



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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June 2016 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- **ARIPPA** hired **Econsult Solutions** to conduct an economic impact report on the coal-refuse-to-energy industry; Econsult Solutions is currently in the process the report and sought permission to include images from EPCAMR's website with our permission; Permission was granted by the Executive Director who had taken most of the photos that they were interested in
- Met with *Adrian Uzunian*, Program Coordinator for the **OSMRE/VISTA Team** from Durango, CO to discuss our future partnership with the OSMRE VISTA Teams in CO and the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team
- Posted a 'Save the Date' announcement for the upcoming June 29th, webinar for **EE Capacity**, on "Steps to an Inclusive Environmental Education Experience" to the Facebook Group Community of Learners; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PASateConsortiaCOL/>; Ordered the **GoToMeeting** platform for the year out of the EE Capacity grant funds to allow for multiple webinars to be conducted throughout the year and made revisions to the tentative agenda for the webinar with members of the PA Leadership Team; Provided PAEE Board with a Summary Update on EE Capacity for the Board Meeting at the McKeever Environmental Education Center, Sandy Lake, PA as well as a compilation of the survey questions put together for the Professional Development Survey with questions created by the PAEE Board and members of the PA Leadership Team working on the project; Submitted a Phase I Reimbursement Request for **\$5000** to NAAEE
- Forwarded information on EPCAMR to *Kristen Zilcosky*, Outreach Coordinator for the **League of Conservation Voters of PA**, who the Executive Director was introduced to at the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference in Annapolis, MD
- Provided *Gavin* with a link to a website that details pipeline information through the Coalfields in the Western Middle and Southern Fields for him to review as a part of our application to Atlantic Sunrise/Williams Community Grant; <http://chesapeakecommons.org/gists/pipeline/asp/index.html>
- Conducted a phone interview with *Karen Blackledge*, Reporter for the Danville News Item, on EPCAMR's attendance at the upcoming **Iron Heritage Festival**, Danville, PA at Hess Field to conduct an AMD Tie Dye Workshop and Education and Outreach Program for the general public and families in attendance at the annual event; Sent her example pictures of the AMD Tie Dye T-shirts; 2Twisted Sisters Screen printing donated **\$200** towards the purchase of **100** youth shirts for the event; <http://www.2twisted sisters.me/>

- Conducted an interview with *Lys Sparrow*, Director, who is working on a documentary called **RED ASH: Burning Rights**, to describe the various types of coal ash utilized in mine reclamation and active mining in the coalfields particularly around the Centralia area historically; <http://www.redashthefilm.com/team.html>
- Forwarded information off to several County Conservation Districts in the EPCAMR Region to see if their counties would support the Clean Water Counts Resolution; Information was provided to EPCAMR from *Andrew Heath*, from the **Renew Growing Greener Coalition**; A sample resolution was provided to each District
- Received a letter from *Alana Malar Roberts*, PPL that EPCAMR was awarded a **\$1000** grant for our ***Bird Boosters: Building Bird Boxes for Abandoned Mine Land Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project***, Will work with the McGlynn Learning Center youth in Wilkes-Barre and HOME DEPOT to build the bird houses and then place them at AMD Treatment wetlands and educational locations that are tour spots for EPCAMR throughout the Wyoming Valley
- Introduced *Maddy Urbish*-Director of the **Delaware River Watershed Coalition** to *Louise Dunlap*, who works on the PA AML Campaign
- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited to a breakfast roundtable discussion, co-hosted by the **Lackawanna County Department of Arts & Culture**, and the **Scranton Area Community Foundation** that happens to conflict with our Annual Board Meeting for EPCAMR; ***The Art For Social Change: A Focus on the Environment roundtable*** will run from 9-12 on August 18th at the Electric City Trolley Museum, Scranton; Art for Social Change is a summer roundtable discussion series which is aimed at building the connections between Arts & Culture and other sectors of society, particularly Health & Wellness; The Economy; and The Environment
- Introduced *Carl Jones*, **PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice** Director to *Scott Cope*, V-P of **PAEE** and the Director of Education at the **Wildlands Conservancy**
- Prepared a Letter of Support for the **EC Nanticoke Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Grant** to the US EPA to continue to reclaim the Truesdale Banks
- Completed the Storify Project to complete the online Global Open Online Course to receive an Expert Level Certification; <https://storify.com/BobbyHughesAMD/potteryart>
- EPCAMR Staff attended a **RECLAIM Crew Meet & Greet** hosted by the **Breaker Brewing Company** in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA where we introduced volunteers to our work in the region, networked with new volunteers, and invited them to participate in future opportunities with the organization

