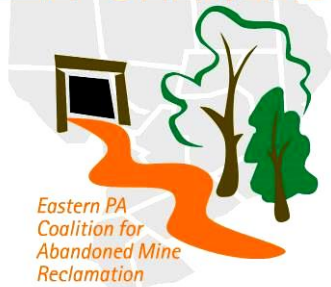


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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## October 2014 Progress Report

### Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call, the Annual **PEC NE Office** Dinner, the **Anthracite SME** meeting/tour, a **Western Pocono** TU Meeting, a mixer to honor Rep. Mundy, a meeting with SRBC staff & coordinated a cleanup around **Centralia**.
- Continued processing 211 TIFF, georeferenced 191 SID files and digitized features from 66 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**
- Edited 4 shapefiles, provided several GB of 2D & 3D modeled data and created one map for EPCAMR partners: **SRBC & PASDA**.
- Tested a new cost saving & higher speed cellular internet connection for the EPCAMR office.
- Updated [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org), and administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

### Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff met with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) staff to talk about the final report for the Northern and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields Mine Pool Mapping Report and to transfer supporting data for hydrologists to manipulate in ArchHydro [SRBC].
- Discussion on a possible hydro power project on the Morea Discharge on land owned by Dizenzo Coal Company.
- EPCAMR staff attended a mixer to wish Representative Phyllis Mundy a happy retirement from politics. Representative Mundy served 12 terms as state representative for the 120th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and was a great environmental leader. She aided EPCAMR in gaining at least 2 growing greener grants: Hick Creek Natural Stream Channel Design project and Mine Pool Mapping Program for the Western Middle and Southern Coal Fields.
- Took a long needed vacation to Mexico. Adios!
- Setup a projector and ran a PowerPoint presentation for Mike Dziak, Earth Conservancy, as he presented to the Anthracite Society of Mining Engineers (SME) Meeting. Attended the tour and took advantage of the site visits to sample flow at Askam and Solomon Boreholes discharges.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference Call to begin planning for the 2015 AMR Conference. Finalized the contract with the Ramada Golf Hotel and Conference Center in State College to set the date for the conference to June 25-26, 2015. Followed up with correspondence on the PyriteBad list serve related to gaining more watershed members to attend the upcoming conference and the status of the watershed movement in general.

- EPCAMR staff attended and presented at a meeting hosted by the Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited at the Penn State University (PSU) Hazleton Campus. Served as “techie” running the audio and visual equipment (i.e. VHS, overhead projector and PowerPoint presentations) after the representatives from PSU had left.
- Participated in a call from Leslie Bonner, Bonner Spahr Consulting, to participate in a stakeholder survey associated with the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW) strategic plan.
- EPCAMR staff coordinated a cleanup of 2 areas around the town of Centralia. Approximately 50 volunteers participated and we were able to fill 2 dumpsters and collect and recycle approximately 175 tires. The Aristes Fire Company volunteered to wash the tires, the Centralia borough building was opened up for our use and the dumpsters were obtained at highly discounted rates. \$600 was raised through [www.IndeGoGo.com](http://www.IndeGoGo.com) and \$500 from ARIPPA AMD/AMR Award Grants to feed volunteers and aide in the cleanup in general. Supplies from Penn DOT and the Great Pa Cleanup were also utilized along with an inventory of tools and surplus supplies that EPCAMR had been stockpiling. Afterward, Blaschak Coal Company also donated \$500 to continue the effort in the spring.
- Organized, inventoried and put away cleanup supplies in the storage area to aide in preparing for the next cleanup.
- EPCAMR staff attended the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Office Annual Dinner to network and congratulate our own EPCAMR President, Bernie McGurl, on obtaining the prestigious the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Received Novatel USB551L cellular modem and CradlePoint MBR95 router from Verizon Wireless to replace our current internet and network setup. I was unaware that the modem was only USB and would not work with our current Netgear router. I was also unaware that the Cradle Point router was not a gigabit router. Using this router would slow intranet transfer speeds from network computers to our server. Began to research a way to convert the USB port into an ethernet port and came up with a Proxicast Pocket Port 2. The device creates a network outside of the network to bridge the connection. Ordered this product for ~\$150 and sent back the Cradle Point router (to recoup ~\$150 from Verizon Wireless).
- Met with SRBC staff to install a stream gauge at the Duryea discharge.
- Aided EPCAMR staff with the Mine Map Processing Initiative. Dropped off 1 and picked up 4 maps at the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Wilkes-Barre Office. Submitted Invoice 11 to the PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) [MSI].
- Followed up with SRBC Hydrologist to answer questions about the 3D and 2D Mine Pool Mapping data that was given to them.
- Began a trial of switching over to Verizon Wireless internet using the Pocket Port 2. Attempted to allow the Pocket Port 2 to automatically configure the connection. Ended up calling Proxicast Technical Support to aide in the setup. Over several days different settings were tried over lunch and after most staff had left for the day. Involved technical support from Verizon Wireless as well. After several weeks, a semi-operational highly modified (LAN and 4G mode) cellular connection was established. This connection was quicker than the previous internet service, but would go down several times a day and required the DSL as an emergency backup. Learned tricks to keep the internet up or quickly recover from a disconnection. Ascertained that switching to a newer Pantech UML295 modem would work more seamlessly with the Pocket Port 2. Requested the upgrade from our Government Account Representative.
- Cleaned up old EPCAMR Executive Director laptop to serve as a backup to take to conferences for presentations. Also used this laptop to test the cellular modem when not connected to the Netgear router.
- Georeferenced several difficult maps for the MSI Program and exported digitized work recorded in the ArcSDE Geodatabase to a personal Geodatabase. Added this snapshot of digitized work

to the external drive to send with scanned files and Invoice 12 to the PA DEP California DMO [MSI].

- Began experiencing access issues with the PA Historic Underground Mine Mapping Inventory System (PHUMMIS) database as one of our certificates had expired and the second is about to expire (as they only last one year). Worked with Technical Support from PA DEP California DMO to update our certificates [MSI].
- After monitoring the cellular internet connection and sending log files, Proxycast technical support suggested locking the modem in GSM mode which put the connection in PPP mode dramatically slowing down the perceived internet speed (almost back to DSL speeds). Requested a static IP from Verizon Wireless. The internet was more reliable and would only go down a few times a day (as opposed to several times a day).
- Edited the EPCAMR Geobasins shapefile to merge in old mine workings from the Southern field. After all, both files are similar and the best representation of underground mining extents in the four coal fields.
- Fixed an old projection issue in the PA DEP Smallsheds shapefile with enhanced attributes by EPCAMR. The projection was initially in Albers and North American datum (NAD) 1927, but had to be modified to NAD 1983 in order to properly be projected into Universal Traverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 18 North and line up with other shapefile data in maps. Provided PSU with the updated shapefile for them to post on online at [www.pasda.psu.edu](http://www.pasda.psu.edu).
- Updated Ash Mine Pool and EPCAMR Current Mine Pool extents with the new projection which had always been slightly askew from other data in maps.
- Had been looking for inexpensive sources for deionized water to replace in our HACH AMD Field Test Kits (specifically for tests that require a dilution factor) and found that distilled water can be used in substitute for dilution style testing. Deionized water runs \$15-25 a gallon where distilled water was \$1 at CVS.

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.