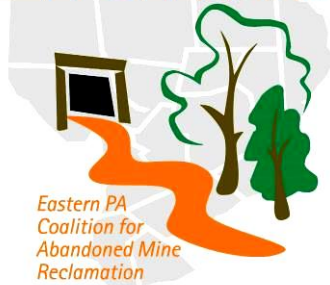


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## January 2014 Progress Report

### Highlights:

- Continued processing maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant; troubleshoot 42" scanner with ColorTrac Technicians; provided files for upload to the PHUMMIS server.
- Prepared 2014 Billable Rates for EPCAMR Staff work on grants and contracts
- Discussed plans to treat the **Old Forge Borehole** with **SMS, Wilkes U., SRBC & LRCA**
- Watched as a recycling company began to tear down the **Huber Breaker**
- Continued work on Mine Pools in the **Wyoming Valley, Northern Coal Fields**
- Researched and purchased computer software and hardware to upgrade productivity
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org), [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com), [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

### Education and Outreach:

- Added Mining History Month events, news articles and a donate button to the [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) page for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS). Directed HBPS volunteers to post future events to the HBPS Facebook page as an event and the events will show up automatically on the website by a WordPress Plugin.
- Sent a thank you letter and thumb drives back to Paul Coyle, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) National Mine Map Repository (NMMR). He sent another batch of aperture card scans which filled in gaps in the OSM Folios for areas in the Anthracite Region [SRBC].
- EPCAMR staff have had a front row seat to the demolition of the Huber Breaker. Toward the end of the month the main conveyor, foot house and retail pockets building was taken down by large excavators and cutting teams. We have been documenting the process with photos and commentary on the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) facebook page and a videographer from the Philadelphia Area, John Welsh, has been filming footage for a documentary. There is a general feeling of sadness from the facebook community as the breaker is being torn down for its worth in scrap value. In the late 1990's it was purchased for approximately \$2,000 by No.1 Contracting and it was recently sold through bankruptcy proceedings for \$1.5 Million to a recycling company out of Philadelphia. So much was done over the years to attempt to preserve the last standing breaker in the Northern Anthracite Field, but no real funding source was available to purchase the breaker. A memorial park setup by the HBPS and EPCAMR on 3 acres in the front of the breaker is all that will be left soon.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a conference call with Wilkes University and LRCA staff to discuss an alternate strategy to work with and parallel to Susquehanna Mining Solutions. SRBC and OSM staff still think that a Hydrogen Peroxide Plant will be a more cost effective treatment as compared to Chris Gillis' Patented Technology. Wilkes University has joined the effort to learn what they can and lend resources to help the project move forward. The team would like to

monitor the Old Forge Discharge and other discharges then compare and contrast several bench scale treatment methods.

- Prepared and sent last meeting minutes and a draft agenda along with a reminder for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting via the MailChimp list serve. Updated the board meetings page on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) with these documents and more. Sent an e-mail with suggested changes to the bylaws to the Strategic Planning Committee, with a reminder that there is a 30 day review period before any draft changes can be made. Because of this timing issue, it is not likely that the changes can be voted upon and made final at the next board meeting which is only a month away.
- Ordered Microsoft Office 2013 and Microsoft Server 2012R2 from [www.Techsoup.org](http://www.Techsoup.org) to upgrade our office software and our file storage capacity.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous months, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff.
- Updated Tom Clark, SRBC, on the status of the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative and the results of recent meetings about the Old Forge Borehole Treatment Plans by SMS [SRBC].
- Updated staff and volunteer pages on [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Uploaded a new resume for Executive Director and setup a webform for volunteer registration. This webform will make it easier to fill out and submit as opposed to downloading a PDF form and mailing it in or attaching it to an email.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Found the waste toner bottle in the Gestetner Copier which was completely full. Emptied the toner and replaced it back in the copier. After a few copies, the lines were mostly gone.
- Reconciled scans and georeferenced SID files for the previous month, recorded in the inventory control spreadsheet, prepared an invoice and sent the hard drive to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) for the Mine Subsidence Insurance Mine Map Processing Program [MSI].
- Calculated EPCAMR staff billable rates for 2014 in preparation for upcoming grant applications.
- Prepared invoices for EPCAMR Partner Webhosting services and sent them out via mail.
- Aided Executive Director in preparing and mailing an Environmental Education Grant in cooperation with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District to the PA DEP.
- Converted a paper copy of the Hicks Creek natural Stream Channel Design Project contract with Skelly and Loy into PDF and then into Word format for editing. It is not an automatic process, most of the words are correct, but formatting had to be fixed as well.
- Researched servers for intranet storage of Mine Map Images. Our 3TB network drive is at about 80% capacity and instead of buying multiple network drives, it may be more cost effective and efficient to purchase an actual server and add drives as needed to the server [MSI].
- Finished establishing vein names (especially with files marked as unknown), adjust the elevation by 500ft and correlating vein thickness to Ashburner cross sections for the Wyoming Valley in preparation for a 3D Mine Pool Model. The Ashburner data will be mashed up with two U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Miscellaneous Investigation Maps to create one complete model for the valley. Created 4DVX files for the I-753 and I-838 cross sections and began to digitize the veins and faults directly into earthVision. Finished digitizing 4 sections of 14 total (I-838 G-J). Where data overlaps, the newer USGS data will be used [SRBC].
- Downloaded Old Forge Borehole transducer data and setup the scheduled sampling again to start on a 15 minute interval. The scheduling was setup improperly last month. Continued on to the Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) office to pick up a book in interlibrary loan with regards to the relationship between mine subsidence and mine pools. Interns scanned this book at the office later to produce a digital copy of the publication and returned the book to LRCA. Took some time to crop and rotate pages to clean it up for reading.