Technical Assistance

- EPCAMR was asked by *Michelle Dunn*, **Keep PA Beautiful**, if we could find out any information on some illegal dumping that is occurring along SR3004 in Northumberland County, known as Snake Road, and report back our findings; They would like to set up a hidden camera system in that area but it may be too far for EPCAMR to monitor along a roadside that is in the PA DOT right of way and on private coal company land; It may be an area owned by the *Helfrick* Family-owned coal company, but without proper coordinates at this time, it's difficult to tell; Sought more information from KPB

- EPCAMR Staff met with *John Levitsky*, **Luzerne Conservation District** Watershed Specialist to draft up a Scope of Work for a **Feasibility Study for the Plainsville AMD Borehole** so that it is suitable for submission to future grants or foundations that become open; Followed the guidelines for the PA **DCED CFA AMD Abatement and Treatment Grant Program**; John scheduled an informational meeting on June 23rd with the **Plains Township Board of Supervisors** and informed them of the proposed project to gain their support, discussed the benefits of coming up with a plan for the discharge should harsher MS4 enforcement actions be taken by the US EPA, discussed possible ownership by the municipality, and sought input from planning and zoning ; EPCAMR and LCD already have landowner consent from *Mr. Greg Price* to enter the property to monitor the flow and chemistry of the borehole and discharge point out of the ponds into the Susquehanna River; Put John in touch with *Pierre McCoy*, Hydrogeologist, SRBC to discuss details on potential pressure transducers that might be utilized for monitoring at the borehole; Obtained a quote from Hawk Mountain Labs for core sediment sampling for the project
- Encouraged *Liz Rosser*, **PSU Extension** to invite PSU Master Watershed Stewards from the Lehigh Valley to attend the upcoming July Workshop on AMD/Marcellus and Groundwater to be hosted by EPCAMR at our Office; Confirmed the evening use of the EC Conference Room with *Geoff Shaw*, EC; Provided Liz with a list of watershed associations and partners in Lackawanna, Wyoming, and Luzerne Counties for her to invite to her volunteer workshop
- Informed *Diana Day*, Conservation Coordinator, **PA Fish & Boat Commission**, that the EPCAMR Executive Director will continue to serve as a member of the **PA Wildlife Action Plan Technical Aquatic Working Group** to provide comments on drafts related to AMD impacted
- Prepared a Letter of Support for *Dan Summa*, **Keystone Pure Water Tech, Inc.**'s proposal to the CFA for the AMD and Treatment Program for the Peckville (Blakely) AMD Outflow where they would like to develop a small Active AMD Treatment Demonstration Plan to treat AMD; The treatment plant will be located on land owned by the **Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority** and is adjacent to the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Trail; As part of the project, an educational center, which includes interpretive materials will be included allowing people on the trail to visit and understand the history, size of, causes of, problems with, and potential solutions to AMD problem; EPCAMR fully supports this effort and has conducted outdoor learning experiences over the years to this particular site with high school and elementary school students from the Lackawanna Valley

Community Volunteer Service Coordination

- *Mohammed Almoumin*, student at LCCC submitted a resume to EPCAMR for a potential internship, however, no openings were available; Informed him of upcoming volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR
- Prepared a Verification Letter of Proof of Community Service for *Eric Hashagen*, Wapwallopen, who worked with EPCAMR for **15** hours on three separate cleanups in the Wyoming Valley, one in Mocanaqua, the second at the HoneyPot/Nanticoke Area cleanup, and finally at the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley, where he performed some landscaping and trimming of dead trees
- *Nicholas McDonald*, Clarks Summit, student from Keystone College with an interest in environmental biology and limnology, submitted his interest through MailChimp to become an EPCAMR volunteer
- *Jessica Moyer*, Schuylkill Haven, a student in college with an interest in environmental engineering signed up through MailChimp to become an EPCAMR volunteer

