

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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July 2017 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

• Reviewed the draft poster from Wilkes University for the special international presentation on "The German Transition Away from Coal"-by Timon Wenhert-Wuppertal Institute on July 20th at the Stark Learning Center, along with a Panel Presentation of experts in the field of energy, economic development, and the environment; The Heinrich Boelle Foundation sponsored a portion of the event as did the Foundation for PA Watersheds; Provided comments back to Dr. Ken Klemow to add a few additional logos for the Foundation for PA Watersheds and EPCAMR; Continued to seek panel members for the presentation from across PA; http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2017/07/the-german-energy-transition-away-from.html; Connected with Dr. Dernbach, from Widener University, Director, Environmental Law and Sustainability Center who is interested in promoting the event; Sent the poster and press release out to several media outlets for publicity and mass distribution; Provided Mark Guydish, Times-Leader with Timon's biography for an article in the newspaper leading up to the event;

http://timesleader.com/news/668378/researcher-brings-german-coal-experience-to-wilkes-presentation

- Continued to confirm panel presenters and request their bios; Provided *Timon* and *Nora* with an AMD Tour and overview of EPCAMR and our projects in the region a few hours prior to the speaking engagement; Convened the International Speaking Engagement at Wilkes and participated in the Panel Presentation to an audience of around 50 attendees; EPCAMR was able to obtain a full copy of a video recording of the event that we will be putting up on our website when it is technically possible; Paid the \$250 Invoice for the sound system set up to *Ted Killian*
- Provided Ezra Thrush, Choose Clean Water Coalition with some additional insight to add to his Op-Ed
 letter in support of the work of the SRBC in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and information on our work
 in the Delaware River watershed with the DRBC since both Commissions are possibly going to see hefty
 cuts in their allocation in the Governor's Budget
- Penn's Parks for All is the Bureau of State Parks planning initiative to shape the future of PA State Parks for years to come; The last survey done called Parks 2000 has been the guiding force for the last 15 years; Encouraged our partners and volunteers to take the new updated survey at www.PennsParksForAll.com

- Provided constructive comments and additions to the Hexagon IronOxide STEAM Lesson Program to Melissa Maybee and Beth Berkhauser, EPCAMR Executive Director is collaborating with them on the development of the curriculum support for schools; www.hexagonproject.org
- Conducted a Woodland Resources Camp AMD Environmental Education & Outreach Program and AMD Tie-Dye Workshop for 24 youth campers in Schuylkill County outside of Valley View, near Rausch Creek on July 18th in partnership with the Schuylkill Conservation District's Education Coordinator, Porcupine Pat McKinney and Dave Williams, from the Pottsville District Mining Office
- Continued to work on the draft grant with PSAYDN for a HONDA Foundation Grant; *The Green STEMs* **Project** is designed to build environmental education capacity within 21st CCLC program staff and students through the use of instructional curricula, indoor and outdoor hands-on field activities and media literacy opportunities; Federal 21st CCLC funding supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools; The program's goals are to 1) help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; 2) offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and 3) offer literacy and other educational services; The Green STEMs project will consist of training over a period of eight weeks and will be provided on-site and through webinars; Each site will select 4 -8 educators to attend the trainings, conduct summer environmental education activities, complete project reports and oversee completion of the student media literacy projects; STEM skills will be incorporated throughout the series of trainings as 21st CCLC staff investigate the science behind water and watersheds, use purchased supplies to measure stream parameters, analyze data, and communicate their finding via citizen science websites; EPCAMR Staff will become trained and train the teachers
- Provided Gavin with the two forms (Mini-Grant Detailed Budget Sheet and Benchmark Form) that the PA DEP EE Grant Program will need us to fill out prior to receiving our funds for the *Plainsville AMD STEM Education Program* with Plains-Solomon Elementary's 6th grade class of 130 students from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District in the Fall of 2017; Requested an update on the e-signature needs of the EPCAMR Board to complete the grant award process internally with the PA DEP; Provided *Josh* and *Spencer* with an information packet on the Plainsville Borehole AMD Project created by EPCAMR and *John Levitsky*, Luzerne Conservation District
- EPCAMR staff had a blast with 50 elementary students, ranging from 4 to 11 years old from Wilkes-Barre
 Area School District's Dr. David W. Kistler Elementary Summer Program creating beautiful AMD tiedyed shirts while utilizing our red and orange iron oxide pigment; EPCAMR Executive Director, also an
 alumni of the Kistler 1st Grade Class and Wilkes-Barre Area School District product, gave a presentation
 on EPCAMR's work, on environmental stewardship, and where the iron oxide came from and what we are
 doing to clean it up and recycle it

