

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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June 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 April-June 2025 quarterly period; A new optional budget tracking sheet was provided to EPCAMR from Chad Krick, our Project Officer; Worked on monthly reporting updates

Beaverbrook Hazleton Beltway Center East Reclamation Project

- Informed John Green-PA DEP BAMR, that EPCAMR has not heard back yet on the recent merger of two the development companies that will impact that subcontract agreement and the landowner access agreement documentation before we can proceed to construction

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

- Uploaded all final report documents to the EnergyWerx Invoicing portal and Milestone 6 completion; Our final video highlighting the Morea Mine Complex site was already uploaded previously

ARIPPA EPCAMR Mini-Grant Program

- EPCAMR and WPCAMR completed our joint presentation and attended the 6-10-25 Annual ARIPPA Tech Symposium and presented on the selected award winners for 2025; Obtained photos from Don Kane Jr. from the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) for the presentation about the educational kiosk design and construction of the Wanamie Lokie #9 at the Huber Miners Memorial Park in Ashley; Don is working with Fossil Industries Inc. on the educational kiosk design; HBPS stored concrete bags at EC/EPCAMR Building that will be used for the fence post installation around the property; #5 Slope will be opened properly and ventilated for a safety gate installations by the Underground Miners on 6-11-25; Friends of the Nescopeck Creek was also awarded funds for monitoring equipment and Gary Leander, provided us with a few photos of field monitoring action photos for the presentation; ARIPPA has donated \$100,000 in total between EPCAMR and WPCAMR over the last 15 years

Swoyersville Harry E. and Community Athletic Area AML Reclamation Project

- Submitted a Progress Report and reimbursement request for Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management Inc. for a budget line item that has been completed now that the 7 acres of reclaimed land has now been deeded over to Swoyersville Borough

Columbia University Rare Earth Element Monitoring of AMD

- EPCAMR Staff performed another round of AMD Sampling with Columbia U. Professor Sean Kinney and his Staff, in addition to setting up a few pressure transducers at a number of AMD discharges in the Wyoming Valley for continuous long-term monitoring; Forwarded Sean some of the interesting results and methods done by the US EPA in the Shamokin Creek Watershed

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

- Signed Dennis Dukinas, volunteer up for the NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Protocol training; Austin Miles, University of Penn student volunteered with EPCAMR to perform macroinvertebrate surveys and culvert assessments with the EPCAMR Staff in the watershed during the month of June on several occasions; He's working on his dissertation project on ecological restoration in Northeastern PA's coalfields; Conducted macro sampling in the watershed with EPCAMR Staff and AmeriCorps VISTAs and volunteers

Technical Assistance

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

- New monitoring boreholes are needed for Oak Hill and Lytle mine pools; Potential locations are being evaluated; Monthly call to receive updates on permission to access various properties to eventually install pressure transducers and continuous data loggers and future drilling locations into the mine pools

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

- Worked with Mark Jones, Ed Wytovich, and Gary Leander to propose a grant proposal for water quality monitoring technical assistance and submitted it to the Foundation since it was in the geographical area of the Hazleton School District and Weatherly Borough

Datashed Monitoring with Stream Restoration Inc.

- EPCAMR sought access to Aylesworth Creek and the Lausanne Tunnel AMD Treatment Systems by coordinating with PA DEP BAMR who informed us that we would need to reach out to Lackawanna County Parks to get to Aylesworth Creek's system

Lost Creek AMD Feasibility Study with Tetra-Tech Technical Implementation Project (*proposed*)

- Conference call with Eric Cavazza, Tetra Tech, about Lost Creek boreholes and potential for monitoring and mine pool mapping; EPCAMR provided Eric Cavazza, Tetra Tech with our cost estimate to perform specific technical professional services for their proposal and worked with Mike on developing a draft scope and budget estimate for Lost Creek boreholes and mine pool mapping in the Shenandoah Creek watershed; Provided qualifications sheet of EPCAMR

Lost Creek AMD Feasibility Study with Kleinfelder Technical Implementation Project (*proposed*)