- *Christine McCarthy*, a Senior at **Lafayette College**, did some AMD sampling for EPCAMR as a part of a class project and provided the organization with a final report of her findings and metals analyses entitled, “*Effects of Acid Mine Drainage on pH and Metal Content in the Wyoming Basin of the Northern Anthracite Field, PA*” using atomic absorption spectroscopy of several AMD discharges in the Wyoming Valley
- Requested a **\$500** donation from **Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc.** to assist EPCAMR with our **3rd Annual Cleanup of Centralia** scheduled for September 24th, 2016 and received a check within a few weeks for **\$500** towards the effort; Eric Bella, Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. was able to send EPCAMR a file of surrounding property maps in and around Centralia owned by Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc. for us to consider placement of the dumpsters for the cleanup; The funds will help to defray the costs of the tipping fee at the landfill for the weight of the dumpster following the cleanup; Also sent a request to **Blaschak Coal Company** to see if they would be willing to donate; Worked with GiveGab IT Specialists and *Joe Sapienza II*, Director of the soon to be released, “America’s Lost Town” documentary, to develop the latest fundraiser and campaign for the cleanup; <https://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/eastern-pa-coalition-for-abandoned-mine-reclamation/campaigns/clean-up-centralia-for-centralians-past-present>
- *Jason Laboranti*, a Senior in Environmental Geography and Planning, at **Bloomsburg University** applied for a Summer Internship with EPCAMR with limited availability due to his commitment to the military, however, EPCAMR has an agreement with Bloomsburg University to assist students where we can, even if it were only 16 hours/week, because every other week the student must attend a full 8 hour class on Fridays to complete the internship requirements; After interviewing him on June 14th, EPCAMR Executive Director spoke with his Advisor, *John Bodeman* and worked out a flexible time schedule for him over the Summer months to work on specific projects pending his availability and submitted his Internship Activity Description (IAD) and a Special Projects attachment for approval

Project Coordination

- Submitted revisions to the **Monarch on Minelands Project** PA DEP EE Grant of the revised Scope of Work benchmarks, timeline, and the Detailed Budget Sheet to *Nicholas Auchenback*; EPCAMR was notified that the the fully executed contract was approved with the revisions and that a hard copy would be mailed soon
- Provided SRBC Staff with an update on EPCAMR’s meeting in Harrisburg with CSI Environmental, LLC, American Energy Solutions, LLC, and PA DCNR in regards to the State Forest Research Agreement submission for approval to perform some data collection and water quality monitoring for the **Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Remediation Project**; EPCAMR discussed with them in great detail as far as monitoring, establishing a flow station, conducting loadings of the iron emanating from the discharge, accessing the property to map out the mine pool boundaries, and potentially set up flow loss monitoring locations on tributaries on the State Forest lands in the newly acquired and named Pinchot State Forest tract along the Mocanaqua Highlands in the southern part of the Wyoming Valley; PA DCNR wanted later Phases (4 & 5) removed; Provided AES, LLC with a draft copy of the Scope of Work to make comments and revisions prior to sending down to SRBC with a revised budget; Talked with *Andy Gavin*, SRBC about the revisions and informed him that EPCAMR would be sending down a draft scope of work for his review and budget following the PA AMR Conference near the end of the month of June 2016
- Mike and Executive Director met with *Pierre McCoy*, SRBC about an update and shift in priority to specific areas for the **Rausch Creek Mine Pool Mapping Project**
- Continued communicating with PPL Utility Company to identify the landowner of the easement that they have along Laurel Run near the pole line crossing that is experiencing some severe erosion

identified by the EPCAMR Staff during the **Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Partnership Conservation Plan** field assessment; Provided Gabby with pictures and a narrative description of the Coalbrook headwaters for the report; Communicated with *Tali MacArthur*, from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program regarding an update to the work on our final draft plan development for the Laurel Run CHP

