



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### July 2025 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff georeferenced, mosaicked & digitized mine maps for the **DEP MSI** MMG program. Continued QA/QC of **HU's** Western Middle Anthracite Mosaic work.
- EPCAMR Management staff participated in weekly **PA AML Campaign** calls, a monthly PKN-OAK-REP call with **SCD**, & a **PA AMR Conference Committee** call.
- Sampled 3 AMD TS in **Loyalsock Creek** Watershed for Day 2 of the **Datashed Snapshot**, sites in **Shickshinny, Paddy and Rocky Watersheds** for a **CHP**, sampled Askam AMD Treatment System, upstream & downstream on Nanticoke Cr. for **EC** & installed 1 transducer for the PKN-OAK-REP project with **SCD**
- Updated [www.TreatMineWater.com](http://www.TreatMineWater.com); [www.EPCAMR.org](http://www.EPCAMR.org); & [www.AnthraciteHistory.org](http://www.AnthraciteHistory.org); administered GobbaDaPile local domain, G Suite for Nonprofits, and social media sites.

#### Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- EPCAMR staff participated in Day 2 of the Datashed Snapshot. Visited Connell B, Connel C, and Lewis treatment systems to take flow, parameters with the YSI probe, and a grab sample to send off to Geochemical Labs in Somerset, PA. Made it to the FedEx store by 4PM to overnight the coolers which cost almost \$500. Conversation with Cliff about reimbursement and that the samples did not have to get there overnight even though it was a short week as mentioned by the lab attendant when I ordered the bottles. Cliff has experience with working in labs and said that, 7 days on ice is not necessarily the lifespan of a sample. Mahaffey labs had mentioned that to me in previous dealings. Regular ground shipping would have been OK, but he will reimburse us the shipping we paid.
- Worked on gathering and scanning receipts for our bookkeeper. Worked up an invoice of mileage, ice and shipping and sent it to SRI for reimbursement.
- Uploaded photos of the sampling events this week to different places. The photos of Rayburn Creek were shared to the Shickshinny CHP folder on the Google Drive for staff to collaborate on processing the data.
- Looked up information the Kidder Slopes for a colleague, Nick Z. from Industrial Archives Library. He wanted to know the date the slopes were driven. I found evidence they existed prior to the Second PA Geologic Survey in 1884, but could not pinpoint a specific date after reviewing the mine map mosaics for the Wilkes-Barre West quadrangle.
- Spoke with our new 319 program advisor, Chad Krick, about the Bear Creek project and why it isn't finished. We explained that the issue was poor quality 3D Cloud point data that was supplied to us by DEP via a subcontractor (HU). Worked with DEP MSI Program to QA/QC the data for the entire southern field which was just handed to them December 2024 so HU can fix their mistakes. If we had to fabricate the data over again the cost would be significantly higher than what was budgeted. We may be able to close out the grant and get an MOU to finish the project once the data is available.