- EPCAMR provided Tom Clark, Kleinfelder with our cost estimate to perform specific technical professional services for their proposal and worked with Mike on developing a revised final scope and budget estimate for Lost Creek boreholes and mine pool mapping in the Shenandoah Creek watershed; Provided qualifications sheet of EPCAMR
- EPCAMR highlighted challenges in solar initiatives and offered assistance for Congressman Bresnahan's Office on black lung information to Kevin from AppVoices; Sent him a link to our Solar on Mine Lands [website](#) with our Assessment Report
- Made a recommendation to Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) to invest in Solinst dataloggers based on EPCAMR's experience; Shared with Heather Makal, an [article](#) that we had written for the company that was published in a number of trade magazines; Provided Tetra Tech with a supply list for the purchase of pressure transducers; Conference call with Phil Dunn, Executive Director for SCRA to discuss projects going forward; DCED approved funding for the equipment
- Professor Dr. Jeff Stratford and Dr. Ned Fetcher, Wilkes U., have been studying grasslands for a number of years and they have been looking at diversity and management; They know the past use of land has a large impact on diversity (land use legacy) but it was not something they looked at explicitly; They ran a quick analysis came up with some interesting results; The restored sites were essentially, bare rock; They thought it would be interesting to look at abandoned mine land sites that have not had any remediation; EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy provided the two professors with some examples of sites like SGL 260 in Mocanaqua for them to sample
- Mark Jones and the Executive Director met with Ken Okrepkie-Ben Franklin Partners in Scranton, to have a conversation about industrial hemp on abandoned mine lands and partnering possibilities with Vytal Industries and PSU Harrisburg

Education & Outreach

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Submitted a travel voucher to Alex LoCurto, from the SAC for travel-related meetings pertaining to the Committee; Informed Alex that my registration was covered for the Choose Clean Water Coalition through a scholarship to attend the Conference and the SAC meeting; Participated in a planning call for the September AMD Watershed Tour with the Chesapeake Bay Commissioners (CBC)

Chesapeake Bay Trust Capacity Building Grant

- Mark and the Executive Director, as well as Cristy Sweeney worked on the CBT Capacity Building grant to secure funds to support our Development Committee's efforts going forward in 2026; EPCAMR wasn't able to write a letter of support for POWR that was also preparing a similar application where a great deal of commitment of time was being asked to be provided to a consultant with no compensation or some sort of stipend
- Participated in 3 PA AML Campaign calls during the month; Shared a new [NEPA categorical exclusion](#) for AML projects; Branden Diehl provided additional [documentation](#)
- Interviewed by Savanna Lyons, M.S., Ed.D. Candidate, Adult Learning & Leadership (AEGIS Program) at the Teachers College, Columbia University for the Senior Managing Director, [U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives](#) on creating and establishing trust and transparency in communities and the social and cultural environments that are explored while doing so to make community projects successful
- Helped to publicize the Western Pocono TU Trout Festival on 6-7-2025 in White Haven, at the Library
- Worked with Mark Jones-Community Development Coordinator VISTA on a monthly article on the risks of mine subsidence submitted to the local media for publishing as an Op-Ed or Guest Writer
- Lana Gulden, NC PA Chapter of the Sierra Club requested that the Executive Director be a Guest Speaker in the Fall of 2025 in Lewisburg at the Buffalo Lutheran Village Commons Room; Lana approached the Executive Director following the SCRA Beneficial Use of Mine Pools Symposium at Bucknell U.; We settled on 10-28-25 at 7PM
- Coordinating an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop at the Picton Sanctuary with the North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) for September 2025
- Interviewed for a Coal Creative Blog with Gerard Durling and discussed future environmental education collaboratives; EPCAMR worked on a commercial ad for Groove Brewing who was donating funds to EPCAMR for their limited run of a Coal Dust Blonde Summer Stout and the Executive Director made a special guest cameo appearance in the funny [video](#); Promoted the event on [DiscoverNEPA.com](#); A fundraiser and outreach event was held at Groove Brewing in Scranton, on 6-27-2025
- Provided an AMD Tour for artist, Mike O'Hara, who came into the Wyoming Valley to understand the legacy of abandoned mine lands and water pollution on the region, but also how the landscape can serve as a backdrop for his artwork; Mike also received a tour from WPCAMR <https://www.stoptryingstudios.com/>
- Prepared a Letter of Recommendation for the PA American Water's Water Camp for submission for consideration of a Pennsylvania Environmental Council's NEPA Environmental Partnership Award in October 2025
- Promoted on our social media the 10 Million Trees Partnership Tree Giveaway
- Conducted an AMD Education/Outreach Event with PA Inclusive in Pittston with youth and conducted an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt workshop for 12 youth and young adults

