

# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### May 2014 Progress Report

#### Highlights:

- EPCAMR Staff coordinated a cleanup and a tree planting with volunteers
- Continued processing maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant; GIS Specialist taught georeferencing to GIS Technician.
- Sampled 4 AMD discharges for flow, 2 of those for chemistry as well (1 was a treatment system)
- Updated/installed computer software and hardware to keep the office running efficiently
- Continued work toward a 3D Mine Pool Model in the **Wyoming Valley, Northern Coal Fields**
- Printed a 9' map for a partner, sets of maps for EPCAMR Project, and participated in an AMR Conference Call. Sent reminder e-mails for upcoming events with MailChimp and Insight.ly
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org), [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com), and administered the EPCAMR facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

#### Education and Outreach:

- Sort washed gloves 2X with EPCAMR Volunteer, Becca, and tied a trash bag around pairs in preparation for upcoming cleanups and tree planting events.
- EPCAMR staff and volunteers conducted a cleanup in **Lee Park, Luzerne County**. Illegally dumped trash along an abandoned rail trail and surrounding woods was cleaned up and almost filled a 40 yard roll off dumpster. Tires were separated for later recycling.
- Stopped by the Huber Breaker Memorial where the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) was digging around the property to find a buried slope. Completed a RAMLIS investigation of West Ashley to find out more information about the slope. Found a photo of the slope and rotating dump. According to a OSM Folio Mine Map 2XX, the slope was at 639'. Recent survey maps show the surface in the area is now at 640-646'. The HBPS uncovered several metal braces and cables, but unfortunately could not find the slope. The concrete head of the slope was broken off and found shoved off to the side in the woods.
- Found a historical website on the Huber Breaker, Ashley Plane and related railroads on a [www.gingerb.com](http://www.gingerb.com) called Diamonds to Tidewater by William T. Greenberg, Jr. and Robert F. Fischer in 2004. Formatted the photos and text to a document for HBPS.
- Sent an invite for volunteers to help plant trees at Hanover 9 using MailChimp in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and Earth Conservancy (EC). Approximately 30 -10' tall trees remain to be planted. Holes were pre dug and compost placed nearby by EC Recycling Center staff.
- Posted EPCAMR Staff board reports, organizational files and created a text only watermark for images uploaded to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org). Other image watermarking widgets were available and ones with ability to mark with a logo, but they looked bad or functioned badly in WordPress.
- Participated in an AMR Conference Call to coordinate efforts for the conference next month.

- Found a map book of mine car schematics including Huber and Franklin Collieries. Scanned and provided the schematics to HBPS as an affiliate of their attempts to refurbish one of two mine cars that was given to them for the Memorial Park. Also found a Map Atlas of the Wilkes-Bare Area from the 1940's.
- Met with EPCAMR President to sign checks and meet later with a professor from University of Massachusetts, Don Levine and his associate David Laylos, who designed several wetlands for AMD Treatment. They were interested in looking at treating the Old Forge Borehole (OFBH). Shared calculations from AMD Treat showing that 300+ acres of wetlands would be needed to treat the flow and chemistry from the borehole and that active treatment would incorporate a smaller footprint.
- EPCAMR Staff coordinated volunteers to help plant trees at Hanover 9 near **Nanticoke, Luzerne County** in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) and Earth Conservancy (EC).
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous months, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff for reimbursement.
- Sent a reminder e-mail and updated the EPCAMR Board Page in preparation for the upcoming board meeting. Updated board list from recently gathered membership renewals and started gathering EPCAMR Board Member bios for placement on the web, as requested by the board.
- Reviewed a draft of the AMR Conference program and provided comments to WPCAMR staff.
- After a few days of no responses from the board about attendance at the next board meeting, EPCAMR staff notified the president. He postponed the board meeting and requested that staff send out an attendance plea to all district managers in the EPCAMR Region to ascertain why a quorum has been so difficult to meet in recent board meetings. EPCAMR staff followed up with a phone call. Lots of good feedback was gathered. In general, more state and conservation district staff members said they would attend if the meetings were held during the day while others suggested changes in the format and time of the actual meetings. Several trial changes will be incorporated into upcoming meetings.
- Created a Doodle Poll to reschedule the makeup board meeting with feedback from board members, chose a date in June that was the best for a majority of members.
- Incorporated the AutoChimp WordPress widget into the EPCAMR Store ([www.epcamr.org/store](http://www.epcamr.org/store)) to add people who created accounts in the EPCAMR Store to the MailChimp address book automatically and tag them as interested in the store. In the future this list can be used to automatically send updates on store items via MailChimp.
- Responded to conference registrations at weekly intervals as they begin slowly rolling in.
- Met with Tom Clark, SRBC, in regards to the Mine Pool Mapping Grant. Tom stressed that finishing the grant by June 30<sup>th</sup> would be important as the grant deadline has been extended several times. EPCAMR Staff must make this project a priority to complete soon, which will be difficult and could put off some regular administrative type work such as reimbursements, report writing, field work and outreach duties. Notified EPCAMR President who agreed and authorized the "full court press" to complete the grant.
- Discovered that the "Deep Trouble" series from the Times Leader was removed from their website, but years ago, I downloaded photos and text from the site. Recreated this series on the EPCAMR website at <http://epcamr.org/home/content/historical-significance/>.
- Attempted to attend and setup an exhibit at the Bear Creek Festival, but due to a severe stomach bug, I was unable to stay. I drove 2 hours down to the **Schuylkill County** Fairgrounds and 2 hours back to drop off supplies for the AMD Tie Dye Workshop being conducted by the Schuylkill Headwaters Association (SHA).
- Completed a backlog of timesheets in preparation for reimbursements for several grants.
- EPCAMR staff and volunteers placed rock dissipation aprons at the end of pipes entering Nockley's Tributary near Lee Park in cooperation with Luzerne Conservation District.

