



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Michael A. Hewitt, GISP
Program Manager

101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706

Fax & Main Line: (570) 371-3522

E-mail: hardcoal@epcamr.org

January 2016 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff continued to scan 134 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 98 & digitize 37 maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant. Issues naming & sorting Blue Coal Collection
- Dealt with several computer operation, security and network server issues.
- Began writing a grant extension for the MMG program and submitted 2 invoices for payment.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an EPCAMR staff meeting, an AMR Conference Call, meeting with CSI Environmental at the OFBH discharge to the **Lackawanna River**
- EPCAMR staff continued printing/PDF-ing maps for municipalities in the **Wyoming Valley**; investigated mine maps near **Nanticoke** for an EPCAMR partner.
- EPCAMR staff collaborated on a strategic plan brainstorming document.
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings and sampled flow/chemistry at **Askam** Boreholes
- Created an Etsy store. Updated www.epcamr.org and www.huberbreaker.org. Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house data server.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Caught up on writing Program Manager monthly reports, placed management staff reports on www.epcamr.org, and submitted reimbursement paperwork to the DEP 319 program.
- Requested a new bank card from First National Bank of Pennsylvania, but one of the signatories had to be present to sign the form. Met Robert at the bank to sign the form. The card was compromised by an online security breach in Staples.com, luckily fraud protection caught the misuse and called to verify that I was not traveling from Massachusetts and Iowa (where purchases were made within a few hours of each other). I have removed both of our cards from all the online stores where you can save card information in hopes that will lower our exposure.
- Registration for our UTV trailer was finally sorted out after the 3rd time submitting it. Since sales tax was not paid, the form was kicked back for administrative incompleteness. There is a code and box on the form that was not being completed correctly, but there is also no information available to explain where to look up the code. We used Leonard's Tag and Title service to initiate the registration. They called back to explain that we had to contact the PA Department of Motor Vehicles (PA DMV) to get an answer. Attempted to google the answer, because a visit to the DMV website was not producing an answer. Found the M1 form and called a phone number on the form. Waited on hold for approximately ½ hour until a very rude DMV representative finally answered the phone. Asked what code we should use and the response was "Obviously it is code #... and your tag and title service should be calling, not you." My guess is that Leonard's does not deal much with nonprofits (as is the same with many other local businesses) and was told that the nonprofit applicant needed to call. This type of rudeness

is to be expected from DMV representatives, in general. Hopefully we can just copy the code from this form to the next one.

- EPCAMR staff attempted to find an ATV trail to the Askam Boreholes through aerial photos, but this was only partially helpful. We actually decided to take a Friday afternoon to hike the 7 mile trail we discovered to make sure there were no impediments for the UTV. We did actually drive the route about a week later, but construction of the South Valley Parkway had begun and we had to divert through some unused industrial park paved roads. We also had to hand in our PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) plates in exchange for a “slow moving vehicle” orange triangle. Non-profits do not have to or are apparently not supposed to register with DCNR. We also have to placard the vehicle with our logo. Later advancement of construction of the parkway completely cut off access to the trail and hampered getting there through conventional means. We will continue to find trails and uses for the UTV.
- EPCAMR staff held a staff meeting to coordinate efforts for the month.
- Reviewed a document created by part time staff related to an update of the 2011 EPCAMR strategic plan. The Moses Taylor Grant proposal in some way was involved in needing an update if it was funded (?), but it was not funded. Regardless, EPCAMR staff began to collaborate on the document and add comments. It became evident quickly that some staff were unhappy with the 2011 strategic plan and wanted to make drastic changes before understand the reasoning that went into certain direction from the board. Management staff tried to give background (since we participated in the last strategic plan update), but the comments back and forth became too confusing and somewhat confrontational. The document was moved by part time staff which halted the ability to comment. Management staff stopped the belabored discussion and gave the document over to the EPCAMR bookkeeper who will simplify the document into a few pages of bullet points to take into consideration for the board’s next strategic plan session. Ultimately in a non-profit organization the board is responsible for the direction of work, not the staff. A couple good points that came out of the discussion was that we could do more as a staff to portray the organization online: the EPCAMR website needed a facelift and we could create an Etsy.com Store to market our products. Secondly, the idea board was being underutilized or not used effectively making some feel that their opinions did not matter. Therefore, we will take time each staff meeting to attempt to tackle or update the idea board. Another interesting discovery was that the organizational mission was being adapted to suite each grant proposal. There was a document (not created by management) called “grant tips” that had incorrect information. I updated the mission to the one that is in our bylaws and acceptable wording about the organization.
- Reactivated the grants.gov / sam.gov accounts. We knew that the passwords needed to be changed every other month, but apparently if we hadn’t logged on to the website in over a year it deactivates your account. This is definitely a case where security overrides user friendliness.
- Organized the “M Drive” where company files are stored and staff files are backed up. The “dropbox” was getting a bit out of hand and the lines between what was a “current, archived, ongoing or prospect” project were blurring. Reorganized the folders and created moved the files in the dropbox to an “organize these” folder. The dropbox should only be used as a transfer folder. Once done, staff should delete the files. Certain folders like “SQLServer, QuickBooks Folder, and EPCAMR” folders had been changed with unintended lost directory consequences in computer programs. Set these folders to read only. I can see that this type of maintenance will need to be completed periodically as more and more staff use it.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Committee Call to plan the 2016 Conference.
- Updated Gabby’s laptop to Windows 10 as it had been having driver issues similar to what happened to my computer making it shut down unexpectedly or come up with a blue screen. The operating system had been nagging us for months to upgrade from Windows 7 as well with no way to turn off the annoying popup messages.
- Meeting at the OLD Forge Borehole to discuss possible treatment with CSI Environmental.