- Invited Karri Harter-Grant Administrator, for the Community Giving Foundation in Berwick to visit EPCAMR's Office for an overview of our work when she is available; Our earlier submission for the 2025 Community Giving Foundation EPCAMR Grant Application to support the Shickshinny Creek Water Quality Assessment and Community Outreach ultimately was not funded in this round, however, we were encouraged to continue to apply in future rounds
- Participated in the Choose Clean Water Coalition Federal Updates conference call
- Participated in the Pocono NE RC & DC Spring Meeting conference call

Community Volunteers

- Ryleigh Schultz, a recent graduate from Lehigh University with a B.S. in Environmental Science with a focus in geology who had an internship with the Schuylkill County Conservation District where she was involved with AMD reclamation; It sparked a passion for abandoned mine reclamation and she was looking to gain opportunities to get further involved with restoring PA's watersheds; Mark followed up with her on volunteer opportunities she could become involved with and requested a copy of her resume; Mark received her information and the Executive Director signed her up for the NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Protocol Training
- Sue Jenkins, Marywood University has experience in graphics design and art and was interested in the AmeriCorps position, however, our intention has been to fill it with Kayla Osborne; EPCAMR directed her to find out if she qualified for a Federal Work Study program
- Andrew Kuloszewski, an undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh studying Mathematics and Sustainability inquired about potential internships; Although none were available at this time, EPCAMR offered to network Andrew to other organizations closer to Pittsburgh
- Sasha Siewell, a recent King's College graduate was interested in the Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist VISTA volunteer position; EPCAMR encouraged her to submit her resume and cover letter for consideration, which she did; She has a BA in English Professional Writing and Spanish

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

27th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2025

- Bode Murin had considered submitting an abstract to the Conference on behalf of the [PA Historic & Museum Commission](#); Cedarville Engineering Group became a sponsor of the Conference; Additional sponsors, registrations, and tour registrations had begun to trickle in; WPCAMR did a recon of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Tour prior to the Conference with members of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Association (MCWA); EPCAMR was anticipating an abstract from [Trutta Solutions](#); Bette Conway-US EPA submitted her abstract to present the results of her data that was collected in the Shamokin Creek watershed on rare earth elements; The Planning Committee decided to allow Scott May to present and leave following his presentations; Participated in a monthly PA AMR Conference planning call with the Committee

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Beneficial Use of Mine Pools Symposium at Bucknell U.

- Participants confirmed attendance and addressed presentation submission challenges for the June 4th & 5th, 2025 Conference; Michael Hewitt-EPCAMR Program Manager and Executive Director presented at the Symposium and participated in a Panel Discussion on the Beneficial Use of Mine Pools in PA; EPCAMR was quoted in an article in the [Standard Journal](#) sent to us by our colleague Renee Carey from the Northcentral PA Conservancy; Other articles behind paywalls were published in the Milton and Shamokin News Item; Caught up with Dan Goode-formerly with the USGS (now retired) at the Symposium who is a long-time colleague of EPCAMR's; Provided SCRA with permission to upload the presentations to their website; Provided James Pagnotti with a [link](#) to the Conference Symposium at his request

Chesapeake Bay Scientific Technical Assistance Consortium (STAC)

- Reached out to Meg Cole with Pat Webb's comments from PA DEP BAMR on the STAC Report; His edits primarily address restrictions on using IJJA/BIL funding for rare earth element (REE) extraction and research; The [Report](#) was updated and edits were approved by all the co-authors

ARIPPA Conference on June 10th, 2025

- Attended the 2025 ARIPPA Annual Conference to present the mini-grant award winners before the audience over lunch

Wild Wellness NEPA Accessible Outdoors Day on 8-2-25 in Kirby Park, Wilkes-Barre

- EPCAMR agreed to table and do some education and outreach activities at the [Wild Wellness NEPA](#) Accessible Outdoors Day to reach youth and families with disabilities; They are putting together a free community event focused on inclusive nature-based programming for individuals with special needs and their families

Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC)

