Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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June 2017 Progress Report

Highlights:

- Managed EPCAMR staff as they scanned 489 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 60 & digitized 15 maps for the MSI Mine Mapping Grant. QA/QC checked work.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an **AMR Conference** call, prepared for and hosted the 19th Annual PA **AMR Conference** at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. Received a donation from **Wegmans** for the Silent Auction.
- Raised brook trout in the **TIC** Tank: continued YouTube live video stream and testing water quality all in the name of EE.
- EPCAMR staff worked on a 3D model for the **Mocanaqua Tunnel, Luzerne Co.** mine pool projects. Sampled the **Plainsville Borehole Discharge** and **Askam Treatment System** both in **Luzerne Co.**
- Updated www.epcamr.org and www.treatminewater.com. Administered the EPCAMR Facebook and G Suite for Nonprofit accounts. Maintained GobbaDaPile in-house domain server.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Applied to Wegman's either to sponsor the conference or give money toward our silent auction. The online form was vague and I left it up to them about how much they wanted to contribute.
- EC Brownfields event
- Working on AMR Conference PowerPoint presentation related to my trip to Germany in November.
- EPCAMR management staff participated in one final call before the AMR Conference.
- EPCAMR Staff participated in a staff meeting mainly to coordinate work on the AMR Conference preparations.
- Abbie Keefe, EPCAMR OSMRE Americorps, created post cards for the AMR Conference that said "Welcome to Old Forge, Pennsylvania" and an aerial photo of the Lackawanna River below the Old Forge Borehole discharge.
- Reviewed the National Mining Association testimony and provided an opinion to Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.
- Processed AMR Conference registrations throughout the month. Orders started picking up as the conference is this month. Shut down online registration on the 16th and delivered final numbers to Genetti's. Walk-In registrations were still coming in. Called Genetti's again on the 19th to update numbers again.
- Updated AMR Conference website at www.treatminewater.com with a parking map and shut down online registration page.

- Gathered silent auction items from staff and received a $50 gift card from Wegman's to spend on local products.
- EPCAMR staff went to prepare the Old Forge Borehole location for the AMR Conference tour. Re-solidified the makeshift rock steps that go down over the bank, weed whacked and cut down knotweed around the drill core along the river bank.
- Prepared for and hosted the AMR Conference at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. Approximately 110 folks attended the 2-day event. The majority of them were there on Thursday for the plenary and concurrent presentations. Wednesday was a bus tour of AML/AMD sites in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, or a historic walking tour of downtown Wilkes-Barre and an Environmental Film Festival followed by a networking dinner.
- Contacted legislators about the RECLAIM Act as it was being discussed in the House Natural Resources Committee. The bill is important for Appalachian states.
- Checked over the June newsletter that Abbie Keefe drafted. Added a Call to Action about Pennsylvania House Bill 218. The proposed general appropriations bill means real job losses at every county in PA, job losses at the state level, and reduced services to the farming industry, construction activities and Pennsylvania citizens in general. Urged readers to ask their state legislators to say "no" to the proposed bill.
- Prepared a proposal to sample the Askam Treatment System in 2018 and an estimate for what it would cost to judge the depth of sludge in the treatment ponds for Earth Conservancy. Spoke with Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist, John Levitsky about the sludge judge process. He offered to show us at the Askam Treatment System.
- Began uploading AMR Conference presentations to LinkedIn's SlideShare so they could be shared through www.treatminewater.com.

