

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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July 2025 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Conservation District Mining East 319 Program Coordination-EPCAMR

- Preparing quarterly report for the program coordination; Preparing quarterly reimbursement documents and reports with *Mike Hewitt* for the July 2025 monthly period; Reviewed budget tracking sheet provided to EPCAMR from Chad Krick, our Project Officer; Worked on monthly reporting updates; WPCAMR provided a [report](#) on FY 2026 Senate Appropriations bill; PA has gotten on average over the past 20 years or so, about \$1.3M/year; In 2024, PA got about \$567,000; Those numbers do not include well plugging, just AMD construction, education, Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) and design funding; EPCAMR was going to pull together information to create a release on the leverage of our 319 funding with all the additional funding and projects that we have been coordinating over the last 2-3 years to show the importance of the funding we receive; The Committee recommended \$174,500,000; The Committee expects the US EPA to examine the allocation formula to ensure that resources are spent in areas with pressing needs

Beaverbrook Hazleton Beltway Center East Reclamation Project

- The development company merged with another company and they now have a different EIN number that was not originally submitted with our grant so they have to provide me with the documentation for the new company to be run through the State's Contractor Database for approval of the construction activities that were included in the original grant for the subcontractor that was chosen; EPCAMR has also had to update a number of forms that were provided by the PA DEP to us; Since it is a new company, they also have to provide EPCAMR with new updated Landowner Access Agreement forms that were originally submitted under a different company name; EPCAMR is working on updating a report to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation on the status of their paperwork movement; The PA DEP has also informed us that we can no longer receive 15% of the indirect costs and it has to be reduced to 10% to administer the grant so the budget needs to be adjusted accordingly; Provided The Just Transition Fund a high-level summary of the project and the Big Beautiful Bill's impact on the project

Columbia University Rare Earth Element Monitoring of AMD

- Submitted an abstract with Sean Kinney and other colleagues from Columbia U. entitled, “*From Carboniferous cyclothem to modern contaminants: metal transport and fate in anthracite mine pools in Northeastern PA*” to [AGU](#); Mike Hewitt and Bobby Hughes are listed as co-authors and contributors from EPCAMR

US DOE Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets at the Frackville Morea AML Complex for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential

- We were under a 60-day moratorium before we could release our information that was researched and compiled by our Staff. We had to wait nearly 3 months to be reimbursed for \$30,000 due to the Executive Order back in February; EPCAMR was informed that we could finally release our Final Report and work product deliverables for the project once we have them in digestible formats that we can put out on our social media and to our partners; We went from have a stakeholder list that we started from scratch in Northern Schuylkill County to over **100** Stakeholders by the completion of the project; We produced a video to highlight the potential for the site and the work that we had completed to assess the potential for the site for alternative energy projects; We've built a tremendous amount of future capacity for the area and informed them of the potential for solar development at this site, as well as mine pool geothermal, and data center considerations; There is more mine mapping work that needs to be done that we currently do not have funds for to advance the project further at this point; This was a capacity building grant and a way for us to highlight the benefits and potential for the Morea site and the mine pool reuse; One of the disappointing things that happened was the US EPA TCTAC Centers were eliminated and so was the IWG EnergyCommunities.gov website and they were supposed to provide us and our stakeholders with technical assistance and funding opportunities and they are now gone; Anything that was Environmental Justice related or heavily focused on community benefit plans were discontinued; Provided The Just Transition Fund a high-level summary of the project and the Big Beautiful Bill's impact on the project

ARIPPA EPCAMR Mini-Grant Program

- EPCAMR Executive Director took some time to review, research, and pull together information to write a letter and provided it Chairman Vitali's (Delaware County) Executive Director and Cristy Sweeney from ARIPPA for an upcoming hearing so it was entered into the record; House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee is planning to hold a hearing on subsidizing the remediation of waste coal piles at 10:00 AM on August 11, 2025; The stated purpose of the hearing is to educate members on waste coal, such as why waste coal is a problem and what problems are caused by waste coal.; However, anticipates that the hearing will focus heavily on the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry and particularly the support ARIPPA receives from the Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit and the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) program; Assisted Phil Dunn, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) with their letter of support for ARIPPA at his request by providing him a copy of EPCAMR's letter for ideas and positive points to possibly include in their letter relevant to the Shamokin Creek watershed

