



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

July 2019 Progress Report

Project Coordination

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Tom Mayka, DAMA sent EPCAMR and Laura Perry, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Intern, the GPS location files of all the culverts and crossings that we had assessed in the watershed; Continued mapping with the inclusion of the photos taken from our July Field Investigations on Google Earth and converting them into a KMZ file for future use; Performed culvert assessments with EPCAMR Staff and DAMA Staff as a part of their training to assess 20 culverts under the direction of the EPCAMR Executive Director, who is an Lead 1 (L1) Coordinator for the NAACC on Trout Brook Run; Completed **25** culvert assessments and uploaded all the assessment data to the NAACC database

Huntsville Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Laura Perry, Watershed Outreach Intern completed the mapping with the pictures on Google Earth and converting them into a KMZ file

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Submitted revised EPCAMR Invoice 4 & Keystone's 5th Invoice and related documentation to Gerard Schmidt, PA DEP BAMR for review and approval for submission for reimbursement; Submitted a monthly Progress Report; Informed Keystone Reclamation of the submission; Submitted EPCAMR's Invoice 5 to PA DEP BAMR along with the monthly Progress Report and July Inspection Report from PA DEP Pottsville DMO and made a minor revision to increase the EPCAMR Admin to 3.3%, not 3%

Rare Earth Elements PA AML Pilot Project Proposal with Tetra-Tech (proposed)

- Tom Gray, Tetra-Tech informed EPCAMR that they would be providing us with a draft proposal in the middle of August for review; Tom provided EPCAMR a White House [article](#) on rare earth elements

Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Consumptive Use Feasibility Study

- Provided John Pippy with a copy of the last quarterly report to give him an update on the project; EPCAMR's primary focus is on the Priscilla Lee Basin which has the greatest potential for the largest volume of underground mine pool water in the Black Creek Watershed Basin for Consumptive Use Mitigation; While there are several other smaller mine pool basins in the region, they ultimately are draining to the larger mine pool complexes that still drain to the Mocanaqua Tunnel; Participated in a conference call with AES, LLC to give Brad Dimitrovich with an update on the project; Scheduled a meeting with SRBC for August 20th in Harrisburg to give them an update on the progress of our work on the 3D model; Taught Lauren how to digitize elevations for Mocanaqua Consumptive Use

Feasibility Study of coal layers for the 3D Model for SRBC; Worked on Mocanaqua Mine Pool Model with Mike

MSI Program

- Coordinated with Roy Green, Girard Estate, to pick up the private and historic *Girard Estate Mine Map Collection* in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Fields for scanning, digitizing, cataloguing, georeferencing, and mosaicking for the MSI Program; Asked Bobby Burns-Keystone Anthracite if he had any mine maps for areas in which we had gaps in the Western Middle Field including the former colliery areas of Burnside, Big Mountain, Enterprise, Locust Gap, Bast, Hammond, Knickerbocker, and Maple Hill; EPCAMR also asked James Pagnotti-Pagnotti Enterprises if they had any maps that we could include in the MSI program that needed to be scanned; Some areas where there are gaps are of the former collieries that we are looking for down in the Eastern Middle Field are: West Black Ridge, Dainty Slope, Derringer, Oneida, Shep-Dull, Green Mountain, Humboldt, Buck Ridge, Tomhicken, Hollywood, Milnesville, Lattimer, Woodside, Drifton, Upper Lehigh, Highland, Pond Creek, and Sandy Run; Visited the Nanticoke Historical Society to review and borrow Susquehanna Coal Company maps to scan; Scanned a number of maps from the Nanticoke Historical Society; Worked with Mike to repair the lights on the 56" scanner; Transferred the remaining mine maps that were completely scanned from the Pottsville District Mining Office to Davey Williams; Contacted William Berullis from WJP, Inc. to see if they had any Girard Estate Mine Maps in their possession; Rearranged the front office cubicle with Mike for the 42" scanner in preparation for receipt of the Girard Estate Mine Map collection to scan and inventory

