

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



Robert E. Hughes, *Executive Director*

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Main Line: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

November 2025 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

Conservation District Mining East 319 Program Coordination-EPCAMR

- Prepared monthly report for the program coordination for the November 2025 monthly period; Submitted the proper documentation and signature information for the next two-year grant funding that was received from the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Program for **\$260,000**; Prepared a matching funds letter that was required and submitted to Rachel Nelson-PA DEP

Swoyersville AML Community Recreation Area Reclamation Project

- Payment to Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management, LLC for transfer of property to Swoyersville Borough to be made now that the ACH Transfer from the Comptroller's Office has been made; Working on closing out the project throughout the Winter 2025

Bear Creek AMD Treatment Survey, Design, O & M Plan and Permit Package Application Project

- Provided Chad Crick-PA DEP Grant Manager with an update on the 3D modeling completion of the mine pools in the Bear Creek and along the Lykens Valley; Mike has been devoting a lot of time lately to lining up many more of the maps we received from the DEP California Office to get the full model in alignment in the last two weeks of November; We had some help from our two AmeriCorps volunteers that are using Earthvision to then digitize them to create the cloud point data elevations from the correctly lined up cross-sections that Mike had had to painstakingly adjust from the previous work of the other two universities for improved accuracy and reliability; Maria had completed the sets she was working on Monday and Dennis still had a few to go; Deferred to Mike on the remaining steps he will be taking to get our final conservative estimates on the volume and or volumes; The assumption is that the Lykens Water Level Drift and Airshaft AMD is derived solely from the Lykens Valley Veins (Pottsville Formation); There are technically 11 known Lykens Valley veins, but based on knowledge of the mine maps and cross-sections, only 3 (LV 6 - Little Vein, LV 5 - Big Vein, LV 4 - Whites Vein) were mined consistently enough throughout the basin to form a mine pool in the study area; Unless there is an interconnecting rock tunnel not yet accounted for, the veins in the Llewellyn formation (Buck Mountain, Mammoth, and above) are likely drained outside of the study area (likely the Big Lick Tunnel) and will not be modeled for this project

Columbia University Rare Earth Element Monitoring

- Discussed with Sean Kinney about invoicing for services completed and monitoring locations installed for future monitoring; He suggested submitting one for either 50% or the full amount

Beaverbrook Hazleton Beltway Center East Reclamation Project

- Followed up with Johnny Green-PA DEP BAMR Grant Officer with a project update and informed him that we had not received a confirmation on the requests for information that we had been requesting for many months; Informed Johnny that we asked for a determination as to whether or not they were going to move forward with the project; Reviewed the Task and Deliverables Worksheet and Budget Revision Excel that needs to be completed before EPCAMR can reimburse for funds

ARIPPA Mini-Grant Program

- Cristy updated the website and narrative on the most recently funded projects and grant recipients; Don Kane Jr.-President of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society provided the receipt for the Fossil Graphics design for the kiosk located within the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park, Ashley; EPCAMR and WPCAMR reviewed Lackawanna River Conservation Association's application and determined it to be administratively complete to research a white paper on the Old Forge AMD Borehole and to recommend an exhibit setup for the Anthracite Heritage Valley Museum at McDade Park; EPCAMR approved the support of the mini-grant for **\$1945**; Cristy informed EPCAMR and WPCAMR that the ARIPPA Board of Directors approved their 2026 budget that includes the continuation of the ARIPPA AMD/AML grant program at the **\$6,000** level; EPCAMR and WPCAMR will therefore each receive **\$3,000** from ARIPPA in 2026 and that she will update the application document and tally of funded projects

Remove Illegal Dumpsites (RID) Trash & Tire Cleanup Program with Amazon Community Foundation Fund and Keep PA Beautiful (KPB)

