water Quality Report accepted by the US EPA Region III
- Provided *Joe Sapienza II*, Centone Productions, LLC, and newest EPCAMR Board member with resources on grant writing at his request
- Asked *Tom Clark*-SRBC if ***the Anthracite Mine Mapping Southern and Northern Coal Fields SRBC Project Number – 1302-125*** has been published and released
- Met with *Don Kane*, member of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society to assist him with seeking information on grant writing for the group; Provided him with similar resources to what was given to *Joe Sapienza II*, our EPCAMR Board member
- Reviewed EPCAMR's ***Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association Connell's Tunnel Water Quality AMD Treatment Monitoring Proposal in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed*** before providing it to Corrie Richmond, Sullivan County Conservation District who will deliver it to the LWCA

Project Coordination

- *Community Aid, Inc.* provided EPCAMR with an additional **\$500** to support our (**COALS**) annual illegal dump site cleanups on abandoned mine lands and encouraged us to apply for the 2018 grant round since they didn't have enough funds to fund everyone in 2017; Valerie Stewart, Executive Assistant informed us of their Board's decision to provide us with the additional funds because of the great work we are doing in the region; Applied for a 2018 grant for **\$5000** to continue illegal dump site cleanups throughout the coal region
- *Tim Altares*, PA DCED Point of Contact on issues surrounding Centralia got back to EPCAMR with a positive note that Management is letting their Legal Counsel take the lead on developing the draft access agreement for EPCAMR to set up Surveillance Cameras on State Property in Centralia at undisclosed locations in the Spring of 2018; EPCAMR informed *Aaron Semasko*, Enforcement Support Coordinator for Keep PA Beautiful who is partnering with EPCAMR since we've submitted the application in the Fall of 2017 following our 4th Annual Cleanup in Centralia
- Paid the transportation bill for the bus rentals to pick up and drop off Wilkes-Barre Area School District's Plains-Solomon 5th grade class students who toured and participated in our **PA DEP EE grant AMD EE Outreach Program at Plainsville**, Plains Township
- *Ben Lorson*, PA F&BC provided EPCAMR with a copy of the Dam Breach Completion Certificate for the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Project** that needed to be signed by Ashley Borough; EPCAMR filled it out and hand delivered it to Greg Gulick-Borough Manager and asked for his signature and to have it sent back to the PA F&BC; RiverLogistics will be back up in a few weeks to make repairs to a few of the crossvanes; Submitted a Progress Report from July 2017-November 2017, along with a reimbursement to the PA F&BC

- Followed up with *Gerard Schmidt*, PA DEP BAMR on getting together to review the overall budget development for the **Harry E./Swoyersville Banks PA AML Pilot Project Proposal**; Attended a Borough Meeting in Swoyersville at the American Legion Hall at 6PM on January 17th to go over the history of the site, local and State support gathered to date, Federal support, PA DEP attendance, if available, to show topographic mapping and reclamation details, and talk about various partner roles in the project; Requested a Word Document template from Dean Baker, PA DEP BAMR of a previous grant agreement for a western PA AML Pilot Project that met the PA DEP guidelines for the program; Followed up with partners following the meeting about the way the meeting was structured by the Borough, which was very poorly and many residents left with a lot more questions than answers; Offered to develop a Q & A Sheet based on resident's questions and distribute to the partners; Evaluated the agenda and meeting flow and offered insight in to doing it differently, the next meeting to come up within the community as the project moves forward; Provided partners in the project with additional information on mine pool influence in and around the Harry E. Banks in Swoyersville based on EPCAMR's and OSM's evaluation of the mine pools historically; Provided *Matt Cochran*, Olympus Power with links to sections of law that identify pollution caused by waste coal banks, AMD, or other pollutants; <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/025toc.html>

The Chapters below are in the link above with PDFs.

