

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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March 2026 Month Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Conservation District Mining East 319 Program Coordination-EPCAMR

- Worked on March 2026 Monthly Report and Progress updates

Beaverbrook Hazleton Beltway Center East Reclamation Project

- Nathan Lane, PA DEP informed EPCAMR that our final invoice was being processed to close out the project

The Greenlight Foundation Fund Remove Illegal Dumping (RID) Project Grant

- EPCAMR was awarded \$1500 towards community cleanups including the removal of trash and tires from our mining impacted watersheds and waterways that will be processed and administered through The Luzerne Foundation

Dogtown AMD/AML Development Plan Project with the Luzerne Conservation District

- Provided Teah from Larson Design Group, with photos of the sampling area and AMD discharge on Paddy Run from the day of sampling; Sample results came back from Hawk Mountain Labs and were reviewed; Participated in a conference call to discuss moving the monitoring point from Paddy Run to Rocky Run's highest bat cave sealed tunnel entrance along Dogtown Road that has the highest flow of AMD coming from it and has the greatest impact on Rocky Run as opposed to the Paddy Run discharge that drains directly into the River and is normally a stream channel that has little flow due to the loss of water to the mines further up the Paddy Run Valley

MSI Program

- Met with Mike Hewitt about the submission of our Mine Subsidence Insurance Program extension of our grant and projected revision of the budget for 2 years going forward; The announcement about Maria Gereda's hire was published earlier this month in the Scranton Times-Tribune's business section; It was featured atop a roundup of new hires and promotions called "[People on the Move.](#)"

Keep PA Beautiful Open Your Eyes to Litter Program

- Provided Brady Mock, graphic designer with his 1099-MISC form for 2025 after he provided an updated W-9 due to him moving to a new location; Ignite Business Services completed and filed the 1099-MISC for EPCAMR

Keep PA Beautiful Affiliate Program

- Reviewed our Community Assessment with Kylie McCutcheon from Keep PA Beautiful and signed our Affiliate Agreement; Provided Kylie with our Advisory Committee List and Contact information; Provided her with a quote and an About Us for her listing of EPCAMR as an Affiliate

Catawissa Creek Fishing Access Project

- CCRA will be sending along another \$3000 donation to deposit into the PA Invest fund account for the project; Ed Wytovich made a request about insurance for tours and we had explained to him what has recently transpired with POWR and their dropping the coverages they used to offer with their membership so EPCAMR has decided not to renew for 2026 and are seeking another insurance carrier for general liability and commercial insurance; Provided Ed with an accounting update on the PA Invest Account for the project

BlueCoal360 Project

- Sent John Welsh and Eric Zwernmann down a copy of the Huber HAER Report drawings and a number of OSM Folio Mine Maps for around the Huber Breaker and the surface mine map that they may try to convert into some sort of 3D digital model for the [website](#); John created an outline of a press kit for the project; Completed, reviewed, and signed an MOU with John for the BlueCoal360 project

Amazon Community Fund Remove Illegal Dumps (RID) Program

- Communicated with LCCC on the room and catering needs for the Forum; Worked with Jasmyne Morgans to develop a VOLUNTEER retractable Banner for EPCAMR; The Banner was created within a few weeks and looks great! Created a flyer for the Illegal Dump Forum and one for the Tomhicken Road Cleanup with Maria; Sent Steve Motyka-Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance a [link](#) to the Letter to the Editor written by the Executive Director on Illegal Dumping so that he can forward it to the Daily Item and a few other local newspapers; Lee Hampton-Kingston Township Zoning Officer will present on zoning ordinance examples to hold people responsible for illegal dumping on a municipal level; Luzerne County Visitors' Bureau became a sponsor of the Forum; Reached out to the Luzerne County Recycling Program Department to see if Beth DeNardi would like to present, but she declined; Rashida Lewis will come down and speak about trash in her Scranton Neighborhoods and the work she is doing with the youth and to ask for volunteer support in her region through the NEPAC;