- GIS Technician was starting to experience some issues with the 42" Scanner. Colored lines showed up on scans and the scanner would arbitrarily kick out the map before it was done scanning. Spent a significant amount of time on the phone with technical support, following the direction to clean, normalize and scan maps to reproduce a definable error. The technician determined that it could be a faulty main board. He ordered a main board and a field technician to the office to determine the problem and possibly swap out the board. This was done, but the "new" mainboard was causing other issues. I called the company in Virginia and determined that by their warranty policy, they sent a refurbished board that was actually bad. The field technician properly coded and sent the board back and ordered a new board. He rescheduled a follow up visit and installed the new board. The colored lines seemed to have gone away, but it the 42" Scanner is still experiencing kicking issues. The GIS Technicians and I have spent a lot of time trying to deal with this scanners faults. GIS Technician estimates that she wastes about 1-2 hours a day cleaning or restarting scans. I have spent more than 20 hours just this month running diagnostics and aiding in the repair of the unit [MSI].
- Tested conference call abilities in the Earth Conservancy conference room next door to be sure that participants could hear conversations in the room. Conference call ability for voting at EPCAMR Board meetings is being considered and may aide in getting more participation at quarterly board meetings, especially for those who drive a long distance and particularly in the winter months. A bylaws revision will be needed to make it an official convenience.
- Looked at purchasing a Dell PowerEdge Server to potentially upgrade our storage capacity over the local network. Currently, we use a 3 TB network drive that is at 90% capacity. Asked a friend for help and purchased bare bones Dell PowerEdge T20 server without a hard drive for a little over \$300 with plans to purchase more parts to build the server. Fully equipped servers cost more than \$500 [MSI].
- Dropped off and picked up maps, 2 times this month, from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office. Also searched through some previously scanned map to find specific maps that needed to be rescanned due to imperfections in the scans (i.e. lines) that were recognized by staff at the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) who quality check them [MSI].
- Reviewed Glendower Mine maps and cross sections from the OSM National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) to ascertain if there was enough information for the far western portion known as the Neumeister Mine [SRBC].
- Received correspondence from the PA DEP California DMO in regards to some files that were renamed, due to duplicate numbers being used a month before. They also asked that we create an Index File for each georeferenced map. This was formerly a part of the digitizing task, but since the maps cannot be placed online without this part of the geodatabase. We obliged for another change to the scope of work and included this task in with georeferencing [MSI].
- Received the Hard Drive on return from the DMO office in the mail and started to review the return files and no files needed to be rescanned [MSI].
- Met with EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl, to return the Mine Pool vs. Subsidence Potential Report so he could return it to the library. Cleaned up the scan of the book and provided it to LRCA a few days later.
- Found and asked about a discrepancy in the way we bill the MSI Program. The invoice asks for hourly billing while the original budget was calculated on a per map basis. EPCAMR staff were instructed to continue to use the invoice the way it was provided us by the DEP [MSI].
- Received new payroll printouts from our payroll company, therefore EPCAMR Staff had to devise a new way to submit payroll information without monthly reimbursements to the PA DEP 319 Program.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.