Chapter 97. Industrial Waste
 Chapter 90. Coal Refuse Disposal
 Chapter 86. Surface and Underground Coal Mining: General
 Chapter 87. Surface Mining of Coal
 Chapter 89. Underground Mining of Coal and Coal Preparation Facilities (probably not related)

Chapter 102. Erosion & Sediment Control
 Chapter 101. Special Water Pollution Regulations (probably not related)
 Chapter 105. Dam Safety and Waterway Management
 Chapter 209 Coal Mines
 Chapter 88. Anthracite Coal

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-91/pdf/STATUTE-91-Pg445.pdf> Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act of 1977

[http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-106797/Clean%20Streams%20Law%20\(2014\).pdf](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-106797/Clean%20Streams%20Law%20(2014).pdf) Clean Streams Law, Section 310 (Acid Mine Drainage); Section 315 (Operations of Mines); Section 402 (Potential Pollution);

Land Recycling
<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Land/LandRecycling/Pages/Statutes-and-Regulations.aspx>

Clean Air Act
<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-air-act>

Chapter 16. Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy-Statement of Policy
<https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter16/chap16toc.html>

Chapter 106. Flood Plain Management
<https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter106/chap106toc.html>

Submitted the **Groassis Waterboxx Phase III Research Project** Final Report following the addition of comments after receiving the draft from Gavin Pellitteri, Watershed Outreach Specialist-EPCAMR, who compiled the majority of the report to *Claudia Meglin*- ISI, LLC; Requested the remaining **\$4000** as our final invoice; EPCAMR made several recommendations in the report to improve future project research implementation based on our attempts to work with volunteer community members, schools, universities, as well as in reference to some additional baseline soil data analysis that should be done, particularly in mining impacted areas on abandoned mine lands due to the number of unknowns and nature of the potential contamination of the soils or culm waste material and banks

- PA DEP has extended our Waterways Permit for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project** until December 31, 2018; EPCAMR received a letter from Skelly & Loy, Inc. regarding the extension; Informed Skelly & Loy, Inc. that EPCAMR met with the new management and ownership of Highland Manor and provided them with a set of the maps for the project and a blank landowner access agreement form to provide to their attorney for his review and hopefully signature very soon; They happened to be in from New York just a few weeks ago meeting up there and we got an e-mail to see if we could drop everything and go meet with them to discuss the project further and have access to the property and permission to do the work; One gentleman walked out to the project area with me to show him the extent of the project area and work that would be done and he seemed very amenable to it; It was another gentleman that we met with inside the facility that we had to explain the project to in much greater detail and follow up with another explanation by e-mail (*Dave Weisz*), who seemed to be more of a Business Manager or Property Manager; They informed me that there is very little available parking on the property on a daily basis due to the number of doctors, nurses, staff, and patient families that utilize the lots, but that we may be able to utilize a grassy area off the parking lot, depending on how many vehicles/trucks we might expect to show for the bid showing as long as we didn't tear up the grass too much; We are waiting to hear from their attorney
- Provided a brief update to *Pierre MaCoy*, SRBC and *Tom Clark*, SRBC on **the Mocanaqua Tunnel Mine Pool Mapping Feasibility Project** and the **Rausch Creek Mine Pool Mapping Project**, Held a work session meeting on January 18th to further discuss the project, the completion of the 3D Model for the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel mine pools, monitoring, and drilling and then to turn towards what's remaining to be completed in Rausch Creek since Rausch Creek partners opted not to go with our suggested drilling locations due to cost constraints; EPCAMR has been piecing together the Stackhouse Colliery maps from the West Side (Shickshinny Area) and realigning the elevations to make the have a uniform elevation distribution across the entire southern Wyoming Valley and complete the model so that it doesn't just "dive off the grid abruptly" and leave us with some null type values and "dark matter"; We are ready to look at the underground mine maps on the East side and determine where we would want to drop a borehole or two with the driller and then begin determining where to monitor and when and report back to PA DCNR through *Brad Dimitrovitch*, AES, LLC; Coordinated with *Brad* after reviewing in detail the PA DCNR State Forest Research Agreement and providing comments and to be sure that he gets the request in for an official extension to *Greg Czarnecki*; *Teddy Barowski*-PA DCNR provided *Brad* copies of the exploratory drilling permit paperwork that needs to be completed prior to drilling; Followed up with *George Myers*, Myers Environmental, the Contract Operator for the Shickshinny/Mocanaqua Sewer Authority to talk with him about the capacity and operations of the sewage treatment plant in Mocanaqua right next to the Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel outfall; SRBC and EPCAMR may want to meet with the Authority Board over the Summer 2018 to fill them in on the project; Requested water sampling quotes from H2 Environmental and Hawk Mountain Labs for future sampling events