Chet Hummel from The Tire Guys has committed to a \$100 sponsor donation; Reached out to Sierra Club NE Chapter and the Office of Environmental Justice (Maria Ocasio and Jordi Cormas) and they all committed to attending; Reached out to Leah Malarkey and she committed to speak on behalf of the North Branch Land Trust; Reached out to Leave No Trace in Colorado to see if they have any local presence in our area; Reached out to Megan Finnen from PA DCNR to if she wants to attend

and speak; Reached out to Berit Case, NE Regional DEP Recycling Coordinator to see if he'd be interested in attending; Signed the catering and rental agreement for LCCC that was provided by Donna Sedlak; Education, public awareness, community engagement and improving waste management policies and practices are keys to reducing illegal dumping and littering; KPB published a joint multi-state Litter Enforcement [Research](#) Project with PalmettoPride that EPCAMR sent around to Staff; Invited Congressman Rob Bresnahan to the Forum; Shannon Bonnacci-Deputy City Administrator for the City of Pittston met with EPCAMR to discuss a future cleanup along the Susquehanna Riverfront once the high water levels recede; Charlie Fritz-Columbia County Recycling Coordinator will present; Dave Kurecian, Executive Director of the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau will present; Travelled with Maria to Tomhicken Road to get an idea of how much trash and how many tires will be picked up along the Black Creek and throughout Black Creek Township and the 10 miles stretch of road; Completed the Flyer for the Tomhicken Road Cleanup and started putting it out on social media; Keith George from the Luzerne Conservation District will be a presenter; Kylie McCutcheon from Keep PA Beautiful will be a presenter and travel in from the Pittsburgh region; Ed Wytovich reported on some additional illegal dump sites along Big Mine Run from the county line to Centralia-there's a couple of small dumps just off of the road; Centralia, East side of SR 61 from the main intersection south-all of the roads leading off towards the east have some dumpsites with some tires; Provided Ed with an example of our Liability/Photo Waiver Form that we use at registration of our cleanups and Maria forwarded to him our Site Assessment Form to get an idea of what's been dumped and how much; Maria added the sites to our database and she also added two additional sites that were found by the Executive Director along Holly Street along the headwaters of Nanticoke Creek and the other is off the haul road near the Loomis AMD discharge where there are foam mattresses and a lot of glass bottles near the sampling point in Hanover Township off Dundee Road; Smith's Used Tires become a \$100 Sponsor of the Illegal Dump Forum; Isabella Bufalino, King's College student, sent over her final survey results of the Used Tire Shops in the Luzerne and Columbia County area that she was able to reach and the database of others that will need some sort of future follow-up; She also sent over a few paragraphs on herself that EPCAMR could share about her work with EPCAMR as a part of her independent study internship with us and Dr. Rose

The Shenandoah Sentinel covered our planned Tomhicken Road Cleanup in the Black Creek watershed with a [news story](#) by Kaylee Lindenmuth, which was greatly appreciated; We talked with Black Creek Township Supervisors (Rolland and Randy) and they are very supportive and said we can meet up at their parking lot as central command in the morning on April 18th; The event is registered with Keep PA Beautiful already by EPCAMR and Mark picked up the supplies from PA DOT; EPCAMR created an [Event Page](#) on Facebook; We have permission to park at the road entrance to Yamulla's Mine area along the bend on Tomhicken Road; EPCAMR talked to Dave Yamulla this morning who remembered working with EPCAMR years ago on the Gowen and Derringer AMD Tunnel discharges; He's actually interested in sitting down and rehashing that old project to do some monitoring of both of the discharges if we want to put forth a development plan in a future grant round; Invited Chelsea Bresnahan to the Illegal Dumping Forum and also invited Congressman Bresnahan through his District Office Staff; Reached out to the NBLT Staff and invited Leah Malarkey to speak and she agreed since they are designing a Litter Free Campaign; Pine Run Cleanup Flyer was developed by Maria; PA DCNR created a link for volunteers to register through their website to become Conservation Volunteers for the State Park System; Provided a copy of our EPCAMR Logo to Jody from NeoNiche Strategies to be used at the Community Recognition Event in Bloomsburg that was held on March 18th; Talked to Chief Eric Richardson from the Hanover Township Police Department and Sergeant Van Why, who will be speaking at the Forum; Provided

the Chief with the link to the Camera Loaner Surveillance Program at Keep PA Beautiful; Placed an order for Ernst seeds; Finalized the agenda for the Forum with Maria Gereda after some minor edits by Mark Jones and the Executive Director; Rep. Alec Ryncavage committed to speaking over lunch; Cat Turner from California sent a message to offer an idea for used tires to build earthships to create an eco-village for senior living with small gardens and food forests in between houses; Mary Patterson, from Leave No Trace was unavailable to participate in the Forum; Mark worked on getting an article announcing the Forum in regional newspapers; Provided Donna Sedlak from LCCC with EPCAMR's Sales Tax Exemption Certificate