Swoyersville Harry E. and Community Athletic Area AML Reclamation Project

- Completed a reimbursement request and Quarterly Progress Reports through June 30, 2025, for the Project and submitted them to Riyad Barkawi-PA DEP BAMR Project Officer now that the transfer and donation of the land has now been completed by Pagnotti Enterprises to the Swoyersville Borough; EPCAMR prepared the Narrative Progress Reports and include them as well; EPCAMR informed Riyad that we would circle back to Hank Zielinski on what OSMRE and Pottsville has decided to do with the GFCC and we can see what remaining funds are left or not since we had our last discussions in the field about trying to clean up the final grade down by the recreational area; EPCAMR Contract Operator Renewal License #32703 and security form were submitted for approval

Shickshinny Creek/Paddy/Rocky Run-PA TU Coldwater Heritage Conservation Assessment Plan

- EPCAMR Staff and AmeriCorps VISTAs went macro sampling in the Shickshinny Creek watershed and completed two more monitoring locations and volunteer Austin Miles, student at the University of Penn, came along to assist; Staff entered all the field data into our water quality database for the project; Don Jacobs (Discover NEPA) interviewed the EPCAMR Executive Director and our AmeriCorps volunteers who are working to assess the Shickshinny Creek watershed and some AMD and abandoned mine land impacts in the Lower Wyoming Valley; He's doing a segment on community volunteerism and wanted to feature EPCAMR's work on an upcoming episode on July 29 at our friend's property, Lance Kittleson, to observe us kicking for macros and performing water quality tests; Provided Don with some historic photos of the E.S. Stackhouse Colliery history to use in his piece, however, he was able to find other images and photos that he wanted to use for his segment; Asked Chris Murley from Underground Miners if they had any historic photos that they could provide to Don; EPCAMR received all of our award paperwork on July 12 from Eric Null and sent him back one of the signature pages; The Times-Leader covered a front page [article](#) on our project; Provided Mark Jones-AmeriCorps VISTA Community Development Coordinator with the Excel database created by Morgan Romanowski-AmeriCorps VISTA Watershed Outreach Specialist of each of the municipal contacts within the watershed; Kayla Osbourne, volunteer created a nice 5" x 7" postcard that we could mail to landowners that have culverts or bridges on their properties that we would like to assess and possibly conduct water quality monitoring or macro investigations on during the assessment phase of our project; Misericordia University Print Shop has agreed to print 50 of them for free for EPCAMR after a great conversation with James Sabulski-Print Shop Manager and they also edited the document to create a bleed on it to give it a proper dimension for cutting and a solid edge

Bear Creek 319 AMD Treatment Design, Survey, Design & Operation and Maintenance Plan along with the 3D Mine Pool Development Model Project

- EPCAMR Staff participated in a Teams call with Chad Krick, Project Officer, on July 7, to give him an update on the nearly completed Bear Creek 3D Mine Pool Development Model; EPCAMR has been waiting for the California District Mining Office to provide us with the proprietary file types before we can use them in the model to align the cross sections up and down the Lykens Valley; Submitted a revised updated Progress Status Report and Application for Reimbursement that was through March 31, 2025 to Chad; EPCAMR billed down the remaining funds through June 30, 2025 in a separate Application for Reimbursement to close out the grant and will send down an amended Final Report once the 3D Model is completed; It was suggested that we combine the two quarterly reports so EPCAMR did and submitted the combined documents; Provided Jamie Shallenberger-SRBC with an update on the project and scheduled a meeting to get together with him on August 4 at the Office with Jeremy and Andrew King; Provided Essie Karnes, formerly with the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association (WCRA) that has since dissolved with an update on the project

MSI Program Mine Mapping Grant

- Updated Patrick Jaquay-PA DEP MSI Program, on our submission for the first two quarters of 2025 for reimbursement that Mike is working on completing; He's updated work products to the FTP site and worked on PHUMMIS, however, it kept crashing with Error messages; PA DEP has been having issues with their Oracle databases and are aware of the situation since it has some bugs

Brockton AMD Development Plan (*proposed*)