- Submitted a Final Progress Report and Budget Receipts to *Branden Diehl*, Project Manager, Foundation for PA Watersheds on EPCAMR's convening of an International Guest Speaker from Germany's Wuppertal Institute (www.wupperinst.org), Timon Wehnert, Economist, (<http://wupperinst.org/en/c/wi/c/s/cd/1097/>) and an expert panel from across PA on climate change, energy, and abandoned mines; Labelled the event as "**The Germany Energy Transition Away from Coal: Perspectives for Pennsylvania**" that was hosted by Wilkes University and EPCAMR; Sponsors were the Foundation for PA Watersheds (<http://pawatersheds.org>) and Heinrich Böll Foundation (www.us.boell.org); News media coverage locally was well received; <https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2017/07/the-german-energy-transition-away-from.html>, <http://timesleader.com/news/668378/researcher-brings-german-coal-experience-to-wilkes-presentation> and <http://citizensvoice.com/news/german-expert-says-pa-can-move-to-cleaner-energy-1.2221386> EPCAMR Executive Director created a Facebook Event that was shared over 50 times. https://www.facebook.com/events/1367409413375296/permalink/1373835062732731/?notif_t=like¬if_id=1500483950077203

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Samantha Olex*, Plymouth, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer
- EPCAMR Executive Director partnered with King's College Environmental Economics Professor, *Dr. Margarita Rose* and her Class on pulling together an update on the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Recreational Use/Loss Value Economic Impact on Fisheries as well as taking a look at the impacts that abandoned mine lands and AMD has on coalfield communities, fisheries, jobs, and other types of recreational and economic development industries; Presented before the Class on January 25th at King's College and provided the Class and *Dr. Rose* with links to many existing resources to help the students develop their reports for EPCAMR; *Dr. Brian Mangan* sat in on the presentation and asked that EPCAMR come along to a meeting of the colleges and universities that belonged to the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition to see if any of them would be interested in becoming involved in the effort headed by *Dr. Skip Weider*
- *Ryan Sotelo*, EPCAMR Volunteer has begun to solicit for donations for upcoming cleanups planned for 2018 to regional businesses and food store chains; Provided him with our Letter of Determination and a form letter that he can change depending on which stores and businesses he will approach in the Spring 2018
- *Lauren Perry*, Wyoming, PA and college Sophomore student at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer; She had followed up about internships in the Summer and EPCAMR had informed her that we do not have a formal relationship with SUNY and that if she could put us in touch with the Career Planning or Internship Department that we'd be willing to speak to them about how we operate our internship program

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Submitted a news blurb to the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU on EPCAMR Staff's presentation scheduled for January 9th at their monthly meeting on NAACC; It was posted in their newsletter blog, "The REEL Story"; (<https://www.streamcontinuity.org>); Worked with *Gabby* to finalize our presentation on the NAACC Assessment Training EPCAMR is capable of conducting for other interested volunteers in the region; Forwarded the presentation to the EPCAMR Staff following the event