- Scheduled an Environmental Education & Outreach and AMD Tie Dye event with 24 teachers under the
 direction of *Elizabeth Thorpe*, PA Student Leadership Coordinator, from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in
 Centralia, PA for August 8th as a part of a teacher training program; One purpose of the training is to
 introduce teachers to other activities, programs, and resources that they can use in their classrooms or
 curriculum
- Responded to Tarsha Scovens, PAEE, who was looking to schedule a monthly conference call with regional directors of PAEE; Provided her with responses to her questions related to timing and coordination
- Committed to teaching 24 youth from the PA American Water Summer Camp Program in the
 Lackawanna Valley at the Peckville Library about macros, macro sampling, fish, the health of the
 Lackawanna River, and how to create AMD Tie Dye T-shirts; Request was made by the LRCA to partner
 with them on the annual Summer Camp on August 1st
- "Scorched: Underground Mine Fires in NEPA Coal Country" was selected to be featured in the Harrisburg-Hershey Film Festival; http://harrisburghersheyfilmfestival.com/
- EPCAMR signed on to a sign-on letter to the PA General Assembly requesting that they support a "NO SPECIAL FUNDS TRANSFER" in the State Budget along with other Growing Greener coalition partners
- Provided images of AMD and EPCAMR work in Environmental Education to Brian Hutchinson, Cornell University Press for the SESYNC Book publication
- EPCAMR was mentioned in a Bloomberg news article related to our support of the waste coal industry and Co-Gen Plants of ARIPPA; https://www.bna.com/mountains-slag-spur-b73014462236/; It was written by Stephen Lee, Reporter, who attended our PA AMR Conference in June,

Technical Assistance

• Worked for nearly an entire week putting together an AML Pilot Project Grant Application for the *Harry E. Banks Reclamation Project*, in Swoyersville Borough, Luzerne County, PA with our project partners; Began drafting the application with additional information that had been coming in from project partners such as the PNDI Search Results, Wetlands Delineation and National Wetland Inventory database, and the Zoning Ordinance from Swoyersville Borough, along with other exhibits, conceptual final grades, and design drawings; Finalized the Exhibits, Maps, documentation, Budget, NWI Mapping, PNDI Search Results, Zoning Ordinance, Conceptual Final Grades, and Final Design Drawings and the grant application and submitted it to *Eric Cavazza* and *Kim Snyder* from PA DEP BAMR on July 5th; Sent copies of the submission to Congressman *Barletta's* Office, Senator *Yudichak's* Office, and State Representative *Kaufer's* Office requesting Support Letters