Technical Assistance:
- Frankenstein-ed a computer from the old laptop that was live streaming Trout in the Classroom videos and Abbie Keefe's old laptop to create a new Trout in the Classroom computer. Different components in each had failed so together they made one good laptop, however switching the hard drive from one to the other created some issue with the Microsoft license.
- Copies of my files kept popping up on my desktop. In months past, I would simply delete them, but I noticed an issue with hard drive space running out. I researched the issue and found it was related to the automatic file history backups that my computer would coordinate with the server. The connection was severed and the backups from my user profile were showing up as duplicates on my hard drive. Reconnected the file history backup folder on the server. Used windows explorer to select any files that contained the word "copy" and deleted them (with a few exceptions).
- Checked over Rachael Grube, EPCAMR OSMRE Americorps', digitizing work related to the Mocanaqua Tunnel underground mined areas in preparation for clipping the 3D stratigraphic model. Fixed an issue with the cross sectional data being flipped in the Stackhouse Colliery. The 4DVX files were oriented backward. Instructed Rachael to re-draw the veins and faults [SRBC].
- Regained access to PHUMMIS with the help of PA DEP IT staff in Harrisburg. Since they switched over their new secure VPN, earlier in the month we hadn't been able to access it. There were several issues and one had to do with the Java version that was installed on the computers. DEP staff provided me with the correct version of Java and instructed us not to update it. Even though we run 64-bit computers, we needed the 32-bit version of Java [MSI].
- Dedicated one of the donated ThinkPads to PHUMMIS, since the new secure VPN deletes all browser settings (i.e. bookmarks, plugins, and history). This was annoying when PHUMMIS was run on our individual work computers [MSI].
- Scanned Stevens Recorder printout from January to May 2017 from Nanticoke Creek and digitized the images in R2V. Used Perl scripts to convert the digitized data into an excel spreadsheet. Graphed the data in the spreadsheet and related it to flow from previous charts.

This dataset showed the flow peaked above 12,500 gallons per minute around April 6th following a 1.10" rain event [EC].

- Started looking for more information on faults in the Mocanaqua Tunnel area with Rachael Grube, EPCAMR OSMRE Americorps. The area is heavily faulted, but they aren't drawn on the maps. Some GIS files related to PA Geology Maps were available from PA DCNR. Will continue to look for data.
- Sampled the Askam Treatment System and sent results to Earth Conservancy. [EC]
- Reboot and update server. X Drive acting up. Ordered two new 4TB hard drives from NewEgg to replace a drive that had malfunctioned and have one as a backup.
- Showed EPCAMR staff how to calculate acidity with a formula based on metals and alkalinity concentrations. This will be especially helpful as they begin sampling Abrahams Creek [ABE].
- Drop off and pick up maps at PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office for the Mine Subsidence Insurance program. [MSI]
- Gathered information and quotes on automated chemical and flow sampling systems for the Askam Treatment System for Earth Conservancy in the midst of final preparations for the conference (literally the busiest week of the year). Got quotes from HANNA, Solinst, and YSI. Setup a conference call with YSI to explain their products and pricing to Earth Conservancy. Then Earth Conservancy tacked on a request to find AMD sludge haulers and pumpers. No problem... LOL. Spoke with Bill Gongaware, formerly of Gongaware Environmental Services, now with AMD Industries Inc., who is the go to guy for disposing of AMD residuals. Bill was going to be at the conference on the tour and was willing to meet with Earth Conservancy and assess the Askam Treatment System for them. [EC]
- Updated the server before the conference and expected that it would have finished over the 2 days, but came back and it had crashed. Took the opportunity add the 4th drive to the X drive, but this ended up being a nightmare data loss scenario again. Initially, things were fine. I backed up the X to the Y drive with SyncBack SE on Friday morning and it had completed. Started the dismantle of the X drive to add the extra drive, got it working again. Proceeded to restore the data on the Y to the X drive using SyncBack SE. The transfer was going to take something like 24 hours, so I left for the weekend. Curious about the progress, I came in on Saturday afternoon to see if it was done. It was, but all the data from the X and Y drive were missing! Apparently, the automatic weekly backup had happened on Friday night. I forgot to shut it down. So as the Y was restoring to X drive, X was backing up to the Y drive mirror style, meaning that if files are missing from the X drive they would also be deleted from the Y drive. Not good, but found a program made by the same company that makes the backup software which could find and undelete the files. This process took 2 days but ended up recovering all the data that was lost. Made a note in the "read me" file on the server to remember to shut down the automatic backup when a restore is in process. Seems like there should be some sort of precautionary checks within the program for that? [MSI]
- EPCAMR staff sampled the Plainsville Borehole in an attempt to gather baseline information and ascertain the feasibility of enhancing the ponds to settle out and retain more iron.[FPW]
- EPCAMR staff sludge judged the Askam Treament System under the tutelage of John Levitsky, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist. The depth of the sludge in most places was under 1-2 feet (2% of the total volume) and not a concern in the 8-10 feet deep pond at this time. [EC]

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.