



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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January 2015 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Met with DEP staff regarding the MSI program, LCD Watershed Specialist regarding bridges over Solomon Creek, several partners regarding a PA DOT mitigation project, and participated in an AMR Conference Call
- Continued processing 222 TIFF, georeferenced 170 SID files and digitized features from 55 maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant in January.
- Purchased a computer, refurbish an old computer to another task and updated several others to keep our computer network in good working order and maintain office productivity.
- EPCAMR staff conducted flow and chemistry sampling at **Askam Boreholes**
- Edited 3 shapefiles and printed a set of maps for 2 EPCAMR partners
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.huberbreaker.org, www.datashed.org, and launched 2015.treatminewater.com; Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous months, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff for reimbursement.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a monthly staff meeting to coordinate efforts. These have become necessary with our expanding staff.
- Prepared a reimbursement to the PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) program and transferred files to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO). Worked with DMO staff to learn how they are now tracking inventory through the PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS). Formerly, an Inventory Control System (ICS) excel file was filled out and submitted with the files. Currently, a query can be run on the PHUMMIS database to match completion dates to the monthly inventory [MSI].
- Received word from the GIS Certification Institute that my GIS Professional application was reviewed and accepted. An official letter will be sent in the mail. Wrote an article for our www.epcamr.org website and Facebook page.
- EPCAMR staff met with Jim Charowski, PA DEP Harrisburg Office, and Davey Williams, PA DEP Pottsville DMO, to show them how staff are processing maps from the Pottsville DMO inventory [MSI].
- Updated www.epcamr.org, www.huberbreaker.org and <http://2015.treatminewater.com> websites to keep things running smoothly with WordPress infrastructure.
- Added Mining History Month Events to www.huberbreaker.org and their Facebook page.
- EPCAMR staff met with John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) Watershed Specialist, to review maps related to the South Wilkes-Barre Mines. Several bridges crossing

the Solomon Creek are destabilizing. The foundations and related walls are collapsing into the creek. City and county engineers are asking the conservation district for help to determine the cause, which may be mine related. Several coal veins were underground mined, but numbered veins above the Abbot were shallow and outcrop in this area. There is also the alluvium (aka. buried valley), a layer of unconsolidated rock, that can be causing the destabilization. Engineers should have been aware of this and would have compensated by tying the bridge foundations to the bedrock below. Researched the area in the Wyoming Valley 3D Mine Pool Model created with earthVision. Attempted to register an image of several topographic maps covering the Wyoming Valley as a reference for the model, however the IMREG process is more difficult than I remembered and was taking too much time to re-learn the process. Ended up taking a snapshot of the model and adding notation using Paint Shop Pro.

- Met with Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) members Ray Clarke and Bill Best. Ray requested that I update the HBPS brochure with newly elected board members and reprint for the brochure holder on the kiosk in the memorial park. Bill requested that we print some maps in which he would pay printing costs. Searched for Mine Car and Powder House designs related to the Huber Colliery with Rick Ruggerio, Earth Conservancy, but no luck. We could only find these designs for other collieries. Rick remembers that these designs do exist, but had been moved or even taken. Unfortunately, the area where these items are stored is not secure.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a field meeting at Solomon Creek above Main Street in Ashley with PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Skelly and Loy representing the PA Department of Transportation (PA DOT). The PA DOT is looking for a mitigation project related to their South Valley Parkway project and a dam removal project on Solomon Creek would meet that requirement. EPCAMR will act as the local sponsor for this project. Met a local resident that had a hand in building the dam at "Chester's Creek" (aka. Solomon Creek). The dam was built initially to create a swimming hole and at first was against the removal, but EPCAMR staff explained that it would improve the fishery and park which was created to support fishing derbies.
- Researched and relayed stormwater grant ideas to EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists, Gabby and Liz.
- Spoke with Patrick Jacquay, PA DEP California DMO, about the future of the MSI Mine Map Processing Initiative. He said that paperwork for an extension of the grant beyond the first 3 years is being drafted and that we should continue in the way that we are digitizing underground mine boundary polygons in particular. This is in contrast to the way that we "should have been" drawing the polygons and stopping at singular mine map boundaries, instead we look at a group of maps related to one colliery and draw the complete polygon which may span over several maps. This causes a problem in the way inventory control is managed in that one polygon is not connected to one map image, but many. This issue does not exist with other digitized items. Also, we are not sending digitized file updates, but complete geodatabases each time since we are editing the polygons. The California DMO likes the way we are filtering out map copies and asked about our process, with which other grantees are struggling.
- Created minutes from the last meeting and sent a meeting reminder to the EPCAMR board and associates for the meeting next month. Updated 2015 EPCAMR Membership Form and uploaded it to the EPCAMR website and sent to regional conservation district managers. Downloaded PA DEP BAMR update to the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) in preparation for the board meeting.
- Researched copy machines with tabloid size and duplex functionality with the help of Toshiba and Ricoh representatives. Both were attempting to get special pricing for non-profit organizations. Initially the Toshiba representative was able to find an inexpensive "floor model" that we could purchase and they could service. Started a week trial of a Toshiba Copier which was not working properly on arrival, but Toshiba representative called in a technician to fix the copier. The Ricoh representative could not match with a comparable model or price.