- Reviewed three startup documents forwarded by Mark Jones-EPCAMR AmeriCorps VISTA Community Development Coordinator, from KPB to become a part of the Affiliate Program before our Teams call with Kylie McCutcheon on November 5; Held our second Affiliate call with KPB; EPCAMR followed up with Jim Donnini, landowner, who is interested in our help in removing the illegally dumped tires along Little Wapwallopen Creek off Hollow Road in Dorrance, PA; Coordinated with Chet Hummel from The Tire Guys to coordinate a cleanup date; Reached out to Ron Coleman, an older gentlemen that owns a lot of land in Shickshinny and the Hunlock's Sand and Gravel Operation; His family runs a Graphics Design Company in Berwick; He's given us the green light to clean up the two dump spots in Shickshinny behind the bank and along the old Sun Oil Gas Line Right of Way that we believe the Susquehanna Warrior Trail is hoping to extend through the area with an easement in the future; Lance Kittleson gave us a number to follow up with him and we called and he's very supportive of any help he can get; Updated the database Maria created with Ron's information and that he is supportive and welcomes the cleanup due to the former camp that was there for the homeless that have moved out of the area; Carli Tabone-[PEC NE Region](#) Assistant Program Coordinator, reached out to inquire about any future cleanups in the County and EPCAMR asked her to join us in a number of our future planned cleanups for the Fall 2025, Winter of 2025, and in the Spring of 2026; Informed her of the planned tire cleanup on Little Wapwallopen Creek in November; Isabella Bufalino, student at King's College followed up and thanked EPCAMR for the comments on the survey design to the script that she made; Originally she was going to follow up with 2 locations from each of the 16 counties that EPCAMR covers, we suggested that she focus on Luzerne and Columbia Counties for now;

We suggested turning the survey into an email and she was going to talk to Dr. Rose about it to see if they can make that happen; She planned on starting the survey this month; Since we determined that we would not need to rent a winch for one of our cleanups, we decided to reallocate some funding in our budget (\$800) to purchasing some KPB Open Your Eyes to Litter Books to give to the volunteers that participate in our cleanups and to have them for our tabling and exhibit events; Mark will reach out to Heather Manhart-KPB to get [prices](#) on the books so we can get some hard copies of several of the editions that EPCAMR happens to be updating for them through another grant agreement that Laura Rinehimer, our part-time Watershed Outreach Education Specialist is working on; We have \$720 budgeted for native wildflower mix; Reached out to Ernst Seeds to see if we can get a quote from them on bulk seed packets or boxes and provide them with our Sales Exemption Certificate or and if they'd consider a discount or donation of some seeds to our efforts; Followed up with Megan Finnen about our desire to cleanup a major litter and tire dump along Pine Run Road within the Pinchot State Forest Crystal Lake Tract, just east of the Pole Line over Pine Run in the Solomon Creek watershed; The Georgetown Conservation Club and the Luzerne Conservation District will be our partners in the effort; EPCAMR investigated the site in the rain and took photos of the litter and dumping; The area will need a dumpster at the top of the hill and the tires will be staged along the shoulder of the Pine Run Road for pickup in the Spring of 2026; We just need our volunteers to sign a roster when we get the cleanup organized; EPCAMR has a photo release form and waiver we utilize for our cleanups; Maria provided Megan with our anticipated location and coordinates for a dumpster; EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District will utilize our Polaris ETX Ranger Side by Sides to haul trash and tires out from the steep sloped area and the Pole Line; PPL owns the Right of Way (ROW) and Keith George is following up with them from the Luzerne Conservation District to obtain permission to access it for the day to conduct the cleanup; Coordinated with Sam Guesto, Jr.-Township Manager for Hanover Township about a small roadside cleanup along Dundee Road that EPCAMR and our volunteers will be undertaking on November 10; The Township agreed to pick up the trash collected and tires picked up for the day event; There were several illegally dumped mattresses and box springs at the entrance to the Earth Conservancy Askam AMD Treatment System that were picked up as well; 8 volunteers showed up; Registered the cleanup with KPB and reported our final numbers post-cleanup; [Dundee Road Cleanup on 11-10-25](#); Coordinated a second cleanup in the Little Wapwallopen Creek in Dorrance Township to remove and recycle 300 discarded tires along a road near the creek with the help of the landowner; and the Luzerne Conservation District on 11-23-25; Placed a bulk order of 110 EPCAMR Volunteer Safety Orange t-shirts in a variety of sizes from School Spirits with the word VOLUNTEER across the shoulder of the back of the shirts and provided Maria with the receipt for the file folder; [Remove Illegal Dumps \(RID\) Program](#); Followed up with [Ernst Seeds](#) to see if they can offer EPCAMR wholesale seed prices or discounts on native seed and reclamation mixes for our cleanup projects; Paid the \$250 fee to become an Affiliate of Keep PA Beautiful; Invoiced 5 & 6 were submitted to KPB and the signed affiliate application; Reached out to a number of regional partners to be on EPCAMR KPB Advisory Committee and scheduled a meeting with Kylie to review the responsibilities of the Affiliate and Advisory Committee volunteers