- Copied Huntsville and Toby Creek CHP report over to Shickshinny Rocky Paddy Folder on Google Drive as a template in about 10 pieces that can be edited with information about Shickshinny Creek, Rocky Run and Paddy Run.
- Updates to Treatmineater.com and EPCAMR store to add information about accessibility of attendees for the tour. A few treatment systems sites will require ~1/2 mile of walking and our committee wanted to add this disclaimer.
- Demoed 3D digitizing in earthVision for interns, Maria and Dennis. Attempt to install earthVision 14 on Maria's Computer and Frank's old computer, which Dennis will use. Had a difficult time installing because there was a missing Setup INI file, was able to overcome this issue but then there was a license error when opening the Bear Creek vue file. I remember this being an issue before and I may have to call Kristen Brown from OSMRE to resolve it. Uninstalled EV 14 on one computer and attempted to install EV 13 which is the version that runs on my computer. Same issue. [BEAR]
- Caught up on processing AMR Conference Registrations. Was asked to make invoices for Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg PA DEP offices as they were having trouble with building the orders in the EPCAMR store. Made temporary invoices in QuickBooks then deleted them as these registrations typically come in as store orders and lump sums are transferred into the AMR Conference Restricted account after the conference. Organizing Sponsor files on AMR Conference Shared Google Drive.
- Aided interns with some questions about the Stackhouse Colliery as they are gathering historical information for the Shickshinny Rocky Paddy CHP.
- Start Mine Mapping Grant (MMG) Invoice 7. Copied work completed by staff to the DEP FTP site. [MSI]
- Dennis digitized the stream lines on an old topographic map for Shickshinny from 1894 to show the historic stream channel alignments in comparison to present day alignments for the CHP.
- Sent Mining Operators License 2025 document out for signatures by the executive committee.
- Downloaded and processed monthly precipitation data from AgACIS and transducer data for Espy Run into a chart for Elizabeth Hughes who asked for updated hydrological flow charts for a presentation.
- Continued MMG Invoice 7 and calculating time for the Bear Creek Project. Caught up on timesheets up to April.
- Aided Dennis as he was creating fisheries maps for the Shickshinny, Rocky Paddy CHP. Aided in researching sources for the GIS data (EBTJV and PASDA).
- Fixed an issue with the EPCAMR Online Store not allowing credit cards to be processed by PayPal. It was an easy fix since others using WooCommerce noticed it late last week and posted a solution. It's good to use an Open Source CMS like WordPress that many people rely on on a day-to-day basis. Also researched a free version of desktop office software to replace Microsoft Office 365. Received warnings from colleagues that will lose the service by the end of this month. Checked our account and our free Microsoft licenses will end in February 2026, but this was just the nudge we needed. Microsoft will be offering only their Office 365 Basic (online programs only) for free going forward. We essentially already have this with Google Workspace plus we get a lot more storage for free on the Google Drive. Found LibreOffice and started testing it. This open source software was developed using Open Office as a template (a program I have used for about a decade because the Calc program handles monitoring data much better than MS Excel), but LibreOffice is updated more often and is used by more people. It handles our timesheets nicely and is able to open complex documents (i.e. table of contents, table of figures, table of tables, footnotes and works cited) like our Huntsville Creek CHP report with no problems.
- Completed MMG Invoice 7. PHUMMIS corresponding files until it crashed with an error message stating "Unhandled Exception occurred on this Page. Please contact MS Team or Open a remedy with the following error code". Sent the reimbursement paperwork to MSI staff at DEP California DMO with a caveat that I would finish up cataloging when PHUMMIS was back to normal operation. [MSI]
- Took a trip to Home Depot to research coated wire rope to hang transducers in boreholes.

- Strategized with Bobby and Frank to find a good website name for the AMD/AML information sharing hub.
- Met with HBPS members to start training them on writing/editing Posts and Pages on [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org).
- Reviewed Shickshinny CHP report and helped interns make maps and generate statistics.
- Aided interns in reviewing the text and maps they added to the Shick, Rocky Paddy CHP. Staff pitched in to help Bobby rearrange his desk and set it up for a the AMR Chronicles podcast he is participating in with Anne from WPCAMR. Took an iron oxide order to the post office and sent it to Montana.
- Continued PHUMMIS entries for Jan to March. Asked for clarification on maps that were re-georefernced by Shawnese via email. Let Bobby know to follow up as Shawnese does not respond to email if not alerted by text by Bobby first. [MSI]
- Verified the AMR Conference registration list with orders from the EPCAMR Online store.
- Finished up PHUMMIS entries for Jan to March. [MSI]
- EPCAMR Management Staff participated in an AMR Conference Call. Updated [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) with presentations and sponsors. Updated registration list with sponsors.
- Searched for coated wire rope on Amazon to hang the transducers for the PNK-OAK-REP project. Also ordered a battery to AC power converter for Bobby's Canon camera and an extension cord for under his desk.
- Started Invoice 8 MMG but had to stop and ask Shawnese for timesheets. Asked Bobby to follow up via text. [MSI]
- Never got a response about the maps that were re-georefernced by Shawnese, but she did supply her timesheets so I could continue Invoice 8. Uploaded 130 UMMs and 113 Other Penn Equipment maps from the Industrial Archive Library (IAL) scanned by Maria to the DEP FTP site. [MSI]
- Began to PHUMMIS georefernced work items for Invoice 8. Checked maps uploaded to DEP FTP and noticed there were only 125. Began the re-upload process, thinking that the FTP would just replace the missing files, but it was uploading them all again. Stopped that process and produced spreadsheet of each list and compared to find and upload the 5 that were missing. Will wait to see if ones are corrupt and supply them again to DEP. Not impressed with the DEP FTP. Got a call from hospice that family needs to come see my stepfather. Got part of April PHUMMIS completed. [MSI]
- Back to work on PHUMMIS. Comparing spreadsheet Shawnese was working from (produced by DEP MSI program) and updating not only maps she georefernced, but mistakes she found in the spreadsheet. For example, several were marked as Surface Maps but were actually Cross Sections. Was able to complete PHUMMIS for April georefernced work (121 records over 6 hours). Heard from Patrick who suggested using FileZilla, tho not officially approved by DEP IT, he was given a waiver to use it. Filezilla allows transfer with the ability to choose if the file size is different. Tried this setting, but they all uploaded again. Not sure what is wrong, but seems to be a little more user friendly. [MSI]