- Participated in a Zoom call with Alexa Smith-Schuylkill Conservation District and Robert Baldwin-RES to scope out two development projects on the Schuylkill River; EPCAMR has taken the lead on the submission of a development grant to PA DEP BAMR for the Brockton AMD site and Alexa and the District are going to submit a separate proposal for the Lucianna AMD site further downstream on the Schuylkill River; AML/AMD Scope- remove remnant coal material from site and haul to nearby facility if possible, chemistry/flow data collection, stream/wetland delineation, PNDI, SHPO, passive treatment system design, permitting (likely to be broken down into separate phases); Future Use- potential for remainder of property to become a wetland mitigation site (separate from AML project); Property owner coordination- site access has been granted; For the Lucianna AMD site, AML/AMD Scope- collect flow and chemistry data of the discharge (separate from stream flow), stream/wetland delineation, PNDI, SHPO, active treatment system design, evaluate feasibility of treating additional discharge (Randolph Site) in one location at Lucianna site was discussed (likely to be broken down into separate phases as well); Property owner coordination- site access has been granted

Technical Assistance

Pine Knot, Oak Hill, & Repellier Mine Pool Feasibility Study & Monitoring Project with the Schuylkill Conservation District

- EPCAMR Staff and our two AmeriCorps volunteers (Maria and Dennis), on July 15, made a trip down to the Repellier AMD discharge along Mill Creek outside of St. Clair to determine the feasibility of installing a weir and to do some recon in the watershed; We looked at the Pump Shaft, Darkwater Shaft, and Mill Creek sites for future monitoring and brought along transducers for installation; Monthly monitoring will be on Mill Creek only; Created a Monitoring Station placard after receiving the Schuylkill Conservation District's logo to place alongside of EPCAMR's on the sticker that Morgan Romanowski-AmeriCorps VISTA will create in Canva after the Executive Director comes up with the wording to identify the placard

Somerset County 1 MW Solar Project on Reclaimed Strip Mine Land (*proposed*)

- John Merschat is currently developing a 1 MW commercial solar installation on a reclaimed strip mine site in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, through his company, Little Niagara Power Company; He's reached out to see if there are support and collaborative opportunities that we might be able to work with him on; He's interested in securing state and federal funding (SEP, REAP, RISE PA, etc.), ensuring environmental compliance and site suitability, highlighting the land's reuse for clean energy as part of broader community and economic revitalization; He's especially interested in assistance with grant application strategy and writing, recommendations for permitting, mapping, and land assessment and potential connections with regional partners and environmental pollution

control firms in the area; Followed up with a phone call with him to learn more; Asked for an estimate of what it might cost for professional services to perform some of these tasks that are within EPCAMR's wheelhouse if we have the capacity

Datashed Monitoring with Stream Restoration Inc.

- Alexa Smith-Schuylkill Conservation District informed EPCAMR that they do monitor Oneida #1 and Oneida #3 and a number of their other AMD Treatment Systems with PA DEP BAMR and are working with Natalie LaMagna-SRI to get their historic quarterly water quality monitoring data results in to Datashed; We didn't realize that they were collecting data that was being submitted, however, for this Snapshot, we proceeded to collect the data at Oneida #3 and skipped Oneida #1 inside of the Eagle Rock Resort; Mike sent off collected samples to the lab for SRI; Provided Natalie with our data that was collected from the recent Snapshot collection effort by EPCAMR Staff; Found out that Pace increased their lab sampling prices, so Cliff went with Geochemical for the lab analysis

Pasco Schiavo Luzerne Foundation Grant for CCRA and Friends of the Nescopeck Watershed

- Worked with Mark Jones, Ed Wytovich (CCRA), and Gary Leander (FON) to complete the grant proposal for water quality monitoring technical assistance; Reviewed the criteria for the grant Letter of Intent (LOI) that has an August 15 due date after receiving an outline from Mark
- Mike Milosevich requested the status of the scanning of the Locust Gap Mine Map; EPCAMR provided him with an update that it was scanned and ready for pickup; He scheduled a trip to our office to pick it up and brought a thumb drive to receive a copy of the digital file for his records and use; EPCAMR provided him with a free map tube that was in much better shape than the one it came to us in
- EPCAMR sent out our photometer to be repaired due to some water damage and a leaky seal in the piece of equipment, and it was returned refurbished and in working order
- Reviewed documents from Ken Okrepkie-Ben Franklin Partnership from Vytal Plant Life, Inc. and PSU Harrisburg on research on growing industrial hemp on abandoned mine lands; Scheduled a call for July 21, 2025; Convened the conference call to discuss the project and future partnership opportunities
- Discussed the Information Hub development with Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR, for www.amlconnect.org that he is building out; He's working on structure and functionality of the website in WordPress; He created a list of over 30 potential domain names and we settled on AMLCONNECT after consulting Deb Nardone from the Foundation for PA Watersheds
- Meredith Davenport, an artist colleague of EPCAMR's requested assistance in locating places to find fossils; EPCAMR provided her with some locations to check out and to reach out to AOAA, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) and Reading Anthracite