Technical Assistance

Shamokin Creek Watershed Assessment with Tetra Tech

- Forwarded a copy of the C-SAW Technical Assistance Grant application from the Pocono NE RC & DC to Heather Makal-Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA)

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

- Worked with Mike Hewitt-EPCAMR Program Manager to create an invoice for services on the project and submitted it to the Schuylkill Conservation District; EPCAMR started monthly flow monitoring last month to calibrate the transducer; We also dropped the YSI probe (Temp, DO, Conductivity, TDS, and ORP) and took HACH Acidity because it's easy enough to do while at the sites; We hit the Repplier AMD and Upstream on Mill Creek, then Pine Knot AMD and Oak Hill AMD (far and near channels), and Upstream on West Branch; Mike pulled transducer data from Pine Knot AMD since it has been installed the longest, and the Repplier Shaft, as we were concerned/interested about the pump; We only plan to pull transducer data quarterly for the project, unless there's a need to check a few to make sure they are functioning, otherwise, we will let the transducers do their thing for the year; Followed up with Russell White for signatures on a landowner access agreement with the Schuylkill Conservation District for WiseGuys LLC Property to monitor the mine pool elevations of the Otto Shaft

Bowman's Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan with the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU

- Macroinvertebrate sampling continued on November 6-8 in the watershed; Tried connecting up with Jerome Whittington, Clinical Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Energy and Environment-NYU for him to schedule a visit to EPCAMR to come out sampling with us in Bowman's Creek; He was able to join us sampling in mid-November; He provided EPCAMR with a copy of his article on "Turning Brownfields into Brightfields"; EPCAMR's Maria Gereda and Executive Director updated the NAACC Assessments PowerPoint to provide to our volunteers interested in becoming Lead Observers and obtain a free certification in Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP)

Lost Creek Borehole Monitoring and Mine Pool Evaluation with Kleinfelder

- Attended the Lost Creek Kickoff meeting with Kleinfelder Staff, Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association members, Girardville Borough officials, Cravotta Geochemical Consulting, EPCAMR's AmeriCorps VISTAs and EPCAMR Staff on 11-13-2025 at the Girardville Borough Building before touring the AMD discharges and trying to locate some of the boreholes in Lost Creek

Open Your Eyes to Litter (OYEL) Keep PA Beautiful Project

- Paid Brady Mock-Graphic Designer, for completing the Greenways Booklet and requested that he send EPCAMR a W-9 1099-MISC with his new address since he moved within the last year; Revised the scope of work and addendum to our agreement with KPB and removed the Spanish translations and teacher's guides for OYEL Books 2, 3, & 5 and Phase 2 deliverables; EPCAMR is 75% complete with the Greenways OYEL Book and will then move to the final Think Before You Toss the Trash OYEL Book; Informed Laura Rinehimer-EPCAMR Education & Outreach Watershed Specialist of the changes, timeline going forward, and remaining budget