- Prepared an invoice for the Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) and submitted it for reimbursement. Copied files for the invoice period to the external travel drive and sent to PA DEP California DMO [MSI].
- Spoke with Patrick, our DEP MMG administrator, about the 2 year extension and potential work that still needs to be completed outside of our current scope of work [MSI].
- Started the 2016 AMR Conference Website at <http://2016.treatminewater.com> with input from the AMR Conference Committee.
- Backed up Program Manager's computer files to the M drive via SyncBack. Set them as "read only" since the files are simply backed up for other staff use, but changes on the M drive are overwritten and not tracked. Also backed up GIS files to the M drive, but ran a sync (as opposed to a backup) which compares the files and updates older files with newer files.
- Invoiced Earth Conservancy for sampling work done from July to December 2015. Going forward, they requested quarterly invoicing.
- Added mining history month events to the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) website at www.huberbreaker.org.
- Began the "facelift" of the EPCAMR website. Started with a new WordPress theme (actually the same theme that was used for the 2015 AMR Conference website). The new theme has a presentation page that is considered a one page scrollable format for first time visitors. This page is easily skipped, but allows us to promote some current initiatives in a more visually appealing format.
- Part time staff felt that the staff calendar should not be the calendar for the website. Evaluated several plugins (Feed them Social, Events Made Easy, De Moment Som Tres & FB Event Importer) to bring in events from Facebook to show on a calendar on our website. All were inadequate, but FB Event Importer Pro version seemed to work produce the type of calendar that part time staff liked. Purchased the pro version for \$20. Removed all the other trial versions.
- Reviewed all other WordPress plugins to make sure they still work with the new theme. Tested the contact us, volunteer and mailing list signup forms to make sure they are still communicating with MailChimp and emailing results.
- Updated the board meetings page on www.epcamr.org and sent a reminder to the EPCAMR Board about the upcoming meeting.
- After review of our MMG work sent to the PA DEP California DMO, Patrick responded with an issue related to several duplicate files. These files were fixed by Kelsey and Dave. It seems that the part time staff were naming files before checking to make sure they existed. Setup a protocol to search the X Drive for the name before assigning it to a file [MSI].
- Continued to setup an Etsy store that was started by outreach staff. This required our bank account to be attached. Recent account policy changes no longer allow a Pay Pal account as a substitute. Each listing is charged a fee and fees are assessed by sale. Every year the listing fees will be less than \$30. EPCAMR Management staff moved into this step very cautiously reading every bit of the agreement and FAQ documentation in hopes that it will increase our online sales. If not, we will delete our account.