- Created an invoice for the time spent last month sampling the Mocanaqua Tunnel, **Luzerne County**. [EC]
- Created an AMR Conference Event Signup reminder using MailChimp Template and saved in a format that would work with traditional e-mail programs. Sent the flashy stylized reminder to ~700 emails on the Insight.ly conference list and pyritebad list-serve for other AMR Conference Committee members to use. Received many kickbacks from e-mails on the Insight.ly database. Will save these e-mails for later manual removal from Insight.ly. Hopefully the MailChimp Database will become the new portal for notifying attendees of the conference registration options, as MailChimp will auto update itself. Sent a similar promotional e-mail to 177 subscriber in MailChimp reminding that the Lodging Deadline was May 26<sup>th</sup> and the Scholarship Deadline was June 7<sup>th</sup>. Received a boost in registrations shortly after this e-mail blast.
- Worked with Leigh Ann Kemmerer to select photos to print and frame for the Silent Auction as a part of the AMR Conference and in cooperation with the AMR Conference Committee.
- Sent a reminder e-mail and updated the EPCAMR Board Page in preparation for the upcoming rescheduled board meeting.
- Prepared a nomination to the PEC Partnership Award for a very deserving individual dealing with historic preservation in the Wyoming Valley.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Created a new surface grid using Global Mapper. The new versions allow for direct access to National Elevation Dataset (NED) format grids from online U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) repositories. Exported as a .bil format and easily imported into a .2grd EarthVision format for use as the top of a mine pool model. [SRBC]
- Created a draft 3D model of the **Wyoming Valley** Mine Pools with EarthVision to find gaps and ascertain where to average data from nearby cross sections to fill in gaps. Also, filled in missing vein data using average distance from the veins above or below. [SRBC]
- Installed AutoCAD and tutorials on GIS Technician computer to allow EPCAMR staff to learn AutoCAD via TIPS Virtual Campus. CAD 100, an Autodesk tutorial and downloadable CD of example data were available.
- Created instructions for modeling underground coal mines with complex geology such as those in the Anthracite Region in preparation for uploading them to TIPS Virtual Campus. Contacted OSM staff to make arrangements hand over the instructions.
- Reached the 5,000 scan mark for the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) program. This was the maximum number to be scanned from the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office basement. EPCAMR staff estimate there are another 2,000 maps in the remaining shelves. Sent an inquiry to the California District Mining Office (DMO) to ask if we should continue at **Wilkes-Barre** or move on to the **Pottsville** DMO collection. Instructed GIS Technician to shadow GIS Specialist to learn georeferencing while DEP staff deliberated. [MSI]
- Transferred scanned TIFF Images and georeferenced SID files to the external travel drive, updated the inventory control sheet and started to prepare an invoice to send to the California DMO. Waited another month to send the drive and paperwork. [MSI]
- Tweaked the 3D model of the Wyoming Valley Mine Pools by adjusting the smoothing factor to .01 (honors the data 99%) and the extrapolation factor to .5 (honors the data 95%). These small adjustments close up holes created by unintentional data overlap. [SRBC]
- Had to re-do Invoice 7 for the MSI Program to edit the travel rate from .565 to .56 per mile. [MSI]
- Found that GIS Technicians were scanning printouts of aperture cards in shelves 52 and 53, but we know that aperture card scans are being provided to the MSI Program by the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR). Asked if DEP wanted these scans, but they decided that the duplicates were unnecessary. Scans were removed from our inventory and the Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory (PHUMMIS). [MSI]