Education & Outreach

PA AMR Chronicles Podcast Series with WPCAMR

- Held a meeting with Anne Daymut-WPCAMR to plan out our podcast series that will air monthly on the first Friday's of every month; Provided Anne with a high resolution image of our logo; We decided on our content questions, format, setup, purchase of the RESTREAM platform, clips, and the creation of an advertising campaign for brief ads within the hour-long podcast series by interested vendors; Mike created a [link](#) on our EPCAMR website for potential ad sponsorships; August 1 will be our inaugural episode with Deb Nardone, Executive Director from the Foundation for PA Watersheds that supported the endeavor based on our Joint Meeting of the Coalitions in the Fall of 2024; Anne provided the Executive Director with a script and outline for the first episode; WPCAMR directed EPCAMR to invoice for \$2000 for participation and hosting each of the 12 episodes of the PA AMR Chronicles; Filled out a form to have PA DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley officially appear on the podcast on September 5, and sent it along to her scheduler and Press Secretary, Niel Shader; Secretary Shirley responded that she could do the October 5 podcast; EPCAMR posted on all of our social media [outlets](#) that the PA AMR Chronicles podcast will be hitting the airwaves in August; Sent the ad flyer to Deb Pontzer-Grow Rural PA to consider becoming a sponsor; WPCAMR and EPCAMR performed a live stream test following the weekly PA AML Campaign call at the end of the month; We lined up Jim Panaro from Robindale Energy to be our next guest; Anne created a brief [trailer](#) for our PA AMR Podcast series for YouTube that we shared to our social media channels; EPCAMR and WPCAMR had a conference call with Anne and Deb Nardone to review how our first podcast episode in August

Chesapeake Bay Trust Capacity Building Grant

- Mark and the Executive Director, as well as Cristy Sweeney completed the CBT Capacity Building grant to secure funds to support our Development Committee's efforts going forward in 2026 and submitted it before the deadline; Cristy gained access to the original online grant account portal to allow for the submission and any follow up with the application; Followed up with Tali MacArthur-POWR on our conflict of interest with their proposal since we were submitting an similar proposal and there was little budget consideration to be provided for EPCAMR to participate as a partner in the initial application process
- Worked on developing an EPCAMR News Release for both Maria Gereda and Dennis Dukinas joining EPCAMR as AmeriCorps VISTAs; Completed the [release](#) and posted it to our social media
- [Yue Li](#), Researcher from the University of Florida, requested that EPCAMR share a survey to PAEE and our EPCAMR partners on the Use of AI in Non-Formal Environmental Education; Sent the survey link to Stacey Weidenhoffer at PAEE to see if she would be able to circulate it; Posted the survey to EPCAMR's social media
- Worked with Mark Jones, AmeriCorps Community Development Coordinator to co-write an Editorial on our long-time advocacy for the National "Stay Out, Stay Alive!" Campaign to submit to regional newspapers and media outlets
- Informed the members of the PA AML Campaign that the Senate Environmental Resources Committee would be holding a confirmation [hearing](#) to approve Lanny Erdos as the new OSMRE Director