Technical Assistance:

- Corresponded with CSI Environmental representatives regarding mine pools in the Wyoming Valley and reminded them that the work was completed through a confidential contract with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Data cannot be shared unless approved by SRBC. Provided a small map of the area to prove that the area was covered.
- Had several discussions with Earth Conservancy (EC) about the flow of the Askam boreholes and that they never shut off in 2015. Typically, the boreholes fluctuate from above 20K gpm during a spring melt down to 0 gpm in the fall and when there is a snow pack in the winter. That did not happen this year. Calculated analysis graphs of flow and precipitation, however the only time period other than what we had collected recently was in the early to mid-1970's. A

comparison of that historical data with present data showed that there was actually 25% more rain from 1973-1974, but the average flow seemed to be the same (at approximately 15k gpm) as present day. Explaining away the idea that the “weird weather” lately caused the increased water out of the boreholes. The mine pool is complex (as opposed to isolated) since it is tied to the South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes as well. I can periodically stop by both sites to gather flow from the stream gauge without an expenditure of too much time, but that will not answer all the questions about where the extra water is coming from. I recommended more research to be done on discharge flows and mine pool elevations in this and surrounding mine pools. [EC]

- EPCAMR staff continue to digitize Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Mine Map Folio cross sections for the Wyoming Valley. In the process some of the surface maps were showing up as georeferenced, but were not exact enough. The files were saved in an older version of ArcGIS, by someone other than our staff. Simply deleting associated files that held georeference data from the TIFF, did not solve the problem. These were GeoTIFF format meaning there is a piece of code in the TIFF image file itself. Had to open the TIFF image in image processing software and save it back out as a clean image file to remove the GeoTIFF properties. Then staff had to re georeference the clean TIFF file. It was a time consuming process as with many things in ArcGIS, but a good teaching opportunity.
- Staff continued to print OSM Folio maps for municipalities in the Wyoming Valley. This project, funded with \$5K from PennEast Pipeline, was initially a good idea, but we assumed that more municipalities would opt for PDF files instead of the printed files. Most are asking for both. Unfortunately that means more time spent on the project than we are funded for and if EPCAMR believes this is a just cause we will have to make up the difference in-kind. We have also had to spend extra time calling and emailing municipalities to return out thumb drives. One thumb drive was lost in the mail since it was sent back in a plain envelope and most likely sorting machines in the post office tore the envelope open. We attempted to get it back, but no luck.
- EPCAMR staff sampled the inflow and the outflow (only) of the Askam Borehole Treatment System twice during the month and sent results to EC. One of those trips was on our UTV [EC].
- Bad day for GIS... EPCAMR staff could not open map document files. Tried all the usual updates and scans of our computers. Possibly both OSMRE Technical Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) ArcGIS license servers are down? This does not happen too often, and the next day the problems were non-existent.
- Investigated the underground mine maps near the Honey Pot Discharge to find the depth of the #2 Airshaft and what particular veins are connected.
- The X and M drives connected to the EPCAMR server continue to loose connection. Reconnecting the DNS fixed one of the disconnect events, but the rest were only fixed by restarting the computer. Windows updates for the server were not working again with 43 available updates not being applied. Researched the problem and ran some forum suggested command line codes to fix it. Hopefully this will stabilize the network drives [MSI].
- Continue resolving naming issues with EC’s Blue Coal Mine Map Collection. In particular, “Tommy’s Table” has quite a few random maps that needed to be put back in their original place and named with that set. Now that we have a handle on the organization of the collection in tables and drawers, EPCAMR MMG staff began setting up a cipher to name the maps from other collieries [MSI].
- The X and M drives backups were failing to run and end on schedule. Researched different ways to back up the drives and shared the information with MSI staff and Executive Director. We decided to try incremental backups, which should take less time than traditional backups [MSI].
- Georeferenced six difficult maps and aided in scanning [MSI].
- After scanning the EPCAMR server for several hours, a trojan virus was found on one of the network drives. Began looking at security protocol, firewall settings and update of virus scanning programs on all computers connected to the network. AVG Zen is available to coordinate AVG antivirus programs with one account. This account reports that several of the

individual network computers were not updated and hadn't been scanned in months. We had been assuming that staff would keep these antivirus and antimalware programs up-to-date on their individual computers, but this assumption was flawed with consequences. Discussed purchasing Symantec Small Business Edition from TechSoup.org for a discount fee for each computer. For now, it was deemed unnecessary now that Program Manager can oversee updates and scanning.

- EPCAMR Program Manager began crashing and restarting. I am beginning to believe that our security was compromised beyond my credit card being taken and it was coincidental that my computer, controlling virus scanning, was the one now malfunctioning. Began researching options for firewalls that could be implemented to prevent and stop such attacks

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.