



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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June 2016 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff continued to scan 212 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 175 & digitized 37 maps for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant. This month closes out work for initial grant.
- EPCAMR staff prepared for and cohosted the 2016 AMR Conference @ IUP, a **Reclaim Crew** meeting and participated in 2 **AMR Conference Committee** calls. Project meetings with **LCD** and **SRBC** staff.
- Processed hundreds of registrations for the **PA AMR Conference** & wrote 3 funding proposals
- Sampled the **Askam AMD Treatment System** near **Nanticoke, Luzerne Co.**
- Downloaded and formatted data from the transducer at the **Old Forge Borehole** in **Lackawanna Co.** then tested a trompe at **Espy Run TS** in the **Nanticoke Creek Watershed, Luzerne Co.**
- Updated www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts; maintained GobbaDaPile in-house data server.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Scholarship deadline for conference was June 1st. Collected information on potential awardees and submitted it to the AMR Conference Committee for approval.
- Received word that the PA DEP Secretary was replaced by Patrick McDonnell. Updated treatminewater.com to show he was Acting Secretary of Environmental Protection. EPCAMR staff contacted DEP staff to see if he would still be our keynote speaker for the conference at the end of the month.
- Continued to register and communicate with AMR Conference attendees. The tour filled up, based on online registration numbers, by the second week of the month. Early communication with the bus company indicated that only 40 adults could fit on a bus. I made a quick decision to shut down online registration for the tour. It had been advertised as “first come, first serve” anyway. Problem was that, due to so many issues with the online store, we had created and distributed paper registration brochures (and had been sent on PDF) with a mail-in registration deadline much later. This made a problem where seats were oversold on the bus. To about 50, but we were unsure of how many seats were actually available since the bus company was not responding to any sort of communication (phone, email, etc). There are always a few “no-shows,” however. So we were going to “wing it” and see how things worked out. Luckily, two DEP staff had to ride in their own vehicle and EPCAMR decided to rent a passenger van. So most EPCAMR staff ended up following behind the bus, which was filled to capacity.
- Participated in a Reclaim Crew event at Breaker Brewing Company after work. The idea of the Reclaim Crew is to provide our volunteers with a place and time to meet to have some relaxing fun as opposed to always meeting to do a cleanup or hard work in general. Staff are planning

another photo tour to take volunteers around to see interesting AML sites along with another cleanup in Centralia for the fall.

- EPCAMR Staff participated in 2 AMR Conference calls and followed up with tasks to coordinate the 2016 PA AMR Conference this month. Updated www.treatminewater.com.
- Met with EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl, to sign checks and stopped to download data / check desiccant at the Old Forge Borehole transducer. Also met with Kaylee Dunning, United Neighborhood Centers, to pick up some donations they received by selling pottery at Scranton's First Friday. They also gave us a few pieces to sell online.
- Ordered a portable microphone to take on the AMR Conference tour bus. Since we are using a school bus as opposed to a charter bus, there is no speaker system on the bus. It will also be nice carry around to the different sites and hand to the individual speakers, since inability to hear the speaker is a common theme from AMR Conference tour feedback.
- Continued working on QuickBooks with EPCAMR bookkeeper to see that invoices were being applied sales orders. Adjusted more of the sales orders based to a more general format.
- Aided EPCAMR outreach staffer, Gavin Pellitteri, with a letter of intent to the Foundation for PA Watersheds (FPW) for a sampling scheme at the Plainsville Borehole discharge.
- Prepared a Borehole Monitoring proposal to submit to Earth Conservancy with EPCAMR outreach staffer, Gavin and technical staffer, Gabby, to monitor several boreholes in the Wyoming Valley that would be related to the Askam Borehole discharge to find where the "extra water" was coming from if not from precipitation. EPCAMR has theories that the South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes discharge is also connected, therefore neighboring mine water levels would need to be monitored monthly for at least a year to confirm the connection. Unfortunately, after meeting with EC about the proposal, they felt the proposal was too expensive and suggested we seek the money from another source to complete the work that they wanted done...
- Prepared a proposal to EC to continue to monitor the Espy Run Treatment System quarterly for a year. This proposal was accepted and EPCAMR went out to monitor the system at the end of the month.
- Continued to work on the final report for 319 for fiscal years 2014-2016 to close out the current 319 Program Grant. Needed to find more streams for removal from the list of impaired waters, and we had recently heard about a reclamation project on Reservoir Creek in Newport Township, a mine impacted stream which lost water in the headwaters and received polluted water from the Auchencloss Seep discharge. So we took a trip to test the water quality above and below the project. As we expected the water quality was much better, and the stream was actually rerouted away from a mine discharge area, so we suggested it for removal.
- Adjusted the AMR Conference proposed budget with updated catering numbers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).
- Shut down online registration for the AMR Conference by June 13 so that we could give "final numbers" to IUP as per their request of a week before the start. Continued to update treatminewater.com with updates on registration, and presenters. Reviewed the printed program from Anne Daymut, WPCAMR, and suggested edits before it was sent to be printed.
- EPCAMR staff setup for and cohosted the 2016 Annual AMR Conference at IUP. We traveled out the day before to setup and stuff packets with Anne Daymut, WPCAMR and left Friday night after the conference was complete. The agenda is on treatminewater.com for specific details. We had approximately 50 on the tour, approximately 80 for the dinner Wednesday night, and approximately 120 for the conference on Thursday.
- Some conference attendees paying by check for registration needed invoices to process the check or invoices stamped paid to show they paid. There is really no simple way to run registration for the AMR Conference.
- Cleaned up and put away conference materials in storage at the office. Worked up some "Hindsight is 20:20" comments post-conference and provided them to the AMR Conference committee. Uploaded conference PowerPoint presentations to Slideshare.net and linked them