- *Phil Thomas*, TU Habitat Coordinator for the PA Coldwater Habitat Restoration Program requested that EPCAMR look over a few crossing survey worksheets for previous culvert assessments that were completed to be sure of the qualitative assessment values that were given were correct or need to be changed slightly
- Attended the PA TU Board Retreat in Mill Hall, PA
- Met with *Liz Hughes*, Earth Conservancy to discuss February 1st AMD/AML Brownfields Tour with the selected candidates for the **US EPA Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development Training Program**; Contacted White Transportation Company to obtain a quote for a school bus for the day and provided them with a tentative tour route; Followed up with *Vino's Hoagie Shop* on Blackman Street to obtain a quote for catering the tour for around 32-35 attendees for a brown-bag lunch; Prepared a tentative tour route and informed the EPCAMR Staff of our committed participation in the program for the day; Continued to promote the Program through social media since they are still taking students and interviewing underemployed, unemployed, and veterans who are unemployed for the program; EPCAMR Staff and the Executive Director developed the Map Orientation and Interpretation Learning Exercise documents for the Training and submitted it to *Liz Hughes* for review and distribution; Projected an estimate of **\$800** in professional services to assist with the project that can be invoiced from EC and PSU for the project
- Requested that *Gabby* rough out a tentative **2018 PA AMR Conference** Tour Route for the PA AMR Conference Committee and had continued discussions on the timing of the locations that we will be stopping at along the way including the Graymont Limestone Quarry and Fisherman's Paradise along Spring Creek; Submitted the request letter to *Glenn Florence*, PA DEP, for **\$5000** for funds to support the 20th Anniversary PA AMR Conference in State College, at the Ramada Inn Conference Center & Hotel on June 20th and 21st, 2018; www.treatminewater.com; Requested that Graymont become a sponsor of the Conference and provided them with an ACH Authorization Vendor Form; Requested that Ernst Seed become a sponsor; Provided *Mike* with a few photo options for the website development; *Cristy* provided the Committee with a potential Mayfly Award artist for consideration; Forwarded the EPCAMR Staff the minutes from the Committee Meeting since they will start to become more integrally involved in the planning as we get closer to the event; Convened three conference calls in the month of January
- Scheduled a Professional Development Grant Training Meeting with *Kurt Bauman*, NCAC, Pittston, PA with all Staff attending on January 26th, 2018 to search for foundation grants, the Foundation Center website, corporate funders, and to review grant lists provided by NCAC to support some of EPCAMR's programs, projects, educational programs, and organizational capacity
- Prepared a Letter of Professional Support for *Denise Hernandez*, EPCAMR Urban Outreach Coordinator, for a Scholarship Application that she was applying for from PAEE for the *Ed Silcox* Scholarship Award to help to defray costs of attending the March 2018 Annual PAEE Conference (www.paee.net)

- The Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition is hosting a webinar on January 23 that will discuss updates on the status of AML (Abandoned Mine Land) Pilot and RECLAIM funding, key lessons from successful AML Pilot projects, and resources for developing proposals in 2018; The Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition is a group of four non-profit organizations in Central Appalachia that work in community engagement around AML cleanup and redevelopment; The Coalition supports the development of innovative reclamation proposals from local organizations and governments and is very similar to EPCAMR and are partners on a national level in support of the RECLAIM Act passage; EPCAMR Executive Director asked a member or two of the Staff to sign up for the webinar and take notes
- Reached out to *Dan Summa*, Keystone Pure Water Technologies, Inc. to further discuss his need for a mine pool elevation within the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool Complex for his Scranton Laceworks Geothermal Project and to see if he was interested in presenting at the 20th Annual PA AMR Conference in June 2018
- Prepared an abstract to be presented by the EPCAMR Executive Director on the PA DCED EITC Program entitled, ***“How to Elevate Your Non-Profit or Community Watershed Group to an Educational Improvement Organization and Become Eligible for Funds from PA’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program”*** for the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee to review and submitted it to *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR*
- *Dennis Pennington*, PA Section President, AIPG followed up with EPCAMR and informed us that he would get back to us with details on the March 3rd **PA Chapter-AIPG Symposium** hosted by EPCAMR and the EC, following a conference call with other committee members later in the month
- EPCAMR and WPCAMR submitted a co-presentation to the Annual May **Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference** in Lancaster, PA on abandoned mine reclamation, the PA AML Campaign, the RECLAIM Act, and SMCRA
- *Dr. Marianne Krasny*, Cornell University, has requested that the EPCAMR Executive Director come and speak to students in April 2018 within the Department of Natural Resources in Ithaca, NY, due to the years of involvement with civic ecology, urban environmental education, participation in the development and authorship of an e-book and a chapter on Civic Ecology in an upcoming book to be release by Cornell University Press; www.civicecology.org
- EPCAMR Executive Director was asked to speak at the MEI2018 (Mining Exploration International), that will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, September 6-8, 2018; <https://www.miningexplorationinternational.com/>; Spoke with *Magdalena Maestri*, Conference Director and informed her that the costs are too prohibitive to attend unless a full scholarship and transportation were provided to attend