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee Conference Call to coordinate efforts with the committee as they continue to iron out details and get speakers/sponsors for the conference in 2015. Went live with 2015.treatminewater.com.

Technical Assistance:

- Ordered wireless home phone connect devices from Verizon Wireless in preparation for switching from Verizon land lines, but we could not switch the lines over till they were released from Verizon. A transfer request was submitted over 2 weeks ago. We had to call both Verizon and Verizon Wireless to see what the holdup was. Verizon terminated the request because one of our lines still had a DSL service on it according to their policy. Wireless internet is working better with the Pantech UML 295 device connected to the network, so we cancelled the DSL internet from Verizon and requested that the transfer process be restarted. We are still dealing with billing issues from both companies who are charging much more than they originally quoted.
- Sampled Askam Borehole Treatment System for flow and chemistry at several points 4x this month: before the discharge gets to the system, within the system, as treated water flows out of the system and downstream. The maelstrom oxidizers were running. The last sampling event was after the outlet was raised 6" [EC].
- Updated Aylesworth and Reevesdale Treatment Systems on www.datashed.org with Operation Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R) Task Force data. Sent the updates to Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, who is heading up the committee [SRI].
- Researched obtaining a new Dell Precision M6700 or M6800 Laptop for Kelsey since her M6500 computer was beginning to slow and accumulate too many errors to continue to be productive. My computer is an M6500, but it is a quad core processor as opposed to a dual core. This was not evident when her computer was initially purchased and the RAM memory was maxed out. Solved a network card issue by rolling back a driver. Ended up ordering a Dell Precision M6800 for replacement. I like keeping all the same brand computers in the office because it makes it easier to know their common flaws and places to search for answers.
- Spoke with Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville DMO, about his understanding of the content of the Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and Pottsville DMO mine map collections. We concurred that the physical map collections are incomplete and would like aperture card and microfilm scans from the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) from Paul Coyle at the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Appalachian Region Office in Pittsburgh. Purchased a 3TB hard drive and sent it.
- Ordered Symantec Enterprise Antivirus and QuickBooks from www.techsoup.org.
- Attempted to setup the old Executive Director Dell Vostro Laptop for EPCAMR Interns to scan mine maps from Earth Conservancy's Blue Coal Collection, but the computer is now over 8 years old and could not productively handle the editing of the map image files once scanned. Ended up using Kelsey's old Dell Precision M6500 laptop for the job which worked fine.
- Georeferenced several maps that were difficult to find the location for the MSI Mine Map Processing Program. Reviewed and supervised MSI Program other staff work [MSI].
- Updated EPCAMR Server computer antivirus software and operating system.
- Updated 2015 EPCAMR Billable Rates in preparation for grant applications.
- Created a 2015 Askam Treatment System Monitoring proposal to Earth Conservancy. The proposal was for monthly monitoring, however Earth Conservancy requested that we simply agree to a "per event" expense. They are in need of more than monthly sampling events as they continue to tweak the system to enhance performance.
- Downloaded and updated QuickBooks to version 2015 on 3 EPCAMR computers.
- EPCAMR Past President, Ed Wytovich, brought a friend to the office to scan 5 maps in his ownership to place digital files in our collection.
- Sent information to Earth Conservancy regarding the WPCAMR Quick Response program for a possible source to refine the Askam Treatment System.

- Aided Kelsey in setting up her new computer and attempted to connect it to the EPCAMR domain (GobbaDaPile). Ended up having to delete her user account from her old computer after transferring it to the new computer then waiting a few days to allow it to “clear” the network domain. Then the new computer was accepted on the domain.
- Attempted to continue updates to mine pool boundaries, flow direction and barrier pillars in the Ewen Colliery of the Wyoming Valley, but ArcGIS crashed reminding me to save edited work constantly. Unfortunately about 4 hours of work was lost in this most recent malfunction. The edits will need to be redone and files checked for errors.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.