- Informed Tony DeSantis-PA DCNR EE Specialist that the typical range of iron at the Old Forge AMD Borehole is around 24-30 mg/L and that he may need to dilute his samples with the students since their colorimeter only goes to 10 mg/L; He intends on sampling the CO₂ at the discharge location as well with the students that participate in the Watershed Community Connections PG
- Frank Sindaco-EPCAMR provided an update on his Phase 2 Iteration of the energy repurposing draft document sections (400+ pages), but had found a naturalreaders text to speech/notetaking app that helped him organize the material and edit the report and the AMLCONNECT wiki/knowledge base
- Forwarded a copy of the C-SAW Technical Assistance Grant application from the Pocono NE RC & DC to Roseann Weinrich-Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association (MCWA)
- Provided Chris Layou, NE Regional Forestry Supervisor with a link to EPCAMR's online version of our reclaimed abandoned mine land inventory system ([RAMLIS](#)) tool that he can take a look at that is state-wide

Education & Outreach

PA AMR Chronicles Podcast Series with WPCAMR

- Followed up with Don Kane Jr.-President of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, to be our guest in December and presented him with questions that we would likely be asking him during the podcast interview; Worked with Tom Clark to get his YouTube ad video formatted properly to be played during the podcast interview on November 7; Tom Clark was sick for the 7th of November so Anne Daymut-WPCAMR and Bobby Hughes-EPCAMR interviewed each other for the [podcast](#); Provided Tom Clark with a copy of the questions to be asked during the podcast; Interviewed [Tom Clark](#)-AMD Program Coordinator for Kleinfelder the following week; Scheduled a backup podcast interview with Carla Ruddock-Mountain Watershed Association for December 5 that won't air live unless we have one of our monthly guests not be able to make it due to a conflict or sickness; We made sure to ask Carla about Bev Braverman's influence on her career; Discussed with Anne about using RESTREAM's clip feature free trial for a week and see what we can come up with to help us advertise our podcast series; We already have 5 full episodes plus our 15 minute intro, so she looked into seeing if we are allowed to do all of our videos in the 7 day free trial; That would be 18-30 clips we'd have already plus whatever we record with Don and Carla; Anne was going to look in to why YouTube might flag videos posted with an ad when permission was granted to add the information into the live video feed by the person being interviewed

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

- Nominations for the Vice Chair were opened and Sara Romatnik-[Choose Clean Water Coalition](#) Policy Specialist was elected

PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board

- EPCAMR was informed that Marianna Fletcher was no longer with the PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice; Attended the EJAB Meeting

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

- EPCAMR was requested to sit on a TIC State-wide Advisory Committee by the PA Fish & Boat Commission because we've been involved in the program for over 15 years; EPCAMR Executive Director accepted the request and it only involves a few virtual meetings online; Provided Sigrid Sharif-Communications Director with the PA Fish & Boat Commission with a link to our Streamside Environmental Education [Hub](#) as a resource for teachers; Judi Sittler-PATU & SCCTU Youth Education Chair was excited to share our resources and videos of our trout puppets and AMD videos with the National TU Youth Group Staff

Choose Clean Water Coalition Steering Committee (CCWC SC)

- [CCWC](#) will be renaming the TMDL Work Group to the Water Quality Work Group to better reflect the range of topics discussed by the group; AMD should be listed in the Work Plan and Deb Nardone was going to advocate for that inclusion since she is already on that particular Work Group; Checked in with Sara Ramotnik on the 2026 PA Clean Water Legislative Briefing Book; Conference call with Kristen Reilly-Executive Director to catch up on 2026 priorities of the Steering Committee members

Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 AMD and Art Education Program with the Armature

- **Engaging School Communities in Environmental Stewardship through the Visual Arts**™-PA DEP EE Grant Awarded to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 to provide professional development to teachers (grades 5-8) on the PA Environmental Literacy & Sustainability and the Arts & Humanities Academic Standards, in partnership with the PA Council on the Arts, PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks-Nescopeck State Park, and EPCAMR; Convened a partnership call on November 14 and filled out scheduling sheets for when the teachers and artists will be visiting the partners; Reserved the EC/EPCAMR Conference Room for December 17 to meet with the teachers and artists at EPCAMR