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Submitted the EPCAMR November and December PA DEP 319 Progress Reports to *Donna Wagner*, Project Officer, PA DEP and reimbursements to *Tamara Seiler*-Management Technician in the PA DEP Grants Center
- EPCAMR received a letter from the IRS that stated that they haven't received our 941 Tax Return for 2016, yet they have shown a credit on our account at **\$13,774.58** to our 941 Form for the tax period that ended December 31, 2016. They requested a newly signed copy if it has been filed and to copy any and all schedules and documents that were included with the original return; EPCAMR Executive Director found the previously filed return and submitted it to the IRS to obtain the credit
- Inquired to our EPCAMR President on the approach to take with offering the GIS Technician position to *Rachael Grube*, our current OSMRE/AmeriCorps Environmental Steward and our decision on salary and benefits offer for the full-time position; EPCAMR Executive Director and Program Manager completely updated the GIS Technician position job description and responsibilities and provided it to her; She put in her two week notice with OSMRE/AmeriCorps and started work January 17th, 2018; Had her begin to fill out all the necessary administrative paperwork and employee documents for payroll, health care, benefits, and forwarded the necessary paperwork to OneSource for payroll services
- Forwarded some New Year information updates from TechSoup to *Mike* for his review
- Provided the EPCAMR Staff with our January 2018 Agenda for our Monthly Staff Meeting for January 10th, 2018; Convened the EPCAMR Staff Meeting; Worked on the development of agenda items with *Mike* for the upcoming February 16th Board Meeting
- Provided *Abbie* with the list of 16 counties in the EPCAMR Region that we serve for a project she was working on
- Completed additional administrative questions and completion of information on GuideStar to elevate EPCAMR's transparency status to the Platinum Level
- Forwarded *Kelsey Biondo* her 2017 Taxes from OneSource
- Scheduled a meeting with *Janice Perry*-Financial Advisor for EPCAMR Staff IRAs at First National Bank for *Rachael Grube* and *Gabby Zawacki*
- Applied for and resubmitted our PA Sales Tax Exemption Renewal Certificate to Staples
- Honda STEM Grant with PSAYDN draft application will continue to be worked on over the Summer and submitted in August 2018
- Provided *Mike* the 2018 Employment Tax Updates from Kovalchik & Kollar to be incorporated into our EPCAMR Wage Rate Sheets
- EPCAMR signed up for the *Chronicles of Philanthropy* (www.philanthropy.com) and GrantStation Access to be able to research grant opportunities and to read about foundations, corporate giving, donor management, and non-profit management

- Reviewed *Gabby's* initial research on some foundation grants in the region that EPCAMR could pursue in the near future for projects, organizational capacity, and to support our partners in the region
- Reviewed EPCAMR's 2018 Membership Appeal Letter with Mike and sent it out
- Reviewed the **ARC POWER Initiative** funding being announced; <http://www.arc.gov/power>
- Reviewed the **PA American Water \$10,000 Environmental Grant Program** Guidelines; <https://amwater.com/paaw/news-community/environmental-grant-program>
- EPCAMR President, Executive Committee, and *Mike* and the Executive Director reviewed and updated the new Draft Conflict of Interest Policy prior to the upcoming February 2018 Board Meeting