- Forwarded information on a recent development on data center infrastructure, in Northampton County that was forwarded to EPCAMR by John Dawes, Foundation for PA Watersheds, who had thought it was in our region; Waltz and Greenwalk Creeks would be impacted through a rezoning hearing, if approved; Portions of the Waltz Creek is a Class A trout stream and Greenwalk Creek is a naturally producing trout stream; Forwarded the information to Eric Null at PATU and suggested that he send it along to Todd Burns, the NE Regional Vice President of PATU for further review since several meetings are being planned by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors of Plainsfield Township
- Jamie Shallenberger-SRBC, sent a copy of a newsletter that has some interesting research on mussels and AMD related to their [Freshwater Mussel Partnership](#); They are taking a novel project to introduce 30,000 propagated mussels into a 40-mile stretch of the West Branch Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania where mussels were lost long ago due to damaged habitat, especially water quality affected by mining since 5 tributaries in the Bay will be selected to monitor the mussels to see if they can develop conservation plans and filter and treat sediment-laden water or AMD
- Ed Wytovich, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association provided EPCAMR and Tom Clark, Kleinfelder with some knowledge of locations of infiltration points in the Catawissa Creek watershed; Ed was suggesting like we have, that PA DEP BAMR look to do some AMD abatement by sealing some streams from entering the mines to reduce the amount of clean water entering the mine pools
- EPCAMR had a request from Annie Regan, PennFuture, to share their opening to our social media for a [Clean Water Campaign Manager](#) they are looking to hire; EPCAMR shared it to our social media outlets
- Followed up with Kristen Reilly-Choose Clean Water Coalition on the 2 open positions to be filled for their Steering Committee and scheduled a meeting with Sara Ramotnik to talk about the Chesapeake Bay Program's structure and governance on another subject matter
- Provided Kingston Township Solicitor Chris Crawford, with a link to PennFuture's [Municipal Guide to Siting Grid Scale Solar Projects](#) since he was interested in reviewing model template ordinances
- Informed Allen Belles-Columbia County Conservation District Watershed Specialist that EPCAMR will table and do some educational activities with the youth at the Susquehanna River Festival in Cara Park, Catawissa including an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop, Macro Bingo, and displaying our 3D printed macros on July 30; Attended the event and it was a success, although the number of attendees were lower this year than previous years
- Attended the Wilkes-Barre POWER meeting to network and inform attendees about EPCAMR and met up with Dick Smith, who was a former student from a Workforce Development Training program hosted by Earth Conservancy where EPCAMR was a trainer on AMD/AML issues; Scheduled a meeting with him on July 10 with him and Dr. Elizabeth Hughes from the Earth Conservancy
- Provided Elizabeth Hughes, Earth Conservancy, with photos of EPCAMR Staff sampling in the restored section of Espy Run watershed for her to use in one of her educational promotional posters
- Provided comments on Mark Jones' VISTA Quarterly Report

- Communicated with the Pocono NE RC & DC; EPCAMR offered to share Brian Oram's [Guide Book](#) on Drinking Water and Well Water that includes some rebranding for both the Council and the Carbon County Environmental Education Center; There are some great graphics and links to blogs as resources on groundwater, drinking water, and well water maintenance and testing; The downloadable PDF is free, however, hard copies can be ordered at a minimal cost; Great information is available at the Know Your Water-Water Research Center; EPCAMR informed Brian and the Council members that there are many people who live in rural areas that live adjacent to AMD impacted waterways with private wells and we encourage them to get their water tested; If it's not iron, it could be aluminum, or manganese, that could make its way into the cone of depressions for a well if it's too close to an AMD-impacted stream; He will be coming out with a Soils Booklet soon for the public as an educational resource later in the year
- Participated in 4 PA AML Campaign calls during the month; Provided the PA AML Campaign with a rundown on Federal legislation provided by Choose Clean Water Coalition's contractor, Peter Marx
- EPCAMR Staff and our AmeriCorps Conservation Legacy Stewards volunteers, Maria Gereda and Morgan Romanowski, assisted; Participated in the Columbia County Watershed Festival at Cara Park in Catawissa, PA where EPCAMR tabled and provided educational materials on AMD, watershed outreach, 3D printed bugs, macroinvertebrate BINGO, and performed an AMD Tie Dye T-shirt workshop in partnership with the Columbia County Conservation District
- The Times-Leader published an Editorial Viewpoint that acknowledged EPCAMR's work over the last 3 decades on July 23, however it is behind a paywall; It was greatly appreciated to receive the positive attention from one of our local regional newspapers; One of our artist volunteers Marianne Lurie noticed the article and forwarded us an image photo of it and congratulated us
- EPCAMR Staff (Executive Director and Program Manager) participated in a virtual meeting held on July 9 with representatives from Amazon Web Services and Benesch Engineering who wanted to find out more about EPCAMR's work in the region and services; Provided them with a link to our [Mine Water Resources Report](#) since some of their discussion was around looking at alternative water supplies in underground mine pools for some of their future development plans in PA
- Reviewed and forwarded a few documents from Reimagine Appalachia, to Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR, on District Factsheets on Impacts of Manufacturing and Energy Tax Credits; They highlight the positive impacts that climate infrastructure funding has had for the Appalachian Region and what's at risk with reconciliation; They have case studies from many different Congressional districts of examples of new opportunities created from IRA and BIL; Keystone Research Center lead the work as well as partner organizations like Blue Green Alliance (BGA) and Appalachian Voices (AV), whose research helped make the materials; Downloaded the Factsheets
- PennFuture unveiled new resources to give municipalities the information and tools they need to make informed decisions when planning for data centers; Provided the links to Frank for his review
 - [A model municipal ordinance](#) to manage data center development
 - [A YouTube video series](#) all about data centers, how they operate, what they do, the water and energy they'll use, and more. New episodes will be available weekly through the summer; There is a lot of interest in the use of mine pool water for heating and cooling, however, there are few studies of the more localized mine pools to understand the potential impacts underground and to both the mine water temperature, chemistry, downstream impacts,