Keep PA Beautiful Camera Surveillance Loan Program

- Travelled to Centralia to pull the SD cards and change the rechargeable batteries from the 3 surveillance cameras set up by EPCAMR and Rob Dubas- KPB to see if there has been any illegal dumping activities going on around the Borough; Reported back to Rob on information and footage that was gathered and completed a Summary Progress Report and submission for his review; Sent along image files through his Dropbox Folder; Not much dumping activity for the latter part of May/early part of June 2019, which is a good sign

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyards in the Coalfields Project

- Reached out to Principal Fletcher at Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary to see if she could assist us with getting the word out to students through the school automated phone message system or Remind App 101 about picking up Growboxxes over the Summer that were not picked up on the last day of school in Mr. Grant's class; Sent Claudia and Pam photos of the Growboxxes being distributed and planted; Submitted our 2nd Quarter request for funds in the amount of **\$6250** from ISI, Inc. after including an quarterly report to Claudia Meglin-Project Manager; Developed a proposed budget for **2020 Appalachian Reforestation Project** and submitted it to Claudia in the amount of **\$38,000** for ISI's consideration and approval; Reported that EPCAMR had 28 recycled Waterboxxes to ISI, LLC

Bear Creek 319 Mine Pool Mapping, Design Project

- Reached out to Kerry Teter to obtain two letters (Access Agreement and Commitment Letter) from him in support of the grant application to the PA DEP Section 319 Program that EPCAMR is going to prepare and submit on behalf of the Dauphin County Conservation District and the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association (WCRA); Tom Clark-SRBC worked on the proposal with the EPCAMR Executive Director

Technical Assistance

- Participated in a National RECLAIM Working Group Conference call and offered technical GIS assistance to other community groups in need of AMLIS Inventory Maps by Congressional District or municipal/watershed boundaries
- Provided Joe Mills-Skelly & Loy with technical assistance on services EPCAMR can provide for the Packer 5 Design Project, should the MCWA go in for a grant under the 319 Grant Program
- Responded to Janie French-Headwaters Charitable Trust who inquired from EPCAMR and WPCAMR as to why many groups were not applying for the OSMRE Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP) funding
- Provided some information to Dr. Roseann Sachs, Professor and Chair of the Chemistry and BioChemistry Department at Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA who was interested in phytoremediation of heavy metals at AMD/AML sites; Coordinated a tour for her and her undergraduate student, Katrin Peterson, and Rick Schaeffer-Analytical Chemist, Messiah College, to collect samples for analyses in the lab
- Provided some information to Jeff Holt, Ph.D. from Envera, West Chester, PA who isolates bacteria from nature to develop natural solutions for industry who was interested in coming up to the region and sampling some AMD for research
- Provided Bev Braverman-Mountain Watershed Association with a link to a partnership [study](#) from Geisenger Health Systems Environmental Health Institute and John Hopkins University on Associations of the ***Burden of Coal Abandoned Mine Lands with 3 Dimensions of Community Context in PA*** (February 2012) that utilized EPCAMR's RAMLIS data

Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority MS4 Efforts

- Sent Donna Gillis, WVSA Public Relations Specialist photos of the Scouten Lee Park and conveyance channel to Laurel Run to show her the amount of trash and sediment at the suggested cleanup location; Informed Donna that the Kirby Park Natural Area was pretty clean and well maintained upon further investigation, so it was removed from the suggested cleanup list for future consideration; Investigated the Spring Run watershed area with EPCAMR Intern, Jason Zubris for a potential Fall 2019 cleanup in partnership with the WVSA

Education & Outreach

- Participated in two AML Reauthorization conference calls with the PA AML Campaign; Reviewed the revised Fact Sheet and made comments; Provided Anne with the reference to some statistics from page 59-60 from a Downstream Strategies publication that are in need of updating by the PA Fish & Boat Commission; Rob Shane-TU Mid-Atlantic Advocacy Community Organizer is reaching out to all 49 PA TU Chapters to sign on to a letter in support of Reauthorization; The new Budget Deal negotiated by Pelosi and Machin ends both defense and non-defense sequestration in the 2011 Budget Control Act and will free up an estimated **\$124M** for AML from FY 2013-2019