- Met with Jason Fitzgerald and Philip Trometter, from Penn-Strategies, LLC (www.pennstrategiespa.com) on July 19th, regarding Ashley Borough's desire to purchase the Huber Breaker property and reclaim and redevelop the land; EPCAMR Executive Director met with the team from Penn-Strategies and discussed viable options for Ashley Borough and EPCAMR's willingness to continue to provide grant writing technical assistance and advice on our opinion and best professional judgement as to what would have to happen next to properly address the contamination on the property, the abandoned mine land features, the mine pool that lies beneath the property, and the assessments that will need to be conducted to move the reclamation and brownfields redevelopment effort forward, should they acquire the property
- EPCAMR Staff assisted the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) with creating 100 30th
 Anniversary AMD Tie-Dye T-shirts for their upcoming Annual Dinner Event in the Fall
- Jefferson Martin, Synfluent Corporation, (http://www.synfluent.net/) is interested in reaching out to EPCAMR about future partnerships on reclamation and AMD remediation projects; EPCAMR Executive Director will need to set up a future meeting with him to discuss
- Provided Special Agent Robert Kelly with a link to photos from EPCAMR's previously completed Solomon Creek Coldwater Heritage Plan showing the condition of Sugar Notch Run prior to the disturbances that it had undergone when the Huber Breaker came down in April of 2014 in order for him to make an informed decision as to whether any clean stream violations had occurred in the process of the demolition of the Breaker and the sale of the scrap metal from all over the 20 plus acre property in Ashley Borough
- Reviewed baffles for AMD Treatment on a website forward to EPCAMR by John Levitsky-Luzerne
 Conservation District as it related to the Askam AMD Treatment System and potentially a future treatment
 system at the Plainsville AMD Borehole; http://www.acmeboom.com/baffle-flow-patterns
- EPCAMR Staff began pulling together interested partners to develop a proposal to provide additional
 technical assistance to the City of Wilkes-Barre NFWF Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship
 Program on green infrastructure assessment and planning throughout the City that has been severely
 impacted by past mining practices; Reached out to LandStudies once again to begin pulling elements of
 the proposal together and to see if they were interested in going in on the grant with EPCAMR
- Deb Molfetta, from Degree Prospects, LLC, (www.mastersindatascience.org) was requesting that we put a
 link to her site on our EPCAMR Resources page; EPCAMR followed up to find out if her company was a
 non-profit or a private corporation; We requested a donation if they were a private company and didn't
 receive any follow-up
- Provided Brad Domitrovitsch, AES, LLC with information on the Plainsville Borehole and the proposed Merchant Hydro Pump Storage Projects being proposed for the region, some that want to consider using the underground mine pools in the area; EPCAMR has been researching the projects and followed up with Merchant Hydro
- Requested that Spencer research prices on the web for 500 ml sample bottles for a proposed budget EPCAMR is developing to provide to Pagnotti Enterprises to potential sample AMD precipitate and AMD for rare earth metals from regional AMD discharges

- Provided comments to Anne Daymut-WPCAMR, on the draft PA Environmental Good Samaritan Act amendments; In 1999, along with Growing Greener, PA signed into law the PA EGSA; This law is intended to encourage landowners and others to undertake projects to reclaim abandoned mineral extraction lands and abate water pollution caused by abandoned mines and oil and gas wells; The Environmental Good Samaritan Act protects landowners and individuals who volunteer to do such projects from civil and environmental liability; Not all AMD remediation projects across PA have been registered with the PA EGSA; The lack of PA EGSA registration could be putting groups and other project cooperators in jeopardy; Unfortunately, the PA EGSA does not currently allow for projects to become registered under the Act if construction is complete; The draft amendments to the Act would allow for grandfathering previously constructed projects
- Participated in a conference call with AES, LLC and Talen Energy on discussions around our work on the Mocanaqua Mine Pool Study
- Dan Summa, Keystone Pure Water Tech, Inc. has requested that EPCAMR provide them with an approximate depth to the mine pool in the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool after providing us with a GPS point of the location on the surface that they are interested in potentially drilling a borehole into the pool