Technical Assistance

Bowman's Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan

- Requested that Jake Smith see if he could get a copy of the Montour Permit SOX and NOX data and he sent it along; It's in Excel file format here so the data should be easy to edit into another database if we wanted to compare it to our historic and recent pH data for the CHP down the road; Sent it to Angie Tuttle, John Levitsky, and Joe Simons; John and I have read it, however, here, this information is the actual data from the permit; This could support our hypothesis about the increase in pH we are seeing with the decrease in emissions, at least more regionally from the Montour Coal Fired Power Plant, when it was decommissioned away from the Coal into CNG; John has the Talon Energy Reports as well to compare data; Angie downloaded some preliminary data from the one data logger on Cider Run for the partners to review; It was suggested that a member from SCTU could help put together a spreadsheet of rainfall and air temp; Jeremy Leaidicker is interesting in some streamside [riparian buffer planting](#) along Bowman's Creek with Jay Jadick; Jeremy is the new Coordinator for the [PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Program](#) for the Endless Mountains Region and picking up Luzerne Co July 1st along with Lackawanna, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon since there was two retirements of former Program Coordinators; JDJ Properties isn't interested in having anyone on their property opposite the Wilson Creek's highly incised streambank channel along Wilson Road; PA Fish & Boat Commission is willing to design the natural stream design project that would use woody structures; A few other property owners along the Wilson Road will be contacted by Angie to see if they would allow work to be done from their properties on the streambank; Dirt & Gravel Roads informed the partners that they would not be able to fund any work on PA Game Commission property; PA Game Commission relocated and cut another road on SGL 57 further away from the stream and steeply eroded streambank along Bowman's Creek and shut down the old railroad section where the incised bank is located that is several hundred feet long

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

- Travelled down to Schuylkill County to sample the AMD discharges; Brandon Zimmerman received copies of the water quality lab sample results from the PA DEP Lab that EPCAMR was receiving; EPCAMR forwarded Brandon a copy of the Sample Submission Sheet copy for him to enter the data into the SIS system

Lost Creek Mine Pool Sampling with Kleinfelder

- Submitted an invoice to Kleinfelder for field sampling work and mine mapping work

Nanticoke Creek AMD Monitoring for Earth Conservancy

- Sent along photos to Mike of our field sampling around the Nanticoke Creek Watershed and at Buttonwood AMD Tunnel and South Wilkes-Barre AMD Boreholes

Columbia University Rare Earth Element AMD Sampling Research

- Sean Kinney forwarded the EPCAMR Invoice for **\$4000** for payment processing at Columbia University

Shamokin Creek Development Plan

- Provided Tom Clark- Kleinfelder with EPCAMR's rate sheet for a project proposal they are developing in the Shamokin Creek watershed with the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance; Provided Eric Cavazza-Tetra Tech with our rate sheet as well for the same reason

Scranton Area Foundation Executive in Residence Grant

- EPCAMR received the **\$4500** and deposited it; Scheduled a meeting with Mark, Cristy, and Emily Baldauff-[Moving Mountain Strategies](#) to develop tasks and deliverables for the subcontract

Choose Clean Water Coalition

- Provided a link to the PA Maps and Statistics on AMD and AML that EPCAMR has put together and was provided to legislative staffers in the various offices that will be visited with members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition; EPCAMR does the GIS mapping work that our State hasn't created in a way that we can down to the legislative districts and local watershed scale that we use to provide to our community organizations throughout PA and have our own community tool called the Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (RAMLIS) to develop these statistics; Worked with Congressman Dan Meuser's Office to see if the CCWC Team could get a meeting with him or his Staff while they were in DC on March 4th; Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR, will be speaking on the Chesapeake WILD Program; EPCAMR was funded to create a Resource Box for 5th graders on AMD, filled with a Recycling Book, information on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, iron oxide pigment and paint brush to encourage the kids to be creative and create a piece of art, a safety vest, garbage bag (for cleaning up their local neighborhood near home) to encourage local environmental stewardship, a pair of gloves, a small packet of native wildflower mix seeds, a brochure on EPCAMR, an a link to our environmental education page
- Forwarded a copy to Congressman Dan Meuser and Rep. Jamie Walsh, of [EPCAMR's Report](#) and [video](#) along to on what we've recently completed in the region that we hope he would review and take a look at our video production on this recently completed US Department of Energy Project in northern Schuylkill County in the Morea area
- Bob Alston, Carbon County, was looking for guidance on anyone who might be an expert witness to oppose data center development in Carbon County; EPCAMR doesn't know any expert witnesses so we referred him to ask Dr. Brian Oram, [Know Your Water](#), [Wildlands Conservancy](#)- who does a lot of work and conservation efforts in the Lehigh Valley, or the [Delaware RiverKeeper Network](#); Sent Bob a copy of our US DOE Report and video

