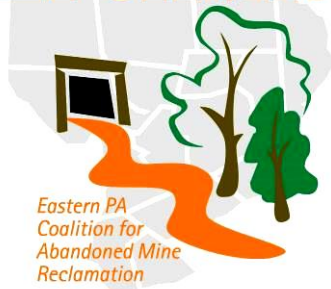


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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November 2014 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff hosted Choose Clean Water Coalition meeting/tour, and 3 AMD tours for Greater Nanticoke Area School District.
- Continued processing 203 TIFF, georeferenced 92 SID files and digitized features from 28 maps for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant in October. Dropped off and picked up maps at the **Wilkes-Barre BAMR Office**.
- EPCAMR staff conducted flow sampling at **Askam & Solomon Boreholes**
- Coordinated efforts to preserve the **Loomis** monitoring borehole and discovered that the **Sugar Notch** monitoring borehole was paved over.
- Edited 2 shapefiles and created maps for 2 EPCAMR partners
- Continued research of cost saving & better quality products for the office (ex. cellular internet and postage service)
- Updated www.epcamr.org, and administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education and Outreach:

- Created and distributed minutes from the last board meeting along with a reminder about the upcoming board meeting. Updated www.epcamr.org with the information for the upcoming meeting.
- Meeting with concerned citizen to show maps of mines under Forty Fort.
- Printed a set of brochures for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS). Since the construction of the park and tear down of the breaker, the brochures placed at the kiosk have been going pretty quickly. The HBPS has a stash of paper here at our office that we use to print them and Ray Clarke reimburses us for ink cost when we ask.
- Created EPCAMR Program Manager monthly report for the previous months, gathered other staff reports, posted them to www.epcamr.org and sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 319 Nonpoint source (NPS) program staff for reimbursement.
- Participated in a Choose Clean Water Coalition meeting that EPCAMR hosted here at our office. Took participants on a tour of the Solomons and Askam Boreholes. Took gauge readings at both sites for later comparison of flows.
- Sent out a second reminder for the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting and asked members to RSVP if they were coming so we could ascertain if there will be a quorum to do business. Our president will be absent and our vice president may be as well. Notified our treasurer that she should be prepared to run the meeting.
- Attended GIS Day at King College from 3-5PM in the lobby of the McGowan Building. Approximately a dozen students were there to talk about their maps and representatives from Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) and Northeastern PA Alliance (NEPA Alliance)

to see the students work and talk about their own maps. The NEPA Alliance staff tweeted selfies of the event to gain acknowledgement from ESRI.

- EPCAMR Staff prepared for and hosted the EPCAMR 2014 4th Quarter Board Meeting. The meeting was held during the day as requested by board members to conduct business and not have staff work 12 hour days for the board meeting day.
- EPCAMR staff hosted 3 tours to the Newport Lake, Honey Pot, Askam Boreholes and Solomons Boreholes discharges and wrapped up with a demonstration on how we process Iron Oxide Pigment for 4th & 5th Grades at Nanticoke School District. The tours are a part of the DEP Environmental Education Grant to eventually make pottery with the kids and incorporate our iron oxide pigment into the glaze.
- Looked into switching our Endicia.com printable postage account to Stamps.com to possible save money. Currently we have a Dymo TwinTurbo Printer that prints stamps and labels. The postage stamp blanks cost \$20.95 for 200 on a roll and then we pay for postage at face value. So, we pay an extra 10 cents each for the convenience of not having to travel to the post office (which the closest is now in Wilkes-Barre, since the one in Ashley closed). With Stamps.com, the rolls of stamp blanks for the printer at \$15.00 for a roll of 200 and there is a discount on postage of a few cents, but there is a \$16.00 a month service fee. They do not tell you this on mailings or over the phone. You are notified on your first bill. Fortunately, a customer service representative was honest with me before I called and asked “there are no other fees?”. This is false advertising.
- A local artist, Diane Czakowki, created holiday cards for EPCAMR to sell for donations on our online store. Worked with Watershed Outreach Specialists to photograph the cards and post them on www.epcamr.org/store.
- Followed up with correspondence on the PyriteBad list serve related to AMR Conference planning and review of the Thursday activities.