Project Coordination

- Provided Gregg Davis, PA DEP BAMR Project Officer with our revised budget on the 2006 Forms for the
 Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project that were requested by the Grant
 Center; Requested an update on the formal extension
- Provided Mike and Rachael the original set of drawings to geo-reference the Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Restoration Project area over the mine maps in the vicinity to provide additional detailed information to River Logic Solutions on the depth of mining in the area and the underlying coal veins that were previously mined; We decided to move one of the cross-vanes to a more suitable and stable location and utilized additional topsoil for the construction; EPCAMR Executive Director was invited to draft up a quest blog by Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, Director of River Restoration for American Rivers on the Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Restoration Project for their website: www.americanrivers.org; Submitted a Progress Report and request for reimbursement from the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Received River Logic Solutions invoices (1710-01,02,03) and submitted it for payment to the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Inspected the project after a weekend storm that occurred on July 1st on July 3rd to see if there were any damages to the project site; Informed Jeff Boyer from River Logic Solutions about a recent storm that brought down a tree across the parking lot that the EPCAMR Staff and interns will remove and cut up; Sent Jeff, Ben Lorson-PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Greg Gulick-Ashley Borough, pictures from July 20th and 21st when the storm occurred of the conditions of the site showing that the structures held up nicely; Recommended that Grea Gulick sign off on the Certificate of Completion for the Construction Project and Dam Removal within the Borough and EPCAMR will forward it to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for the record; Bernie signed the Amendment 1 to the original contract that extended the date of the project to June 30th 2018

- Conducted a youth "Take Me Fishing From City Streets to Valley Streams" program for 24 students
 from the Hazleton Integration Project that we taught about AMD during last year's Summer Camp
 Program; Took the youth to Lake Irene at the Hazleton City Park; The program allows inner city youths to
 get outside and attend a free environmental education & fishing safety program!; Staff taught the students
 aged 6 to 12 to hook worms, cast safely, and reel in fish. This program could not have been done without
 the donation of fishing poles and equipment from the PA Fish & Boat Commission through the Smart
 Angler and Loaner Tackle Program, a First Federal Charitable Foundation grant and the patience of the
 EPCAMR Staff
- Emily Krafjack, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association, mailed their final report from last year's
 ARIPPA Mini-Grant on the limestone sand dosing in the North Fork of the Mehoopany Creek, to remain
 eligible for this year's mini-grant round and submitted their new grant to EPCAMR for consideration for
 treatment of AMD on Red Brook Run and in the area of Coal Bed Swamp; Forwarded the application to
 Anne Daymut-WPCAMR for administrative completeness review and it came back complete
- Informed Bernie McGurl, LRCA that additional information was needed for his ARIPPA Mini-grant
 application to secure funds for a set of accessible pre-cast concrete steps for better access and to safely
 get to the Old Forge AMD Borehole for monitoring and tour purposes; Gabby offered to assist with
 completing the application
- Ryan Cherwinski, Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) submitted an ARIPPA Mini-grant
 application for the a new sign at the Site 15 AMD Treatment System of the Corbin Mine Drift along State
 Route 901, Coal Township, Northumberland County; Forwarded the application to Anne DaymutWPCAMR for administrative completeness review and it came back complete
- Followed up with Joe Stefaniak, a potential donor to the Huber Breaker Anthracite Region's Miners Memorial Park Construction Project on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's Chairman, Ray Clarke; Provided him with an update on the construction aspects of the project; The HBPS is inquiring to see if he is still willing to make a \$20,000 donation towards the project to match the \$100,000 grant written by EPCAMR to the PA DCED; Provided Ray with John Whitonis's, contact information, who is from Mountain Top, PA and interested in contributing to the site reclamation because his father worked at the Huber and grandfather passed away in a mine explosion at the former Maxwell Breaker on the same property prior to the Huber being constructed; Forwarded a change order from Tetra Tech to Ray Clarke for approval for additional stone along the upper parking lot fence area
- EPCAMR Summer Watershed Outreach Interns Josh Rinehimer and Spencer Zuraski, set up our RainBarrel Downspout Disconnect Workshop on Public Square, Wilkes-Barre over a two day period (July 24th and 27th to introduce the public to rainbarrels and now they operate; A drawing was held so that a dozen winners who are City residents could receive a free rain barrel for their residential homes; The workshops were funded under the **NFWF Technical Assistance Stormwater Grant** in partnership with LandStudies, Inc. and the City of Wilkes-Barre; EPCAMR submitted an Invoice for \$4000 for EPCAMR's Staff time and planning for the workshops to LandStudies, Inc. requesting payment; Submitted a second Invoice for \$1328.62 for supplies for the RainBarrel and Downspout Disconnect Workshops to LandStudies, Inc.