- Heather Makal-Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance has been messaging with Lauren, a recent graduate from Susquehanna University who is working on publishing her undergraduate research on the effects of (AMD) on native plant species and their potential use in phytoremediation; She has been doing research at Site 15 and SCRA provided her with the yearly water quality and flow sampling that was completed by EPCAMR for Tetra Tech for their watershed assessment; She had two follow up questions that EPCAMR answered for her
- Provided Cosmos Technologies information on two upcoming conferences including the PA Brownfields Conference and our PA AMR Conference
- EPCAMR's Brockton AMD Development Plan Project was not funded this round and by the time we got the notification it was too late to apply for the next round, so we must wait another round to resubmit with minor changes to the proposal
- Kathleen Arnone, who currently serves on Council in Wilkes Barre Township and reached out in regards to a proposed 973,000 square foot warehouse construction project; The property sits on approximately 85 acres of mine-scarred land between Interstate 81, Laurel Run, and Haul Road; Her concern was over the possibility of an active mine fire in that area and how building a warehouse on the site will affect the health and safety in her community and surrounding communities; EPCAMR Executive Director responded that he was only familiar with the history of the Laurel Run Mine Fire in the Township and an impact zone that he hiked years ago through Karaska Park to get over to a road where the old mobile home park used to be located; Many of his elementary school friends lived in the Township and Georgetown area from back in the late 70s to mid-90s; The area of concern she was talking about needs to have an inquiry made to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Wilkes-Barre to see if they have a defined limit of impact or zone defined for the underground mine fire; We currently do not have that boundary, nor have we done any geological investigations or surveys of its extent; We do not believe there is any monitoring of air quality historically at the Laurel Run mine fire location; We do know that we've seen vented pipes behind fences up along the entrance road into the former mobile home park; We also do not know if the State is monitoring the current movement or migration of the mine fire at this time; If this area along Haul Road has a suspected mine fire, we would think it should be known by the PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and if they don't know about it, an investigation of the area should be requested; We suggested that the Township Solicitor, Township Manager, Planning Commission members, and Zoning Officer take a look at that area that you are referring to and download any and all surface and mine maps available that we have entered into the Mine Map Atlas (www.minemaps.psu.edu) and that they ask the developer if they have done their own due diligence and done the same; The maps are publicly available; They should also be reviewed by a professional geologist or engineer; We are only offering planning advice and recommendations that could help them find out more information on that area if you have not already knew about these resources and agencies you could follow up with; We can't expound about the public health and safety of residents or the risk that the developer would be taking if they decide to build over the top of the alleged mine fire in that area; We have no studies related to that specific area of air quality or personal health studies; EPCAMR completed a [Coldwater Conservation Plan](#) that was years ago for the Solomon Creek watershed that an electronic copy was provided to the Township over 12 years ago

Education & Outreach

PA AMR Chronicles Podcast Series with WPCAMR

- Provided Ed Wytovich with a copy of our questions for the podcast; Interviewed Ed Wytovich for the March 6th appearance on the podcast; Ed travelled up to the EPCAMR Office, and we set him up in a makeshift studio in our Conference room; Drafted the outline for Kristin Reilly's June 5th podcast episode with Anne Daymut-WPCAMR

LIU #18 AMD and Visual Art Design Environmental Education Grant Program

- Scheduled a visit to the Old Forge Borehole with Pittston Area Middle School students on May 29th

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Advocated for the SAC to send a letter to the US EPA to make a request to pull back the NOFO for the coordination of the Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committees and believe that that we should take a stand and provide our reasons for why they should and the importance of the Advisory Committees and the expertise of all of their members and for the Staff that support each of them that has been able to synthesize so much of our passionate and science-based decision making processes that have been very democratic

PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB)

- PA DEP's Energy Programs Office (DEP EPO) is planning to launch a Community Assistance Pilot for nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) working to advance energy efficiency, energy affordability, and community resilience in their communities; The Community Assistance Pilot aims to empower nonprofits and community-based organizations with the necessary tools to plan, secure funding for, and implement projects that enhance energy efficiency, energy affordability, and community resiliency according to local priorities and on their own terms. EPCAMR attended a listening session for stakeholders and offered some comments to help with the design of an effective pilot program that enables CBOs to identify and address the documented needs, challenges, and interests concerning local projects; Confirmed attending a meeting on June 22nd virtually with EJAB to hear Secretary Shirley speak and take questions from the Board;

EPCAMR created a [post](#) about the upcoming April 8th meeting for the public meeting on the Waste Transfer Station in Hazleton; Informed Maria Tavera Liches, PA DEP NE Regional EJ Coordinator that EPCAMR will attend the Listening Session about PennEnviroScreen 1.1 on April 21st

- Provided a copy of the PA House Democratic Environmental Committee Hearing on Unassessed Waters Report/Recommendations from EPCAMR to our partners across Appalachia
- Participated in 2 meetings with the Pocono NE RC & DC; Provided the Board with the link to the [NCAC March 2026 Newsletter](#) since they were potentially looking for office space; Wes Keller was looking into potential space at the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority
- Provided Kat Bolus, WVIA with a copy of EPCAMR's US DOE Final Report on the potential for Repurposing Flooded Abandoned Stripping Pit Mines for Cooling Purposes, Heating Storage, and Solar Development Potential at the Dismantled Wheelabrator–Frackville Energy Company Co-Gen Plant at the Morea Mine Complex, in northern Schuylkill County funded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) in Support of the Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets Opportunity and the video

- EPCAMR registered to attend the King's College Spring 2026 Career & Internship Expo on March 18th; Attended and tabled at the Expo; Posted an [article](#) on our website and social media about Carolyn's internship with EPCAMR
- Presented to Penn-State Earth and Mineral Science students in State College on EPCAMR's work and conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop; Presented at the E&MS Museum with Rachel Bacon and Meredith Davenport on the Hybrid Zone Art Exhibition that utilized our iron oxide; Visted the Hybrid Zone Exhibition at the HUB Art Gallery
- Mike and Frank worked on a summary update on their trip to Washington DC to meet with our PA legislators and their Staff to talk about AMD/AML funding; Mike updated the statistics and some infographics on the PA AML/AMD stats; Frank is working on finalizing the [PA AML Dashboard](#)
- Wilkes-Barre Area STEM students in Mr. Mike Shimko's classes are continuing to 3D print mining artifacts and macro-invertebrates on their printers for EPCAMR as a community service class project; Some students are learning how to use a resin printer to make other models; They completed a successful build of a mine car with tracks, a shovel, and pick axe; The macro builds were having some difficulty with the thin legs and the plastic was breaking off so they put a hold on printing some of them
- Mark and the Executive Director met with Claire Woo, student at Wyoming Seminary Upper School who is in Dr. Nerozzi's Class who is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR to do a fundraiser and also a class project to create more awareness of our work through social media
- Presented to **40** high school students that are participants of the Community Connections to Our Watershed Forum with PA DCNR at the EPCAMR Office on EPCAMR's work, AMD, and AML
- A Congressional letter of support for the AML fund in FY27 appropriations is now being circulated in the House of Representatives
- Talked to two Wyoming Area high school students about their AMD project with Mr. Hanczyc, along the Lackawanna River; Provided Mr. Hanczyc with contact information for Tara Jones and Bernie McGurl from the Lackawanna River Conservation Association; Their goal was to conduct a research study focused on the biological and chemical factors of AMD from the Old Forge Borehole
- Met with Carol Parenzan in Grantville to discuss her book and her professional services that she's offering to groups across PA in her new business as [The Water Healer](#); Carol was the former Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper; EPCAMR Executive Director will be reviewing her book, and she asked for an endorsement of it after reading it
- Shea McEnroe from Leave No Trace provided EPCAMR with a partnership application form
- Discussed with Robert Hendricks from Woodlands for Wildlife our previously submitted project proposal for the Brockton AMD Development Plan along SR 209 and the Schuylkill River in Schuylkill County; He's interested in partnering on some future projects; Sent him a link to our [Story Map](#) on our Southern Wyoming Valley Watershed Assessment for Eastern Brook Trout and the American Black Duck in case he wanted to follow up on some wildlife habitat improvement projects
- EPCAMR Staff attended the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU Banquet in Wilkes-Barre and had offered up a personal AMD Tour in the Wyoming Valley and a guided fly fishing trip on Pine Run as an auction prize won by John Churnetski