Technical Assistance:

- Digitized new mine pool boundaries with ArcGIS in the Pittston Area based on the Wyoming Valley Mine Pool Model [SRBC].
- Sampled Espy Run Treatment System for flow and chemistry at several points before the discharge gets to the system, within the system and as treated water flows out of the system. This is the final sampling for this round. While at the site we cleared a debris dam which was causing a short circuit of the water. A small amount of maintenance will be required to keep the system moving smoothly, but it can wait till spring (ex. renewal of sand bag) [EC].
- Sent out our Swoffer Flow Meter for repairs and refurbishment. Something happened to the internal wiring that was not allowing it to communicate with the propeller. Also, it had been used so much that the number pad was worn and cracked, letting in water and disabling buttons until it is dried out again. The unit was sent to Washington State to have Bob Swoffer himself owner and operator of Swoffer Instruments, Inc., repair the unit. Repairs were quick and inexpensive (~\$60).
- Looked for blueprints of the Huber Breaker in an attempt to find the dimensions of the Powder House. We could not find the actual blueprints of the breaker, however, several other breaker blueprints were in our safe. We were able to look, with Ray Clarke, at mine maps and photos to find approximate dimensions.
- Georeferenced several maps that were difficult to find the location for the MSI Mine Map Processing Program. Reviewed and supervised MSI Program other staff work [MSI].
- Followed up with questions regarding extra scans on the drive, which were multiple scenes of one map (i.e. A&B files) which needed to be combined into one mine map image. Also, since the Inventory Control numbers were worked into Pennsylvania Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory System (PHUMMIS), the California District Mining Office (DMO) staff have been verifying our work using a query of the numbers in the month (i.e. there were 300+ scanned files in PHUMMIS and should only be 2620. The numbers were not matching up with our numbers

submitted on the invoice and discovered a minor data entry procedure that needed to be modified.

- Continued to fight to keep the internet up throughout the month. Tried several settings on the Novatel USB551L cellular modem, the Proxicast Pocket Port 2 and our Netgear Router with minimal success. Several times during the day the internet would go down and we would have to switch back over to Verizon DSL. The switch was confusing and labor intensive at first, but became routine as it would happen several times a week. A majority of the internet outages were fixed by resetting either the modem, Pocket Port or the router. Patterns were beginning to develop and we were able to report those to technical support. We requested a newer Pantech UML295 modem, which Proxicast support almost guaranteed would be the fix, but Verizon Wireless support was having difficulty finding a replacement. EPCAMR staff grew weary of the spotty internet service in the meantime.
- Downloaded and installed ArcHydro for ArcGIS 10.2. The program was difficult to find and turned out to be only a set of tools that integrates into the ArcMap and ArcCatalog interfaces [SRBC].
- Spoke with Dean from PA Tectonics about converting the Loomis Mine Pool Monitoring Borehole from a double steel plate over to a one foot round cover. The current setup is deteriorating quickly and creating a large pothole on the heavily traveled Sans Soucci Highway. PennDOT has tried to cold patch the pothole, but something more permanent has to happen. Dean mentioned that they had a few man ways with covers that they would donate to the cause to keep costs down. Waiting on PA Tectonics to put together an estimate of the work so we can submit that to PennDOT and get an official acknowledgement.
- Traveled to the Loomis Borehole to get measurements of the dimensions estimate the concrete needed. Also stopped by the Sugar Notch Borehole, which only a few months ago was marked up with "PA One Call" type marking paint. At that time to be proactive, I called the county roads department who assured me that the road was not being widened. The new road surface was installed and to our dismay, the borehole was covered. Disgusting....
- Responded to a call from PA DEP California DMO regarding improper formatting of Georeferenced Files for the MSI Program. The supplementary files going along with our georeferenced SID images were SDW instead of SDWX format and therefore were missing the control points. We determined that somehow a box was checked in hidden settings to use "the world file" instead of the proprietary ArcGIS format. Unfortunately EPCAMR staff had to backtrack and fix the issue which began in September. Fortunately, not all the work had to be redone, the control points had to be manually added back [MSI].
- Traveled to the PA DEP Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Office to drop off and pickup maps to be scanned. Submitted Invoice 11 to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) [MSI].
- Trained EPCAMR GIS Technician, Samantha Schaffer, on georeferencing techniques. She georeferenced a set of maps showing the "buried valley", a sedimentary layer (i.e. rock, sands and clays) deposited on top of the bedrock in the Wyoming Valley. The information will be helpful in determining mine pool water flow once digitized as recommended by Mike Dunn.

[] - Denotes funding source where applicable.