Luzerne Conservation District Fostering Inclusive Connections to Our Watershed Environmental Education Grant

- EPCAMR wrote a letter of support and offered to provide some program outreach work for the project that will work with the PA Inclusive organization in Pittston to learn about watersheds, waterways, AMD, and native wildlife and plants; EPCAMR offered to conduct an AMD Art Project with the youth; EPCAMR reviewed Lauren Holder's application and made some constructive comments for her to add to the grant narrative and budget ; Leah Malarkey-Education Coordinator for the North Branch Land Trust will provide input on the STEELS standards that have to be met; NBLT has an EnviroScape model that will be used for an activity and can be considered as an in-kind match
- Ashley Ray is an AmeriCorps VISTA who is serving at Gateway National Recreation Area in NY and is interested in visiting with EPCAMR over the Winter; Followed up after having a Zoom call with them and tried to schedule a time to visit when they come to PA to visit family in the Philadelphia area; Had to reschedule in mid-November due to inclement weather and will reschedule a visit in the Spring of 2026; Provided her with links to a few videos that they was interested in watching;
 - [Scorched](#) by John Welsh
 - [Centralia: PA's Lost Town](#) by Joe Sapienza II

- EPCAMR Executive Director was interviewed by [Dr. Jessica M. Nolan, PhD.](#), from the University of Scranton, who was gathering stories for a research project to better understand how and why individuals choose to stand up to protect the environment in their everyday interpersonal interactions; As someone who cares about the environment deeply, she wanted to interview the Executive Director and asked about some stories that could be shared about standing up to protect the environment in interpersonal interactions
- Informed Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, PhD. -Earth Conservancy, that EPCAMR would be delighted to support WVIA, who are applying for a PA DEP Environmental Education grant to do a series of 5-minute mini-documentaries about Earth Conservancy/cleaning up abandoned mine lands; They will be developing curriculum around the programs and would like to interview the Executive Director
- Sarah Kipp, Exhibition Coordinator for the HUB Robeson Art Galleries-Penn-State introduced EPCAMR to [Tom Lauerman](#)-School of Visual Arts Professor at Penn-State to see if there might be an interest in the Spring 2026 to utilize EPCAMR's iron oxide into a ceramics/clay project with students; [Skip Sensback](#) from Green Dog Pottery and [Mark Chuck](#) from Mark Chuck Ceramics are just two artists locally that have done some amazing artwork with our pigments as a part of the glaze formulas;
 - Here's a great article on our collective work many years ago. [Reclaimed Iron Oxide Ceramic Artists Use the Byproduct of an Environmental CleanUp](#)
 - Mark has been commissioned a few times to create our annual [Mayfly Award](#) for our PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in 2019
 - [AMD Environmental Education Pottery Art Program Tours Scheduled for Greater Nanticoke Area 4th & 5th Grade](#)
 - [Frank Knorek Nanticoke Native Fills the Volunteer Position of Community Development Coordinator Working on a Ceramics Pottery Program Utilizing EPCAMR's Iron Oxides for Glazes and Art](#)
- Dave Hess-PA Environmental Digest editor forwarded EPCAMR a copy of a an article that appeared in National Geographic: [Climate Change Causing Iron, Heavy Metals To Leach Out Of Permafrost Turning Alaska's Rivers Orange](#) [Similar Pollutants To PA Acid Mine Drainage] <https://tinyurl.com/yjeuawef> [[PDF of Article](#)]
- Provided Natahanee Miller-PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division, with contact information for the AMD Target Working Group so they can see if they can become a part of the Workgroup; Offered to host an AMD Tour in the Spring 2026 to the Program
- Dan Horning, Legislative Director for Congressman Rob Bresnahan informed his contacts that he would be moving from the House side to work with Senator Dave McCormick's Office as an Energy Policy Advisor
- Help was requested from Linda Scott-volunteer with The Angels of Washburn Street Cemetery, where dozens of miners and their families are buried from the Avondale Mine Disaster had received a quote for 4 trees that needed to be removed around the miner's graves and EPCAMR offered to push out their Zeffy Fundraiser to help with covering the \$2100 in expenses through our social media channels; Donations could be made through the [link](#)