- Talked with *Andrew Korzon*, **LandStudies**, about adjusting the workload timeline, following up with the **City of Wilkes-Barre** on the **NFWF Stormwater Management Plan Project** and coordinating with some new city officials that might become a part of the overall project; EPCAMR Executive Director sent a letter over to the City of Wilkes-Barre highlighting our discussions about the project on June 9th and to LandStudies updating the partners on the status of the project, plans to move forward, and needs from LandStudies to be provided by the City; Provided *Joyce Morrow Zaykoski*, Capital Projects Program Manager, for the City of Wilkes-Barre, new to the project, with some of EPCAMR's files and resources on the grant related to Stormwater BMPS, presentations, green infrastructure, and other resources on rain barrels, rain gardens, and MS4 information; Requested that the City officials sign off on the Highway Occupancy Permit to be applied for by Landstudies to complete one of the demonstration projects along W. Ross and S. River Street; The HOP was signed and sent back to LandStudies; Provided LandStudies with EPCAMR's proposed budget for the '**Downspout Disconnect Workshop**' and supply budget
- Informed **RiverLogic Solutions, LLC** that EPCAMR has signed a check for their first invoice towards the Design for the **Solomon Creek Dam Removal/Check Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Restoration Project**; EPCAMR then submitted a reimbursement request to PA Fish & Boat Commission; EPCAMR has also finally received the paperwork from PPL to request a quote for the utility pole relocation and have sent that off to them completed; EPCAMR had to review the design plan again and take a walk up to the project site to get the pole number for the one that was included in the project area (#50869 N38468); Based on what I saw in the final design plan there is only a need to relocate one of the poles and not two as we may have initially thought; EPCAMR is now awaiting a response from PPL so that we get an ID Number for the project and an actual quote that will help EPCAMR further develop the budget in terms of what we may have to subcontract with PPL to move the pole or deepen the pole; EPCAMR submitted the design plans to PPL as well; Once we get an ID Number and a quote, we can further develop the actual construction budget; EPCAMR is still waiting on a response from **Larson Design Group** as well to have them complete a sub-contract with EPCAMR to do the work of the submission of the Restoration Waiver and the E & S Control Application to the Luzerne Conservation District
- Communicated with *Eric Rosengrant*, Project Officer about the Final Project Reimbursement for the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project** and an error in the accounting that was discovered and corrected by the PA DEP Grants Center; EPCAMR had advanced the Final Invoice to **Rexer's LLC**, who performed the construction work on the project; EPCAMR was informed that the check was in the mail; Received a final copy of the closeout of the Highway Occupancy Permit from Marc Lewis, landowner, that was forwarded to him from PA DOT
- Worked with Gavin to submit a **\$10,000** grant to **Williams Pipeline** for a **Mine Mapping for Municipalities: Outreach and Interpretation of Maps on Abandoned Mine Land Impacts**; The proposed project would take place in Northumberland County, Schuylkill County, and Lebanon County; The municipalities targeted by this project include Northumberland County: Coal Twp, Kulpmont Borough, and East Cameron Twp; Schuylkill County: Butler Twp, Hegins Twp, and Weishample (CDP); Lebanon County: Tower City and mine impacted streams located near the

pipeline. These communities are directly in/close to the path of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise Expansion and are impacted by extensive underground mining and abandoned mine drainage from historic coal practices; EPCAMR will give the above locations copies of OSM Folio underground mine maps for their municipal boundaries. EPCAMR believes the maps will be valuable for municipal planners, local government, and the general public; The maps would help highlight possible concerns abandoned mine lands may present for development projects such as the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. EPCAMR will also hold Mine Map Workshops to teach communities how to interpret mine maps and learn abandoned mineland impacts; The goal of this project is to give municipalities the tools and knowledge to understand the underground mine workings left behind by historic coal practices here in Pennsylvania. The project will also serve as a catalyst for community outreach on abandoned minelands, their impacts on the environment and planning agendas, as well as an understanding of mine maps and how to interpret them. EPCAMR will work with conservation districts to ensure they know how minelands impact development projects; The total number of people impacted by this project is apx 35,000.