potential for mine subsidence, and permit monitoring; Municipalities are responsible for controlling where and how land is used in PA and are the first line of defense when it comes to ensuring that data center development happens responsibly

- EPCAMR signed on to a letter to Congress protecting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) regarding protection of LWCF funding to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture requesting they protect LWCF funding without diversion, submit FY25 and FY26 projects to Congress, and not impose any new administrative requirements on the program or projects

Community Volunteers

- Received a resume from Tyler Hoffman for our open AmeriCorps VISTA Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist position; Directed her to complete the application process through the Conservation Legacy online portal; She might have assumed that the position was in State College, because the portal was incorrectly listing the location of the position as State College, and not Ashley, PA; Continued recruiting for the position once we were informed that the position was moving to a tentative Fall date; Held off on announcing a starting date because it had become a moving target for AmeriCorps given the Federal budget
- Signed Ryleigh Schultz, Lehigh University graduate, from Schuylkill County up to become a Lead Observer once she completes her Aquatic Organism Protocol Training for Aquatic Passage from NAACC
- Terry Lewis, King's College EPCAMR volunteer informed us that she would research some history for EPCAMR of the Shickshinny area for our Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan; She mentioned she would be interested in visiting the Shickshinny Museum & Historical Society with EPCAMR Executive Director and Jimmy Bach, who is the curator at the Museum
- Gary and Denise Williams, Back Mountain, reached out and were interested in becoming EPCAMR volunteers and being trained in aquatic organism protocol (AOP) training to learn more about aquatic passage for fish and macroinvertebrate sampling; EPCAMR signed them both up for their online training portion for the AOP
- Received a resume from Matthew Shuler, a recent graduate with two BA's in Environmental Studies from State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton University, who was looking for a paid internship opportunity; However, we informed him that we did have an opportunity to volunteer on our Shickshinny Creek CHP; Informed him that we could sign him up for the Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) protocol training through NAACC to become a certified Lead Observer over the Summer and asked for him to provide us with additional information to get him started
- Confirmed with Alicia Burns, Program Administrator, Wilkes University that Ian Padden will continue volunteering with us starting on August 21 as a Bonner Leader

Conferences, Training, Webinars, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

27th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2025

- Participated in a monthly PA AMR Conference planning call with the Committee; Jeff Sarver and Malcolm Crittenden from the Shade Creek Watershed Association, applied for an overnight accommodations room scholarship to attend the Conference; Registrations and payments are starting to come into EPCAMR and are being managed; Tom Clark from Kleinfelder submitted his abstract on how many flows are enough to be measured to consider AMD Treatment Options for the Conference for the Committee to consider; **\$1000** sponsorship was given by [RESPEC](#) and Anne said we have their logo from a previous year; Discussed briefly what approach and decision we will make on doing a joint Conference or not in 2026 with PATU; Cliff Denholm and Natalie LaMagna-Stream Restoration Inc. requested room scholarships for the Conference; Brent Bobsien, [CNX](#) VP of Sustainable Development submitted a proposal on Waste Gas Capture from Abandoned Mines for consideration that will be reviewed in August by the Committee; Scheduled a third track as a part of the conference and reserved a room for Chuck Cravotta's AMD PHREEQ Workshop by following up with Laura from Toftrees and securing the White Oak Library from 12-5; Laura corrected the

room rates in the contract and informed her that we would send down an updated scholarship list closer to the event; [Tetra Tech](#) provided a **\$2000** sponsorship towards the Conference and two abstracts to choose from;

Investigation, Land Reclamation, Water Treatment Techniques for Abandoned Coal Mines (Live, interactive webinar) with Half Moon Education Inc.