- Pushed out some social media for the PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice Coordinators in the NE (Maria Ocasio) and NC (Jordan Comas) Regions who are holding a virtual Office Hour on November 20; The OEJ strives to work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to conserve and restore our natural resources and to address all current and future environmental challenges, including climate change and environmental justice; The Office Hour is an opportunity to review the role of the Office of Environmental Justice, and to explain who they are, their role in the community, and how they can connect deeper with community groups; We were joined by [Mindy Musser, the Director of Environmental Education](#) and [Timothy Golding, Director of DEP Grants Center](#); Mindy reviewed the Environmental Education Grant to provide oversight into the requirements and process while Timothy walked through the DEP grant portal and highlight some opportunities currently available; This was with an eye towards 2026 and getting going early on the work needed to get ready to apply for Environmental Education grants or others
- EPCAMR Executive Director received a positive response from Senator John Fetterman in support of the AmeriCorps Program; In 1995, he became an AmeriCorps volunteer and spent two years in Pittsburgh's Hill District, setting up computer labs and helping young parents earn their GEDs; This experience fundamentally transformed his life and career, and he can't recommend it enough to anyone out there looking to make their community, and the world a better place; AmeriCorps budget was on the budget chopping block by the current Administration
- Attended the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU meeting in Forty-Fort to give an update on the Shickshinny Creek and Bowman's Creek CHP Projects as well as to hear one of our EPCAMR Board Members, Eric Naguski, from Dauphin County Conservation District, who is also a trout fisherman and guide give an excellent presentation on fly-fishing and the types of flies and lures he utilizes when fishing
- Forwarded a [bio](#) for the new OSMRE Director, Lanny E. Erdos, who brings nearly 35 years of public service and private-sector experience to the role to the PA AML Campaign; With a full circle understanding of the coal industry and strong relationships with states, tribes, and industry partners, Lanny is focused on balancing energy production with safety, while strengthening collaboration across the mining community
- Mike N.- Economic Development Director for Luzerne County Community College visited EPCAMR to learn more about our work and future partnerships
- Participated in a Zoom meeting with members of the Environmental Finance Center in Maryland to discuss PA community watershed organization capacity building needs
- Participated in the Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting on Teams

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

27th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2025

- Scheduled our PA AMR Conference Committee Debrief Meeting for December 4; Held the meeting to review what went right and what could be improved; Overall, however, we were very satisfied with Toftrees and their Staff and Accommodations; Reviewed attendee comments and evaluation sheets and scores; Received the invoice and paid EPCAMR's portion of the bill; WPCAMR paid the remaining balance

28th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2026

- Ed Wytovich suggested that if we were to consider the Reading Area for the venue that we consider looking into a train ride as a part of our tour; Reading and Northern has a passenger train station

Junior Achievement (JA) Inspire 2026 Event

- EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy confirmed our return exhibit spots for the 2026 JA Event at Mohegan Sun on April 15 & 16, 2026; JA Inspire Career Exploration Experience last year exposed over **2,000** high school students from 27 school districts to the vast array of possibilities for their future including career opportunities in Northeastern Pennsylvania, including environmental jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities with EPCAMR

PCPG/AIPG Wyoming Valley Watershed AMD/Geology Tour

- Hosted the [Anthracite Region Wyoming Valley Watershed AMD/Geology Tour](#); EPCAMR Executive Director led the tour with 22 attendees and PCPG covered the lunch costs on November 1 and everyone learned about the history of the Anthracite Region, the geology, the stream morphology and underground mine pool mapping efforts of EPCAMR with the State's Mine Subsidence Insurance Program; EPCAMR talked about Earth Conservancy's efforts to restore the headwaters of the Nanticoke Creek through mine drainage abatement and stream channel restoration; [Program](#) is available on the PCPG website; Received a donation from PCPG and a Certificate of Participation for both hosting the tour and participating in it actively along with the other attendees for professional development