- Forwarded a letter from Northwest High School to the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU to see if they would support Heath Hines's Environmental Science class in their endeavor to start a Trout in the Classroom Project; Northwest Area HS is looking to see if they can secure some funding to purchase a chiller
- EPCAMR's Executive Director and Media IT Coordinator Frank Sindaco will be making a presentation on our Morea Mine Complex project with additional research for the PA Anthracite Section of the Society of Mining and Engineers
- Dan Taylor-Blue Green Alliance reached out and would like to work with EPCAMR on some stories on AML Project in PA District 08 and 10; BGA is running a "Congressional Accountability" campaign this year leading up to November and are looking for workers and projects impacted by Administration and Congressional policies as part of a storytelling effort, focusing on certain districts

Volunteers

- Worked with Carolyn Phillips to figure out a work schedule for her Work Study program internship with EPCAMR; Provided her with the volunteer activity description (VAD) for the internship; Signed the King's College contract agreement to sponsor Carolyn's internship
- Stanley Shimko completed his NAACC Aquatic Organism Protocol (AOP) online training and received a certificate; Now, he has to go into the field and perform assessments on 20 culverts to become a Lead Observer for EPCAMR
- Lucy Karp from Factoryville signed up to become a volunteer; LeighAnn McHenry from Wilkes-Barre, signed up to become a volunteer; Rivanna Cummings from Bethlehem signed up to become a volunteer; Sean Bieski, Nanticoke, signed up to become a volunteer officially, although he has been helping on numerous cleanups over the years because of his longstanding friendship with the Executive Director; Gurtaj Lalia, Lehigh Valley student the EPCAMR Executive Director met at the High School Brownfields Planning Workshop at the PA Brownfields Conference, signed up to become a volunteer
- Dylan Kiwak, Wilkes University student from Harding, was interested in the AmeriCorps Summer Associate Marketing/Graphics Design 10-week volunteer service position through AmeriCorps; He's a junior double-majoring in digital design and environmental studies with minors in Art and Marketing; He submitted all of his paperwork and applied for the position and also is an EPCAMR volunteer who attended several of our illegal dump site cleanups this year already
- Hannah Stone informed EPCAMR that we were selected to be awarded a Fall AmeriCorps VISTA for Digital Marketing that will be fully funded through a funding partner with Conservation Legacy; EPCAMR accepted the award notification; Jeff Davis, Conservation Legacy, will begin working on a new Service Opportunity Listing (SOL) and VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) and will send both to EPCAMR for us to review; Once they are aligned on those documents, he will submit them for federal approval; After the SOL is approved and live, Jeff will connect us with Addie Gilkerson to begin the recruitment process
- Lori Kozlowski, King's College student, signed up to become a volunteer and was signed up to take the NAACC AOP culvert assessment training by Maria Gereda

- Completed and submitted to Jeff Davis, Conservation Legacy, Mark Jones's VISTA Feedback Form for the 1st Quarter 2026
- Morgan Mesaris, Pittston, signed up to become a volunteer with EPCAMR; She has a Bachelors in Geoscience with a concentration in Watershed Management from Mansfield University; She currently works for an environmental company in Scranton with her wastewater license while she is working on her drinking water license; She would love to get back out into the field of AMD and research; Maria Gereda signed her up

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

2026AMR Conference at Holiday Inn, Grantville

- Coordinated a group e-mail with Dan Koury, Alexa Smith, and Wayne Lehman to see if they can help plan a tour route for the Southern Anthracite Coalfields for the Conference this year in the Fall

Appalachian Regional Commission Workshop, Ithaca, NY

- Attended the ARC Workshop to learn about federal funding programs available through the Commission such as the POWER grants for communities in transitional coalfield area and environmental justice issues

2026 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress, Alvernia College (March 28th)