- Installed DEP Intranet VPN Access on EPCAMR GIS Specialist computer to allow her access to the PHUMMIS database as she needs to update the process tab for maps that have been georeferenced and digitized. [MSI]
- Sampled the flow at the Askam and South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes at the request of the Earth Conservancy. With recent study of Wyoming Valley Mine Pools, it is believed these two discharges are part of the same mine pool. The flows were 12,000 and 24,000 gallons per minute (GPM) respectively. The Askam Boreholes are flashy with precipitation events, will dry up during periods of low flow and are assumed to be an overflow for the South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes. Recent re-drilling of both may have provided for a new paradigm relationship between the two discharges.
- Made several updates and corrections to the way invoices, sales orders and payments are recorded in QuickBooks. Updated EPCAMR Accounting Standard Operation Procedure for EPCAMR Bookkeeper.
- Installed Global Mapper 15.2 from the TIPS program on to EPCAMR Program Manager Computer. The program is similar to ArcGIS in functionality, but much more robust and some tools, especially those dealing with raster images, perform better than tools in ArcGIS.
- Worked with EPCAMR GIS Technician to sort out maps of the Lackawanna and Humbert Collieries in the PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Mine Map Collection. [MSI]
- Picked up and dropped off maps at the PA DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office after the PA DEP California DMO decided that EPCAMR staff should continue to scan the rest of the maps in the basement. A request was made to the MSI Program to change the number of scans in our Scope of Work. [MSI]
- Began a rough draft of a Northern Mine Pool Mapping Report to include the results for the **Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys** mapping and modeling effort.
- Sampled the flow at the Askam and South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes at the request of the Earth Conservancy. The flows were 7,700 and 19,900 gallons per minute (GPM) respectively.
- Printed a Stevens Colliery Surface Map for the HBPS which was approximately 9 foot long by 42" wide. This map was the longest map to be attempted to be printed with our HP Plotter up to this point. It is good to know that this can be done.
- Printed several charts and maps for an Environmental Education event that EPCAMR Executive Director will participate in.
- Sampled Espy Run Treatment System for flow and chemistry in several places within and downstream of the system to determine the operational status of the system and calculate the load reductions to the receiving stream. [EC]
- Encountered an error in the EarthVision 3D Viewer that seemed to center around the 4DVX files being blank again. Rolled back drivers, which had been automatically updated with Driver Booster, a free diagnostic program that suggests the newest and/or best drivers for a particular computer. Removed this particular video hardware from the scanner to avoid future auto updates and conflicts. Also recreated .vue files to remove moved or deleted data.
- Found historical USGS gauge station readings through Google Earth. Downloaded, added data to sampling database and analyzed data for Nanticoke Creek and Espy Run which functioned from 1999 to 2001. The Nanticoke Creek dataset in particular was of interest to the Earth Conservancy as it was able to show that recent high readings were to be expected. It also confirmed that the average flow is approximately 3,000 gpm and that the max flow of 7,000 gpm on the new treatment system will suffice for a majority of the time. The data also helped to predict times when the Maelstrom Oxidizers could be completely or partially shut down to save on electricity usage. [EC]
- Invoiced Earth Conservancy for time spent monitoring the Espy Run Treatment System. [EC]
- Received the Hard Drive on return from the DMO office in the mail and started to review the return files [MSI].

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.