29TH Watershed Congress Along the Schuylkill River

- Chari Towne-Schuylkill RiverKeeper requested that EPCAMR consider making a presentation this year at the [Congress](#) at Alvernia University on March 28 on some interesting work as of late in the Upper Schuylkill Headwaters with our partners and we can provide an overview of our mine mapping, 3D mine modeling of mine pools, and AMD work in the headwaters and solar/geothermal work in the Morea/New Boston area near the Mill Creek headwaters; Submitted an abstract for consideration for the March Congress

Lackawanna College Freshwater Institute Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Tour

- Coordinated a tour with Don Hibbard-Adjunct Professors for his Freshwater Ecosystems Class from Lackawanna College on November 14 to areas impacted by AMD/AML and a stream channel restoration project in the Nanticoke Creek; Following the tour, Don reached out to EPCAMR and gave us a huge thank you for the Executive Director's time and kindness; The students really enjoyed the tour and finding out about the work EPCAMR is doing and we gained a few volunteers
- Requested that Frank Sindaco sit in on an online webinar presentation at the [Bucknell River Symposium](#) on The Hidden Costs of Data Centers
- Discussed with Leah Malarkey, Environmental Education Coordinator for the North Branch Land Trust about scheduling a Spring or Summer AMD Tie-Dye Workshop and Environmental Education Program on AMD/AML somewhere in the Wyoming Valley

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for November 2025 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent monthly; 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 Statement monthly for both October and November; Completed bi-weekly payroll submissions through ADP for OneSource
- Continued working with OneSource to determine the proper match amount that should have been taken out of payroll for the Executive Director's IRA contribution since upon closer review it was underpaid by OneSource for quite some time
- EPCAMR received a warm Thank You from the Foundation for PA Watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network Executive Director Megan Milliken for providing such a great AMD Tour in Clearfield County with the Centre County Conservation District and the Moshannon Creek Watershed Association
- Sam Czerwonka, Planner-Sand Springs, received EPCAMR's signed contract and \$250 deposit on November 3 and followed up with the Executive Director and Cristy Sweeney-EPCAMR Development Committee Chair for the venue for September 19, 2026 for our 30th Anniversary Banquet
- Convened an EPCAMR Development Committee meeting on November 12 since Cristy would not be able to make it; EPCAMR Executive Director sent out the Zoom link; Forwarded the EPCAMR Staff Rate sheets to the EPCAMR President and Vice-President/Treasurer for their review; Continued to seek comparable rate sheets from consultant firms and some non-profit sector data; Reached out to the members of the Personnel Committee to inform them that the Development Committee will be making some recommendations to the full EPCAMR Board to have the Personnel Committee consider; Mark Jones followed up with Paul Oswald, COO from The Luzerne Foundation, who agreed to make a presentation to the Development Committee on "Setting Up an Endowment 101" on December 3
- Kayla Osborne, our anticipated Community Engagement & Marketing Specialist for AmeriCorps VISTA had informed EPCAMR that she couldn't accept the position since AmeriCorps didn't have a specified start date and it had been delayed for several months; She had taken another position that was more local to her home in a related field, but will continue as a volunteer as needed; EPCAMR informed VISTA that we would need to continue to recruit and review additional resumes
- EPCAMR received word that our Robert H. Spitz Foundation grant and Bonterra Jumpstart Grant were not awarded this grant round and were encouraged to resubmit in the next round of funding
- Renewed our Avangate Bitdefender Virus Protection software; Forwarded an updated about Automated Updates now being available for PayPal Plugin to Mike to see if we've toggled that on in our WordPress website; Renewed our Zoom license for meetings and communications
- Maria Gereda-EPCAMR OSMRE VISTA let EPCAMR know that she had to fly down to Texas to make her final capstone presentation for her GIS Certificate Course from December 9-11