Provided Brad Domitrovitsch, AES LLC, with a map so that he could see the surrounding public spaces
and lands under ownership by the various State Agencies in the vicinity of the southern Wyoming Valley;
PA DCNR talked about finding adjacent lands or potentially viable "greenway" corridor connections to
these lands should there need to be some sort of land acquisition or swap of equal value in the future
once the footprint of the drilling is determined or future area needed for a proposed treatment site on our
Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Study; The map is from the North Branch Land Trust, a partner of
EPCAMR's in the region that does land acquisition, conservation easements, and other conservancy
type efforts; (www.nblt.org)

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Provided Megan Boone-Valkenburg, Wilkes University Community Service Coordinator with directions for the bus driver the students to the illegal dump site cleanup under our COALS Program with Community Aid, Inc. just off Gallagher Street in Plains Township on Pagnotti Enterprises property as a part of the incoming first year students; 18 holes were also dug for 9 additional Waterboxxes (and a control seedling) to be planted for future research and monitoring; 30 students participated in the cleanup and over 60 bags of trash were collected; Forwarded our July EPCAMR Newsletter to Community Aid, Inc. to show them that we are showcasing the cleanups in our outreach efforts; Received the application to apply for another round of funding for consideration from Valeria Steward, Community Aid, Inc.
- Jeff Dobias, originally from Palmerton, PA, who now lives out of state, is interested in coming back to attend the annual 4th Annual Centralia Cleanup coordinated by EPCAMR on October 21st; Forwarded him some information on the cleanup; Joe Sapienza, Director of the Centralia: PA's Lost Town documentary, provided EPCAMR with a video publicizing the cleanup that he edited and produced (https://vimeo.com/227179329) and is having Lowe's deliver supplies for the cleanup to EPCAMR to be delivered on August 7th
- Wesley Mech, EPCAMR Volunteer, from Nanticoke, PA followed up with us to see when we were going to continue to do some monitoring in the field in the Nanticoke Creek watershed
- Coordinated with Harlan Tabron, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Living Youth Ministry to provide
 him with information on the Trout In the Classroom Release Program that EPCAMR has been involved
 with with PA Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish & Boat Commission; 12 youth will be participating in the
 trout release on Solomon Creek on July 31st; Talked with Paul Golias, Citizens Voice, who covered a story
 on the project and Tom Venesky, Outdoors Writer, Times-Leader, who also covered the story; Provided
 trout images to Abbie to make copies for the youth to color in the EPCAMR Office as we transport the fish
 for the release
- Followed up with Raymond McConnell, photographer, who is interested in coming to the region to shoot some AMD and AML sites; Looking to see if he is interested in coming up in the Fall 2017 to go on a tour; www.rmphotography.biz

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Mailed back the Centralia: PA's Lost Town DVDs to Joe Sapienza II following the PA AMR
 Conference; 22 people attended the Film Festival as a part of the Conference and became pretty
 emotional over the documentary; A national podcast company is interested in doing some interviews in
 the Fall 2017 and Joe invited EPCAMR down to talk about our cleanup efforts over the last 4 years;
 http://www.centraliapa.org/ (Website for all the screenings that are upcoming of the documentary)
- Requested assistance from Phil Thomas-PA Trout Unlimited, to set Josh Rinehimer up to be able to
 take the Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Protocol Training to assist us with our Abraham Creek
 Coldwater Conservation Plan development and culvert assessments throughout the EPCAMR Region;
 Provided Phil with all the information needed to enroll Josh to allow him to access the NAACC website
 to take the Protocol Training before going into the field
- Created an agenda and tour route that EPCAMR will be given to 20 University of Oregon Landscape Architect students and two professors (*Dr. Chan* and *Colin Poranski*) that have requested that EPCAMR provide them with a tour of the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley AMD impacted landscapes on July 6th and provided them with some iron oxide to incorporate into their student art/sculpture project at the Overlook Field School in Waverly; Shared Dave Edwards documentary with the students with his permission, entitled, "*King in the Mountain*"; One of the students, *Tori Murphy*, was going to provide EPCAMR with a copy of the video that they will produce at the Overlook Field Study as a part of the final program presentation and other compilation of their work when the semester is completed; EPCAMR Staff were interviewed by WYLN-5 for an episode of Community & YOU that will air about our work in the region
- Provided Dave Hess with a write up to be published in the PA Environmental Digest on Ed Wytovich, who received the 2017 Mayfly Award along with Tom Grote;
 https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2017/07/ed-wytovich-receives-2017-mayfly-award.html
- Conducted an AMD Education & Outreach Training on July 13th for 12 Penn-State Master Watershed Stewards in partnership with *Liz Rosser*, Penn-State Cooperative Extension, at the EPCAMR Office and then took them on a brief tour of the AMD impacts to Solomon Creek from the Solomon Creek Boreholes in Hanover Twp, PA.
- The PA AMR Conference Committee was asked to consider to be a part of the 2019 NAAMLP
 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA and needs to have further discussions with the PA DEP BAMR Staff on
 an upcoming conference call on August 2nd; EPCAMR provided the Committee with an update on the
 final budget estimate for 2017 going into 2018; Mailed WPCAMR a check for their expenses

