



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### June 2015 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- Began writing a Growing Greener Proposal and submitted a reimbursement for the 319 program
- Managed AMR Conference registration, publicity and website updates
- EPCAMR staff participated in 2 AMR Conference Calls, a Watershed Forum field trip to **Old Forge**, an EPCAMR staff meeting, a NCAC Award Dinner, a conference call regarding **Askam** & hosted the AMR Conference in State College
- Still assessing damages/recovering from server crash; setup RAID Towers for X: backup to Y:
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings and sampled flow/chemistry at **Askam** Boreholes as well as snapshot sampling at 2 treatment systems in **Carbon** and 1 in **Schuylkill** County for [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org)
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com); Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

#### Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff traveled to the Old Forge Borehole to participate in field day with the Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum students. Staff gave an overview of the largest mine drainage site in the state as PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) staff took the students to sample the discharge.
- Taught Watershed Outreach Specialists how to sample flow with the Swiffer flow meter as a refresher before they went to sample sites in the Laurel Run Watershed. Discussed strategic places to sample in the watershed.
- Recorded online transactions and replied to registrants of the AMR Conference several times over the month. Updated the registration page on [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) to make it very obvious that if potential attendees do not register online before the deadline that they will be considered “walk-in” registrants and will be charged \$100 regardless of their status or how many days they attend. We need hard fast numbers by the deadline to give to the Ramada Conference Facility and cannot accommodate those who wish to procrastinate.
- Updated the EPCAMR store at [www.epcamr.org/store](http://www.epcamr.org/store) to update wording to better reflect Paypal Payment Gateway changes and offline payment callback page to print for their records. Discovered some coding for the auto responder e-mails that would show what they ordered from the store and how they paid (this was not explained anywhere in the help files for ShopperPress, but was mentioned in a forum discussion). Also, separated the words “login” and “register” near the header of the website. It caused confusion if a returning customer was logged in or not. ShopperPress was created in England and some of their phrases are different from ours in America. There is a place to customize this phrasing in the Language settings.
- Gathered materials and numbers to send a reimbursement to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Program.

- Ordered replacement field supplies from Ben Meadows: 300' and 100' tape measures.
- Revamped the 2014 Growing Greener Proposal for Monitoring AMD in the Anthracite Region for resubmission this year. Based on criticism, the overall budget was too expensive. Therefore, I reduced the amount of sample sites by half. Also, there was a comment that this program was too similar to a Trout Unlimited TAG grant that was already being funded. I supplemented the proposal with differences that stressed that the program was very different and that there was a need especially now in the light of new treatment system money that may soon be available with the Power+ amendment to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). In order to start to design a treatment system, one needs at least 1 year of monthly chemical and flow data. This proposed program will do that for 10 sites in the Anthracite Region. Asked for support letters early this time to show interest in the program and relay the issue that the program will be very competitive with the sites being cut in half.
- Updated the program and presentation pages on [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com). Complaints were coming in that registrants wanted to see what day a particular presentation was before they chose what type of registration they wanted to buy. The deadline was quickly approaching and there wasn't a final program. Next year, we plan to simplify the registration process again by removing the option to choose single day attendance. Out rates are so ridiculously low in comparison to other statewide conference that money is not a factor in attendees choosing to go to the conference or not. Giving the option to choose one or two days was initially seen as a good way to predict attendance, but in retrospect it caused many more headaches for planning and confusion for attendees that it was worth.
- EPCAMR staff participated in 2 AMR Conference Committee Calls to report on registration progress and to continue to nail down details related to the conference. Went through the Ramada contract with a fine toothed comb to make sure we weren't missing anything big.
- EPCAMR staff attended a NCAC Award dinner at the Hilton Conference Center in Scranton and were honored with an award for the Solar Kiln Project.
- EPCAMR staff held a staff meeting to coordinate efforts for the month.
- Updated [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com) and [www.epcamr.org/store](http://www.epcamr.org/store) to reflect the end of online registrations for the AMR Conference. Posted an article and changed the registration page to state that anyone who wishes to register now will have to do so at the registration desk at the conference and will be considered a "walk-in" at the cost of \$100. Madness ensued as stragglers tried to register for the conference wanting to ignore our deadline and we began tallying up numbers to give to the Ramada Conference facility. We manually registered a few attendees that had called and were "irate about the inconvenience," with a warning that this will not be allowed next year. The issue with our registration deadlines is that they could always be "bent" in the past. Hopefully this communication exchange will enforce that we are serious about the registration deadlines going forward.
- With the continual delays in the WaterBoxx program, saplings in the Watershed Outreach office were starting to decay. Took a trip to the EC compost facility to get a truckload of mulch to "bank" the seedlings in. They will have to be planted by the fall, as they will not overwinter in the bank of mulch.
- EPCAMR staff packed up and traveled to State College for the AMR Conference. Approximately 130 people attended the 2 day conference complete with 23 concurrent presentations, 3 featured speakers, over 20 exhibits, a silent auction and extra activities including a sustainability tour, a film festival and a golf outing. We received many good comments about this year's conference and some things to work on for future conferences.
- Provided a letter of support to Stream Restoration Inc. for their Datashed.org Growing Greener Grant proposal for which we will continue to provide technical and outreach assistance.
- Aided EPCAMR interns in trying to make "bug cubes" with a clear resin. After placing a rubber band in a cube tray and pouring resin over it as a test subject we found out the correct mixing ratio. I suggested using the older bug samples that were in alcohol instead of taking and killing