- Held an Education Committee meeting with Dr. Andrea Nerozzi and Mark Jones at the EPCAMR Office to brainstorm ideas for 2026 based on our current capacity to consider environmental education projects achievable by high school students and issues related to the Education Committee
- Made a request to Tali MacArthur-POWR about our Certificate of Liability Insurance and coverage for various activities that have been recently denied by the Insurance Agency covering our policy and theirs since we are a member of POWR and there were certain benefits with that membership including certain coverages that applied; In the meantime, EPCAMR is looking for additional quotes before our renewal policy in April 2026, however, we want to have our policy in place that covers events like cleanups and water monitoring before we announce our Keep PA Beautiful Affiliation in the Spring of 2026 we are applying for
- A Notice of Upcoming Service Rate Adjustment Effective January 1, 2026 was sent to EPCAMR from Ignite Business Services from Marianne Beane that will increase our monthly fee by \$60/month
- Forwarded study files on QGIS to Maria Gereda and Dennis Dukinas-EPCAMR AmeriCorps VISTAs
- Worked with Mark Jones-AmeriCorps, Cristy Sweeney-Development Committee Chair and EPCAMR VP/Treasurer, and Emily Baldauff- [Mountain Moving Strategies](#) to apply for an Executive in Residence Consultant grant application to the Scranton Area Community Foundation; We followed up and were informed that the Scranton Area Foundation ran out of funds in 2025 and encouraged us to apply in early 2026
- Completed Mark's Final Exit Evaluation for AmeriCorps VISTA, Conservation Legacy and Stewards Individual Placement Program and submitted it to Addie Gilkerson-Program Coordinator for Conservation Legacy; Completed Mark's Last Quarterly Report Review and Supervisor comments before submitting to Conservation Legacy; Participated in Mark's Final Coalfield Fellows Community Presentation virtually on Zoom; Addie thanked EPCAMR for speaking with Ashley Ray who was very excited to have the opportunity to speak to the Executive Director
- Sent around our Final Agenda for the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting; Prepared financial reports for the Board Meeting; Convened our 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting on November 20; Forwarded a copy of EPCAMR's agenda to Anne Daymut from WPCAMR; Provided the Board with Mark Jones' exit presentation that he provided to AmeriCorps VISTA, Stewards Individual Placement Program and Conservation Legacy; Shared a number of links during the meeting to the attendees;
 - [PA House Environmental Committee Examines Costs of Environmental Impacts of Burning Waste Coal in PA](#)
 - [Developer Looks to Build Housing on Culm Banks](#)
 - [Reforestation on Abandoned Mine Lands in PA Story Map](#)
 - [Stocking Hatchery Trout over Wild Trout is Always a Bad Idea](#)-John Arway
 - [Joint State Government Committee Identifies 382 Potential Sites For Geothermal Facilities Using Abandoned Mine Pools; Geothermal Energy Could Reduce A.I. Data Center Energy Demand By 30-40%](#)
 - [Expert warns of dangers of abandoned coal mines](#)
 - [Bay Agreement Draft criticized as weakening commitment](#)
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 - [OMB to Release Fiscal Year 2025 AmeriCorps Funds](#)
 - [Project to Fix Abandoned Schuylkill mines and stream advances](#)

- [Scranton Times: Powering NorthPoint 1,250 Acre HazelNut A.I. Data Center: What To Expect From NE PA's Largest Data Center Project In Luzerne County; Other Projects In Lackawanna, Schuylkill Counties](#)
- [SCRA Awarded \\$689K from DEP to study AMD](#)
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- [Commissioner: Developers can't use grant to turn Blakely land into dump](#)
[Luzerne Conservation District Summer 2025 Mosquito Newsletter](#)
- [EPCAMR Executive Director nominated and voted in unanimously as PATU NE Regional Vice President](#)