to treatminewater.com. Also, added the 3D PDF models created by Drones in Luke Monette's presentation. Wrote a post about their availability.

- Attempted to apply to the Commonwealth Finance Authority Act 13 Grants with the Mine Pool Monitoring grant that we were denied funding for by Growing Greener. Found out that the money is only to be used for new AMD treatment system or existing treatment system construction. Monitoring is not covered unless it is incorporated into a construction project. Forwarded this information on to EC as a reminder since they are continuing to tweak the Askam Treatment System.
- Reconciled cash, checks and PayPal income from the conference. Split the payments between registration and fundraiser to find out what needed to be shared with WPCAMR.

Technical Assistance:

- Went to Espy Run Treatment System on the Polaris to install a trail cam, in case anyone was interested in vandalizing the newly installed trompe. Checked on the trompe to make sure it wasn't clogged. Turned off the air supply valve for about 15 minutes to let the water build up inside the trompe and flush it out.
- Formatted the Old Forge Borehole transducer data and sent it to the Lackawanna River Conservation Association (LRCA) and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC).
- Ran into another section of Earth Conservancy's Blue Coal map collection that was not well organized. Aided technical staff in gathering maps from for scanning and modified the naming scheme.
- Upgraded all the office computers to Microsoft Office 2016. The upgrade was free since we purchase our software through techsoup.org, who gets the software donated directly by Microsoft. Microsoft offers software assurance on donated licenses.
- Meeting with Pierre MaCoy, a hydrogeologist from SRBC to discuss the Rausch Creek Mine Pool Mapping project. He was able to take a better look at 3D model produced by EPCAMR and decided that the Brookside Pool was not able to be manipulated for low flow augmentation. He wanted us to turn the focus on the Markson, Good Spring and MarkMan mine pools instead. Unfortunately, there aren't many mine maps in the state collection for these areas, so we are hoping that evaluating the Rausch Creek Lands map collection will fill some gaps. [SRBC]
- Digitized Good Spring South Dip mine boundaries based on maps available from PHUMMIS. [SRBC]
- Met with Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist, John Levitsky, to talk about the letter of intent we submitted to FPW to monitor the Plainsville Borehole discharge and his plans to modify the existing flooded topsoil pits to better precipitate and hold iron oxide.
- Created a map of the sampling points associated with Askam Borehole Treatment System. Gathered data on historic borehole readings from the Loomis Borehole on the Sans Soucci Parkway and submitted both to EC [EC].
- The Swiffer flow meter was damaged somehow in the field. There is a piece that fits on the end of the rod that is plastic which screws on to metal. The plastic became de-threaded. I am actually surprised it lasted this long. The computer had to be refurbished before the actual rod and moving parts. Contacted tech support who said they would send the parts and instructions so I could fix it with a soldering gun.
- Sampled the Askam Treatment System for chemistry and flow at the discharge, after the maelstrom oxidizers, out of the pond, downstream and above the confluence with the river. Recorded sampling results in our sampling database and provided to EC via email. [EC]
- Issues with some of the Dell Precision computers arose with USB ports and sound not working properly. Troubleshooted the issue on my computer and found out that the computers needed a driver update. The nice thing about staying with one brand (and similar model) of computers is that common parts are used in their construction and therefore the problems are sometimes common. Dell has been a fairly reliable computer without breaking the bank. Their tech support

is pretty good as well and if there is a problem the computers are popular enough that someone has already found a fix that you can find with an internet search.

- Updated the server with Windows Updates. Some were not taking immediately. Waited about a week and tried those few again. This work has to be done after 5PM when most staff have left for the night. The server is an essential part of their work now.
- EPCAMR technical staff began scanning Hudson Coal Company maps from EC's Blue Coal map collection. The maps are massive in size and are kept in the safe over at EC because they will not fit in the cabinets. [MSI]
- Figured out that we will need to scan 500 maps, georeference 125 and digitize 31 maps per month to meet our goals for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant Extension. [MSI]

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.