- Provided an outline to Half Moon Education Inc. on the topics to be discussed during the webinar planned for November 6, 2025 by EPCAMR

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Participated in the Water Quality Subcommittee meeting; Coordinated the pre-trip logistics on August 13 with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) for the planned AMD Watershed Tour with the full Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) after talking with Kelly Williams from the Clearfield County Conservation District and Eric Skrivseth, Geoge Franchok, and Eric Rosengrant from the Moshannon Creek Watershed Association (MCWA); The AMD Watershed Tour will take place on September 4; Participated in the AMD Target Planning Committee Meeting and provided feedback and comments to Gina Hunt, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Suggested that Gina add Cliff Denholm and Eric Null to the listserve; Dan Geotz-Maryland Department of Natural Resources appreciated EPCAMR comments and asked if we would participate in the Brook Trout Workgroup Action Team because of our knowledge and on the ground work with trout stream restoration and AMD; Provided written comments to Gina and also sent them along to Kelly Williams who was at the meeting that both of us attended earlier in the year in Dubois at Treasure Lake; Meg Cole from STAC informed us that the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) was considering putting together a one-page, double-side, summary of the STAC AMD Nutrients Report in partnership with Green Fin Studio, since they have funding to print a few hundred copies; EPCAMR provided her with a summary of AMD Treatment Systems as a reference document; Informed Kristen Reilly-CCWC that it sort of makes sense that the trout issue is in the Non-tidal Stream Health area because it is an indicator of clean water and most trout species are in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and not found in the tidal sections; Moving AMD in to that area also makes sense even though EPCAMR is still a strong advocate for it to be included in the Bay model as another form of a sediment

Chesapeake Bay Commission AMD Tour

- EPCAMR made sure that Deb Nardone from The Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) was included on the AMD tour with the Commission on September 4; The agenda for the full-day tour will go out in August; The tour will take place in the Moshannon Creek watershed, Coaldale area, Cold Spring, areas outside of Phillipsburg, PA and the members will be departing from the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA; Marel King and EPCAMR worked on a speaker list and arrangement of who would talk on the tour ahead of the event

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for July 2025 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent monthly; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB monthly as needed; Made reconciliations in Quickbooks with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services and provided her with a copy of the PA Invest Statement monthly; Completed bi-weekly payroll submissions through ADP for OneSource
- Received a notice on Ignite Business Services Late Payment Policy that had gone out to all their clients as a reminder and reviewed it; Followed up with Marianne and she informed us that it wasn't directed at EPCAMR directly because we are on a reoccurring automatic monthly payment plan
- EPCAMR Executive Director began training orientation for Maria Gereda and Dennis Dukinas on their AmeriCorps State and National VISTA positions through Conservation Legacy, Stewards Individual Placement Program, and OSMRE; Provided them with Employment documents that need to be completed and Employee Personnel documents for our file along with their acknowledgement and signatures that they have read the EPCAMR Employee Policy Manual; Mike Hewitt-EPCAMR set them up with Gmail accounts with EPCAMR; Kahla Stewart-from Conservation Legacy provided EPCAMR with additional Stewards Individual Placement Program resources and First Day paperwork for them to complete including their I-9s and two forms of identification; EPCAMR Executive Director prepared a news release describing their backgrounds and volunteer work that they will be performing while with us for the 24 weeks
- Tara Jones from the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) and board member for EPCAMR indicated that she would become a volunteer member of our newly formed Development Committee; She mentioned that she would reach out to Jessica Saab from The Luzerne Foundation to see if she could provide us with any support and advice
- Fixed Stream Restoration Incorporated's mailing address in our Quickbooks and its phone number on our phones at the request of Cliff Denholm-Executive Director, who provided us with his new address for future invoices and correspondence; There was a separation from BioMost and Stream Restoration Incorporated
- Provided Ed Wytovich contact information for WPCAMR