- Presented on EPCAMR's work in the Schuylkill Watershed and agreed to have our presentation recorded; Sent the presentation to Julia Palmer, from the Schuylkill Riverkeeper; Provided the conveners with 3 learning objective questions so participants who attend the session that want CEUs can show that they were able to learn from the session; Brought some EPCAMR swag as a door prize; Maria and Carolyn served as Room Facilitators and Moderators and were able to attend the Conference for free

2026 PA Brownfields Conference at Wind Creek, Bethlehem

- Finalized the presentation for the conference and presented it as a part of the panel on the 25th; Ashley Houck, ASTM provided EPCAMR with a link to two webinars on Brownfields Redevelopment

ARIPPA Annual Conference and Technical Symposium, Crowne Plaza Harrisburg/Hershey, (June 9th)

- Registered to attend to give an update on ARIPPA Mini-Grants for 2026

ABC News 22 AMD/AML Tour

- Reached out to Bernie McGurl-LRCA to be a part of the tour and interview at Old Forge Borehole on March 31st and he accepted the invitation to participate and met us at the AMD Borehole; Reached out to Wayne Lehman-Schuylkill Conservation District to see if he can suggest some sites to visit in Schuylkill County and to see if he wanted to come along for the tour; He wasn't going to be available, however, he provided suggestions of what sites that we could visit with relatively easy access; Followed up with Lillia Geho and Laura Romero from ABC News 22 to plan their route and host them for two days in the area on March 30-31st; Provided them with our EPCAMR AML/AMD Maps and statistics for each of the Congressional Districts across PA; Invited Kevin Zedak, Appalachian Voices to join us for the tour; Hosted the news reporters all day and provided them with a tour of a number of sites around the region; The EPCAMR Executive Director, Terry Ostrowski from Earth Conservancy, and Bernie McGurl, from the Lackawanna River Conservation Association were interviewed for the news feature to be released in June

EPCAMR 30th Anniversary Banquet & Reception

- EPCAMR Executive Director has found a way to merge his phone contacts with his Google contacts so that he can label them by groups and then sort so that he can send out targeted e-mails to colleagues and companies to see if they are interested in sponsoring and attending our 30th Anniversary dinner
- Scheduled the "Perfecting Your Pitch" Donor Workshop at NCAC with Mark Jones for April 16th in Pittston

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for March 2026 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent monthly for March 2026; 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 Statements; EPCAMR received a 2026 PA SUI RATE CHANGE DEBIT NOTICE and had to pay an additional \$402.88
- EPCAMR received an extension to apply for our renewal to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program
- EPCAMR Executive Director participated in a Development Committee meeting and we finalized the Solicitation and Sponsor letter to begin sending around for appeals; Shawnese offered to come up with a centerpiece idea with a coal and reclamation theme in a vase or Ball Mason jar style (low cost) that we can have given to someone at the table with a sticker under the seat or on a single program at the table randomly; CougarPrints will be printing our new EPCAMR Portfolio documents for potential donor meetings; Provided a link to Cristy and Mark about [Leave a Legacy](#)
- Ed Wytovich provided a [link](#) to the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation for EPCAMR to research and the Executive Director forwarded it to Mark Jones to review

- Forwarded an inquiry from [GiveEffect](#) to talk with EPCAMR about software integration for non-profit solutions to Emily Baldauff and Mark Jones
- Requested Marianne Beane to send out EPCAMR renewal memberships through Quickbooks for 2026
- Executive Director completed the Leave No Trace's Share the Lands with The Outdoorist Oath & Leave No Trace [certificate](#) program
- NEPAGIVES sent out a recap video of the webinar in case groups had missed the opportunity to view it last month; EPCAMR has successfully registered for the fundraising event
- Tom Nick-Amazon Web Services reached out and told EPCAMR that he had forwarded on our request for IT Support on completing a vendor document related to computer IT and computer security
- Mike did some research on liability insurance services since we no longer have POWR insurance
- EPCAMR signed up for the Scranton Area Foundation newsletter
- Attended the [Paul A. O'Hop Final Word Lecture](#), Wilkes University to hear Dr. Bob Karimi's presentation on mine voids and water movement entitled From Tragedy to Transformation: Imaging the Invisible to Rebuild the Wyoming Valley
- Completed a [Google Review](#) for Rare Light Media at the request of John Welsh