- EPCAMR has been able to get the Executive Director's [Letter to the Editor](#) submitted and published in the Citizens Voice on supporting the RECLAIM Act; Congressman Cartwright gave a kudos to EPCAMR and the Executive Director for supporting his bill on his social media outlet through Facebook; Participated in a National and PA conference call on the RECLAIM Act
- Fulfilled my term as a PAEE NE Regional Director and Board Member with the PAEE after many years of volunteer service to the organization and decided not to run again and allow for new members to step into the leadership position that I had held for more than a decade
- Amanda Schraeder-Science Teacher at Greater Nanticoke Area SD is interested in participating in the Trout in the Classroom Program and wants to come by and visit EPCAMR's tank and setup over the Summer to see how to set it up; She reached out to the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU President, Scott Brady, who referred her to EPCAMR and will also help them get set up financially when they are ready; Followed up with Amanda to schedule an appointment over the Summer months to visit EPCAMR
- Discussed with Sean Lane-Olympus Power about EPCAMR's conversations with Staff from Congressman Matt Cartwright's Office on the proposed Federal Coal Refuse Energy Tax Credit Act being sponsored by Congressman Dan Meuser and a list of concerns, some unwarranted by Tom Shuster, Sierra Club, PA Chapter that opposes the bill, along with a few other groups in PA who signed on to a letter stating such; ARIPPA responded to the Sierra Club conditions and forwarded them to Congressman Cartwright's Staff and to EPCAMR; EPCAMR had a conference call with Logan Welde-Staff Attorney/Director or Legislative Affairs-Clean Air Council, another organization opposing the bill and explained to them our position and educated them on ARIPPA and Co-Gen plants and their community and environmental benefits; Offered to provide them with a tour of some reclamation projects in the region
- EPCAMR was regrettably not awarded our proposed PA DEP EE Grant for 2019 for **\$3000**
- EPCAMR was featured and spot-lighted in the Times-Leader as a leading non-profit in the region doing great work for the environment and providing environmental education programs to our underserved school districts and afterschool programs
- Signed on to a letter from the Powder River Basin Resource Council to Acting Secretary Glenda Owens requesting the OSMRE to work with state agencies to assess the 30+ mining operations in Wyoming to ensure environmental protection, as well as the prevention of any off-site impacts and to request that OSMRE investigate whether there are any unpaid AML fees or other payments or fees to the OSMRE or the Department of Interior
- Conducted an AMD/AML Tour for the PA American Water Wyoming Valley Camp for youth from the Greater Wyoming Valley, in partnership with the Penn-State Master Watershed Stewardship Program, Earth Conservancy, and Penn-State Extension; The youth made AMD Tie-dyes at the end of the tour at the EPCAMR Office

- Andrea Nerozzi, Wyoming Seminary Assistant Director of the Maslow STEM School and Science Teacher has provided EPCAMR with some photos of her students' 12 panel Hexagon Project art piece on AMD with EPCAMR that we'll be creating a banner out of as a teaching tool and entering into the online International Hexagon Project as well as to be showcased at a few regional exhibits with Professor Beth Berkhauser; Provided Andrea with EPCAMR's logo
- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop with youth from the Summer Camp in Newport Township in partnership with the Newport Township Recreation Commission at the Wanamie Recreation Park for 75 children
- Participated in a conference call with the US ACE who would like to visit the Wyoming Valley with EPCAMR and look at several impacted areas for possible inclusion in a feasibility study under the Section 510 - Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program and or 206j Habitat Restoration and Ecology Programs on the Federal level within the WVSA service area; Provided John Pietryzk, WVSA Stormwater Manger with copies of the Letters of Interest that were submitted to the US ACE inquiring about the two programs and listing areas for consideration