- EPCAMR promoted a roundtable flyer to publicize the webinar; EPCAMR Executive Director was a guest speaker on 6-15-25 for the Chesapeake Research Consortium webinar series, the CRC Roundtable that focused on "A River Runs Orange: Acid Mine Drainage in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed"; Answered questions online during the webinar and provided valuable links and followed up with responses to additional questions that were not able to be addressed during the webinar; Abby Taylor, Environmental Communications Associate-Green Fin Studio circulated the responses to all participants on the webinar

Western Middle Anthracite Region AMD Tour with Cravotta GeoChemical Consulting

- Participated in the AMD Watershed Tour for 6-3-25 before heading down to the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Beneficial Use of Mine Pools Symposium in Lewisburg

AMD/AML AMLER Watershed Tour in Schuylkill Co. with DEP BAMR & Communications Dept.

- Coordinated an AMD Watershed Tour with Nate Houtz-PA DEP Deputy Secretary of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations on 6-13-25, with our regional partners in Schuylkill County, including the Schuylkill Conservation District, Pottsville District Mining Office, the PA DEP Communications Office, and PA DEP BAMR; Set up the tour schedule and route with Alexa Smith and Wayne Lehman from the Schuylkill Conservation District

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Participated in the Water Quality Subcommittee meeting

Investigation, Land Reclamation, Water Treatment Techniques for Abandoned Coal Mines Live, interactive webinar on 11-6-25 (proposed)

- Kleinfelder Staff and EPCAMR will be providing an interactive webinar to online registrants on AMD and abandoned mine land reclamation

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for June 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
- EPCAMR's application for OSMRE-supported members were approved; Recruitment and onboarding steps were underway; Dennis Dukinas and Maria Gereda were selected for the positions through December 31, 2025; Provided the two of them with updates, onboarding, and on responsibilities, Gmail, and social media account creation for EPCAMR; Instructed Maria and Dennis to promptly complete their applications for AmeriCorps positions starting in July; Continued to work with Jeff Davis-Conservation Legacy on seeking a 1 year OSMRE VISTA Community Engagement and Marketing Specialist position and putting together an application and recruitment flyer and posting
- EPCAMR received a letter from [ARC READY Non-Profits](#) program that our application was not awarded this year; There were only 75 applications accepted across Appalachia out of 375 submissions
- Applied for an Appalachian Region Commission (ARC) [Appalachian Leadership Institute](#) (ALI) training program and obtains 3 letters of recommendation to go along with the submission
- Completed the Choose Clean Water Coalition's 2025 Network Assessment to identify capacity needs and gaps across the watershed, understand what supports or hinders our organization's success, and to help shape the Coalition's future programming, advocacy, and network support
- Approved a vacation request for Mark Jones-Community Development Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA

- Provided a background check on Jonas Crass who was hired by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services at the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in February of 2025
- Followed up with Dave Kennedy-PA CareerLink, to still see if his candidate for a Paid Work Experience could provide EPCAMR his resume before seeing if he was available for an interview
- Shared the PayPal 1099-K and sent along payroll information for tax filings for 2024 with Kohanski & Co.; Kohanski & Co. were not able to fit our Single Audit for 2023 into their schedule and EPCAMR began seeking another CPA with the help of our Bookkeeper and Karen Hazleton, CPA; Worked with Marianne to provide Bob Kapral with our Accountant's Copy for 2024 for our 990; Kohanski & Co. applied for an extension to complete the 990; EPCAMR didn't need a Single Audit for 2024 and didn't meet the threshold
- Marianne completed and submitted the EPCAMR renewal of our annual Bureau of Charitable Organization (BCO) Filing for 2025 before the 6-30-25 deadline with the PA Department of State on 6-12-25
- Reviewed Endicia updated terms and conditions for use of online postage
- Renewal Registration for EPCAMR in the Government System for Awards Management (SAM) was completed online
- Forwarded Conservation Legacy's Job Search [website](#) to Morgan Romanowski who helped to make our marketing flyer for the 2025 Fall position
- Meeting with Stephanie Milewski to learn more about her new business venture, Studio 9
- Participated in the OSMRE VISTA Stewards Supervisor Training
- Participated in a Mastering Grant Writing and Strategic Funding: A Comprehensive Guide to Programs, Proposals, and Impact online webinar