- Informed by *Donna Wagner*, **PA DEP BCR**, that EPCAMR will need to report on the completion of our FY14-16 Scope of Work towards the end of June 2016 to close out the fiscal year and remaining funds that were amended for the PA DEP 319 funding and will need to close out the next year of funding in June 2017 and then write a revised and amended Scope of Work for FY17-2020 by August 5th, 2016 to submit to PA DEP; EPCAMR forwarded down our Deliverables, Progress Reports, and Request for Reimbursements on July 8th, 2016; Mike and the Executive Director will meet following the Conference to revise and develop the new Scope of Work for FY17-2020

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Registered EPCAMR Staff for the upcoming **2016 PA AMR Conference** and Lodging at IUP; Added a few non-profit exhibitors to the list of conference exhibitors attending; Reviewed and approved all **18** scholarship requests that came in from volunteers and attendees interested in a Lodging scholarship and forwarded to the PA AMR Conference Committee for approval; **PA Aggregates & Concrete Association (PACA)** become a sponsor for the Conference; Informed all recipients of how to register for their lodging at IUP; Informed Cristy Doyle, **ARIPPA** of how many plant members were attending the Conference in 2016 at their request; Delegated Moderator duties to members of the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee for the Conference; Scheduled an impromptu meeting at one of the breaks to inform those interested in the status of the "Mining Trio bills" on Capitol Hill; Coordinated the 18th Annual Conference on June 22nd & 23rd; www.treatminewater.com
- Worked with several board members to finalize the Agenda and Program for the **PA Anthracite Section SME** Summer Meeting and Golf Outing Fundraiser for June 30th, at Mountain Valley Golf Resort, Barnesville, PA; It was the SME's 60th Annual Meeting and the PA Anthracite's 103rd Annual Meeting; *John Welsh* and *Alana Mauger*, Director and Writer for "Beyond the Breaker" were guest speakers; EPCAMR Executive Director was re-elected to a two-year Board position through 2017; EPCAMR Executive Director finalized the editing of the Program and printed 50 copies for the event

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Created the June 2016 EPCAMR Staff Agenda and forwarded it around for the June 2nd Meeting
- Completed the June 2016 monthly PA DEP 319 and EPCAMR Board Report

- Requested a building key from *Geoff Shaw*, EC for *Gabby Zawacki*, since she has become a full-time employee of EPCAMR
- Provided the entire EPCAMR Staff with a copy of GrantStation's Spring 2016 State of Grantseeking Report document for their review and professional development
- Provided *Andy Freifeld*, Huber Breaker Preservation Society Park Development Coordinator intern with a timesheet for tracking hours, mileage, and project activities during his internship
- Provided *Gavin's* W-4 to RJ Zagrapan for payroll services
- Received written feedback from *Doug Goodlander*, PA DEP Conservation Program Manager, for the Office of Water Resources Planning, on a previously submitted Growing Greener Grant for the **Monitoring of AMD Discharges and Evaluation of their Source Mine Pools** from the PA DEP, although not entirely in agreement with the Department's assessment and evaluation of the grant, EPCAMR Staff will reevaluate the proposal and possibly resubmit to a later round or to another funding source since we felt we established the need and that mine pool mapping and AMD monitoring was not being done extensively in the Anthracite Region
- Applied to the BUDGET Car Rental Business Program on behalf of EPCAMR and received a BUDGET discount code for future use
- Scheduled the SWIF Workers Compensation Audit with RJ Zagrapan by US Reports of EPCAMR Payroll Records from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016
- Reviewed the BONFIRE fundraising platform for selling T-shirts after talking with Kelly LaFerriere, Online Marketing Specialist, and found that the price point for the sale of the shirts would be too high for EPCAMR to encourage our volunteers to pay a minimum of \$17.99/per shirt;
<https://www.bonfirefunds.com/online-fundraising>
- Reviewed the draft language of a water usage fee bill **HB2114 Water Resources Act** being sponsored by Representative *Sturla*, Lancaster County, 96th Legislative District;
www.pahouse.com/Sturla
- Executive Director took the last week of June 2016 off for vacation