Community Volunteer Coordination

- Jason Zubris, EPCAMR Intern completed his AOP Lead Observer online Protocol Training for NAACC and forwarded a copy to EPCAMR for our files; Directed him to review sites #13 & #18 in the WVSA Letter suggesting dozens of potential streamside cleanup projects; EPCAMR let WVSA know that he'll be looking at them and reporting back; Sent Donna photos of Spring Run following our field investigation of the area and a manhole that was discovered that was not identified yet by the WVSA
- Signed Conal Herron, EPCAMR volunteer up for the AOP Lead Observer online Protocol Training for NAACC

Conferences, Training, Tours, Exhibits, & Workshops

- Conference Registrations continue to come in with a higher frequency to the EPCAMR Online Store for the NAAMLPA/PA AMR/NASLR Conference in September; Informed the PA AMR Conference Committee that EPCAMR had reached out to several dozen potential vendors to seek additional sponsorship and that we should follow up with PA DEP on what sponsors might sign up over the next month or two in order to get credit for them; Followed up with Mark Chuck, the artist creating the Mayfly Awards for 2019; Reviewed and provided comments for Laura's abstract for her presentation at the NAAMLPA Conference; Approved some additional scholarships by PA AMR Conference Committee; Drafted the "Welcome Letter on behalf of the PA AMR Conference" for the NAAMLPA publication for all attendees and submitted it to Eric Cavazza and Tammy Cree, PA DEP BAMR following a review of it by Andy McAllister-WPCAMR Regional Coordinator who co-authored it; EPCAMR Staff registered for the Conference

- Helene Langlamet-University of Penn Ph.D. student in Communications tagged along for an a half-day AMD/AML tour with the University of Oregon Students from the Landscape Architecture School who visited EPCAMR again as a part of the Overlook Field School Training; She's researching for her dissertation on the political recourse that communities have against environmental pollution and how it could be strengthened and has chosen PA's coalfields; Completed a W-9 for Oregon University to make a donation to EPCAMR and submitted it to Michael Geffell

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Forwarded the June 2019 EPCAMR Board Report to the Executive Committee and thoughts on our upcoming August Quarterly Board Meeting leading into the Fall 2019
- EPCAMR received word that we are going to receive a grant agreement amendment for FY20-21 for **\$129,310** in our current PA DEP 319 Grant 2017 Agreement through June 30, 2021; Donna Carnahan Wagner provided us with an updated work plan showing the changes made
- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for July 2019 with Highmark; Completed the Highmark Small Group form and mailed it; Paid Verizon and Internet monthly bills; Paid EC the rent; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register; Made a deposit to FNB for incoming reimbursements and accounts receivable
- Entered the EPCAMR bi-weekly payroll into ADP online to release it; Deposited 2nd Quarter IRA Distribution funds for Staff to First National Bank after receiving the report from OneSource
- Completed and submitted all documentation for the June 2019 final reports, time sheets, evaluation, and reimbursement for Conal Heron's 8-week internship through PA CareerLink/SLIP to Anthony Melf-EDSI Instructor/Career Navigator; Attended the Think Center Networking Event in Wilkes-Barre and met with Joe Boyland-Director who offered up EPCAMR the use of the Center for public outreach
- Completed a Policy Payroll Audit Report from SWIF and submitted it; Requested a Certificate of Liability Insurance from Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management, LLC and it was provided
- Met with [Bill Bellows](#)-former Deming Institute Deputy Director, Facilitator, and Advisory Council, who has served 12 years on the Deming Institute Board who has worked in collaboration with the Institute's leadership and partners to guide their efforts worldwide who coaches, mentors, facilitates, and advocates for The Deming Institute's aim; Bill met with the EPCAMR Staff as well as Ed Wytovich from the EPCAMR Board to discuss the Deming Method and EPCAMR's gradual transitions into utilizing the management system and 14 Point principles; Provided Dr. Bellows with a tour of a few areas in the Valley and touched on all of our projects in the EPCAMR Region that we are working on as well as some of the constraints that we are under with certain grants and funding sources
- Provided a reference check for former intern, Jessica Britten