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Took the afternoon and evaluated 2 sites on Rayburn Creek for the Shickshinny Creek, Rocky and Paddy Run Watersheds CHP with several EPCAMR staff, interns, and a volunteer. The tributary had decent bug populations for the visually obvious siltation impairment.
- Downloaded the scanned map of the Locust Gap Mine from a SCRA member loaned to us at the Mine Pool Conference earlier this month. Processed the large TIFF archive files into JPEG image files in preparation for him to come and pick up the map and transfer the images to a thumb drive.
- Started interns on digitizing elevation points on cross-sections (XS) for Bear Creek project. Gathered information on their graphics cards because Maria's computer would not open the vue file. [BEAR]

- Field day for Shickshinny, Rocky Paddy CHP. Took flow and helped with collection of chemistry and macro data.
- Helped Maria digitize elevation points on XS for Bear Creek after rebuilding the vue file on her computer.
- Met Schuylkill Conservation District (SCD) and Lehigh Engineering staff near St Clair to take flow at the Repplier Discharge, measure water level elevations at Darkwater and Repplier shafts, and installed a transducer in a stilling well at the Pine Knot Discharge for the PNK-OAK-REP project. Strategized at Oak Hill Boreholes with Wayne and intern from SCD to gather flow at the 2 channels. [SCD]
- Recently a section of Horton Street collapsed in Wilkes-Barre. The news outlets indicated it was a subsidence due to a sewer/stormwater line collapse. A resident from Wilkes-Barre near the Horton Street collapse was concerned about mines under her home and asked for information. Created a Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) Subsidence Risk investigation file for her with the Surface Map, 2 vein maps (Abbott and Kidney), and the closest cross section. Calculated depth to the closest void (over 200 ft) and highlighted her house location on each map. Explained that subsidence wasn't eminent, but obtaining Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) was prudent. Her home is also over about 110 feet of unconsolidated alluvium, therefore if there was a deep mine void collapse there is minimal risk of an areal subsidence (like settling that could cause foundation cracks). The Kidney map shows slushing (backfilling) of some mine voids for area stability.
- Strategize Oak Hill Discharge flow measurements with Wayne at SCD. Pulled up 2-Foot LiDAR contours to figure out a plan to remove some of the weirs on the main channel to attain a drop on the weirs upstream. [SCD]
- Another Field day for Shickshinny, Rocky Paddy CHP. Took flow and helped with collection of chemistry and macro data.
- Grueling Field Day assessing AMD sites in the Paddy Run and surrounding watershed. Started off not great when we discovered the flow meter was missing. Likely left at the last site we monitored on Friday, we retraced our steps. Called the landowner and he did have it at his home nearby. Proceeded to Paddy Run where we hiked straight up a mountain to find the Paddy Run Pipe AMD Discharge. Took chemistry and flow. No macros because the water was very acidic. Proceeded to find the Stackhouse #1 Tunnel AMD Discharge, guided by Avenza Maps app. Phone says we hiked 3 miles but was up, down and across a mountain most of which was not on a trail (rough terrain). Unfortunately left our water in a cooler at the truck. We won't make that mistake again. We didn't eat lunch till after 2PM. Our Americorps and one intern were stung by ground wasps, but luckily they were not allergic. We did have a first aid kit in a backpack with us.
- Sampled Askam Treatment System and upstream/downstream points in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed. [EC]

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.