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to OneSource; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed EPCAMR May and June 2017 319 and Monthly Board Reports and forwarded them to
 Mike for submission with our Progress Reports and Reimbursements in June 2017; Provided Mike with
 our payroll records and health care invoices needed for the time periods that he requested and
 additional deliverables for the close out report that will be sent to Donna Wagner, our Project Officer
- Continued providing Payroll Service information to OneSource and hours bi-weekly
- Mailed the MSI Display rack back to Larry Ruane, MSI Program, PA DEP Harrisburg following the PA AMR Conference in Wilkes-Barre at Genetti's
- Directed our second Summer Intern, Josh Rinehimer, Berwick, PA who is a Senior completing an 6-week internship with EPCAMR to prepare his autobiography and two paragraph background story on himself for the website to introduce him as our Summer Watershed Specialist Intern; Josh started his internship on July 3rd; Added to his draft and posted the News Article to our website; http://epcamr.org/home/2017/epcamr-welcomes-joshua-rinehimer-bloomsburg-university-senior-6-week-summer-watershed-outreach-intern/; Scheduled an evaluation meeting in early August with his Advisor, Dr. John Bodenman from Bloomsburg U. and received the final evaluation forms to be completed by the close of the internship
- Provided Sara Eckert-OSM with EPCAMR's Workplace Safety Policies our OSMRE/AmeriCorps follow
- Attended the Penn-Anthracite SME Board Meeting in Hazleton, PA on July 27th
- Passed along some good legislative news for the AmeriCorps Program to Abbie and Rachael;
 www.serviceyear.org
- Prepared a Letter of Support and Recommendation for Gary Leander, Friends of the Nescopeck, for a nomination for an Environmental Partnership Award from the PEC NE Office; Sent the letter to Bob Skulsky, Hazelton Civic Partnership, who was submitting the entire nomination on his behalf
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for *Tom Kashatus*, Newport Township Community Organization, for the Thomas P. Shelburne Award for consideration at the upcoming annual PEC Dinner; Submitted it to *Angela Vitkoski*, PEC NE Office
- Made administrative changes to our Verizon Wireless profile account for our internet
- Prepared a No Loss Letter on July 26th, indicating that there have been no claims against our policy to send to SWIF to reinstate our Workman's Compensation Policy due to an oversight lapse in payment
- Followed up with Ms. Collins with the EITC Program to inform her that EPCAMR's Urban Outreach Specialist, Denise Hernandez, had left a call with Mr. Nicholas Odata months ago in regards to our EITC Educational Improvement Organization renewal and approval that we have been waiting on since 2015 and we have not been able to move off of a WAITING LIST for some reason that is unfamiliar to us; EPCAMR was interested in finding out if we needed any further documentation to clarify our renewal; This delay is seriously hampering our non-profit's ability to seek additional revenue sources for our environmental education programs outside of State, Federal, and Community Foundation grants