new specimens. They strained the bugs from the older samples and let them dry thoroughly to be sure the alcohol evaporated away and did not affect the resin.

- Reconciled the AMR Conference attendance numbers against online payments, money and checks collected to make sure that everyone paid their share. Refunded a few that paid more than they were supposed to. Also, separated out the fundraising portion of the funds to split that number between EPCAMR and WPCAMR.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Received 2 hard drives to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) with the completed Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) map collection files. Uploaded these files to the new X: drive, where the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) Mine Map Processing program files are stored. Setup the second RAID Tower as the Y: drive to accept a daily backup to the X: drive in case it malfunctions [MSI].
- Picked up and dropped off maps at the Wilkes- Barre PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) office [MSI].
- Attempted to organize “orphaned” files on the X: drive and built a protocol for MSI Program staff to follow. Many of the files, however, were corrupt.
- Got the Rhodamine Test results back from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Results showed that the residency time of the mine drainage in the Askam Treatment system ponds was approximately 19 hours, much lower than 24 hours, which is needed to properly settle out iron. Sent the results to Earth Conservancy and Hedin Environmental [EC].
- Attempted to setup a Microsoft Storage Space on the 3 internal hard drives in the server. Each drive is 3TB which would make a capacity of 9TB. If the storage space is setup as a mirror it would reduce the available storage area to 4.5TB, and in theory would be resilient against one hard drive failure. But, in practice, as we learned that resiliency is not like having a backup. Tested the speeds of the simple setup: spanned vs. striped using Crystal Disk Mark software. Supposedly, striped setup would allow for quicker write speeds than spanned. But if a single drive fails, the storage space is rendered inoperable. Speed tests of each setup were relatively the same (with commercial 7200 rpm hard drives). I opted instead to set up the storage space as a simple spanned space. The drives will act as one, but if one hard drive fails, the information from that drive will be lost (not everything). Also, there is space left on the D: drive to back up a portion (1.25TB) of the 9TB until we can arrange to purchase another RAID Tower for the M: drive, where our company files are stored.
- Sampled chemistry and flow at Askam Treatment System for Earth Conservancy, read the flow gauge 13 times this month [EC].
- Purchased SyncBackSE software, from the makers of SyncBackFree software that I have been using for years to synchronize files from my computer to the server. The server edition (SE) was needed to backup files as a readable format, instead of “Microsoft Backup Image” format. If the M: drive goes down, we don’t want to have to wait for a recovery process, and instead it would be relatively easy to share to the backup drive to the network as the main drive is being repaired. We may setup the X and Y drives with this software as well once we are confident in the abilities of the software. Found that some security and permission settings have to be tinkered with to get optimal access for everyone on the network.
- Attempted to separate the RAID Towers on separate SATA PCI Express cards which would reduce the amount of activity on each card, therefore increasing file access speeds. The newer designed StarTech card would supposedly yield faster data transfer speeds, but was not compatible with RAID because it attempts to see all the disks in the Tower as separate disks (JBOD), when it needs to report them as one large drive (RAID). The Sans Digital Rocket RAID cards that came with the Towers were older in design, but worked better because regardless of setup they saw the drives as one. These RAID setups are very confusing and the terminology is used interchangeably by different companies.

- EPCAMR staff conducted snapshot sampling for the Buck Mountain #2 and Lausanne Treatment Systems. Unfortunately we could only complete 2 treatment systems this day because of how remote they are both in distance from our office, from each other and from drivable roads.
- Participated in a conference call regarding the Askam Treatment System and Hedin Environmental's recommendation report. The report is available through Earth Conservancy [EC].
- EPCAMR staff conducted a second half-day of snapshot sampling at Oneida #1 Treatment Systems. Finally, paperwork came back from Eagle Rock Resort's lawyer stating that it was ok for us to sample. EPCAMR Executive Director signed the hold harmless agreement and arranged to have Eagle Rock added to our liability insurance.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.