

## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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## October 2024 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

### Project Coordination

#### **Swoyersville Harry E. AML Reclamation and Community Athletic Area AMLER Project**

- Downloaded some photos from the tour of the reclamation progress being made on the site that was provided to Global TV when they were in the Wyoming Valley for the tour of AMD and AML Sites that EPCAMR is working on in the region; EPCAMR met with partners on-site on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; EPCAMR prepared a letter requesting an extension of the project to PA DEP BAMR, reasons for the extension, and the status on the completion of the project; Received the approved letter of extension from PA DEP BAMR following a signature letter that needed to be sent back to them; **7.5** acres of the reclaimed land has been transferred and deeded over to Swoyersville Borough from Pagnotti Enterprises and was recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office at the County on October 15<sup>th</sup> ; Forwarded the copy of the deed to PA DEP BAMR; Provided updated information to *Chris Kohler* at Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management to send reports to EPCAMR due to an incorrect mailing address in their system

#### **Hollywood AMD Treatment Plant Modifications for Modular Rare Earth Elements Plant and Tyler Bank Reclamation AMLER Project (*proposed*)**

- EPCAMR has decided to not focus on this project any longer through the AMD/AML or BIL funding routes because of the myriad of reasons that it doesn't qualify and it's consideration as more of a research project and one that would need a Title V Surface Mine Permit, which EPCAMR would not be eligible for and would not take on the liability of an NPDES Permit; There may be other funding alternatives through the US Department of Energy (DOE), however, EPCAMR is not in a position to apply for funding through the DOE at this time with our limited capacity; We just decided that we would inform the EPCAMR Board and have future discussions in the New Year at the first quarter meeting should there be a need for further discussion; Tom Gray- Tetra Tech had a meeting with PA DEP BAMR's Joe Sassman, who provided him with a detailed rundown on why the project wasn't funded that reiterated what was in the denial letter that EPCAMR had recently received

#### **BeaverBrook East AML Reclamation Project**

- EPCAMR President and Treasurer received e-signature documents from the PA DEP Grants Center for their signatures to accept the grant agreement to continue with the execution of the fully completed document processing

#### **NFWF Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watersheds Grant Assessment Plan**

- Worked with *Tess Dunkel*- NFWF and finalized our last request for reimbursement to close out the project and made a final revision and submitted it through the EasyGrants website

## **Shickshinny Creek/Paddy/Rocky Run Assessment-PA American Water Charitable Foundation**

- Reached out to [Avenza System Inc.](#) Tech Support to walk through some setting changes in the application to allow for better GPS coverage while taking photos in the field; Sampled several mine openings with *Mike* and *Morgan* along Dogtown Road on SGL 260 outside of Shickshinny

## **US DOE Capacity Building for Repurposing Energy Assets at the Frackville Morea AML Complex for Floating Solar and Geothermal Potential**

- EPCAMR signed up for the [Environmental Justice Technical Assistance](#) being funded by the US EPA Region 3, where the support is being provided by National Wildlife Federation (NWF) through the Philadelphia Center in PA and two partners in that area; Requested any additional information on the former Frackville-Wheelabrator Co-Gen Plant while it was in operation until its eventual decommission from *Mark Minarchick*, former Plant Operations Manager, now with [Win Waste Innovations](#); *Mark* provided EPCAMR with a great deal of background information on the Co-Gen Plant, a brochure, and some photos of the former plant and before and after reclamation photos; Provided *Frank Sindaco*-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist and *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps Watershed Outreach Specialist the updated Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) through the middle of September and information that *Mark* had provided for their review; Directed them to pull any GIS data sources that we can find for the project area, in terms of environmental data, transportation data, utilities, geology, soils, RAMLIS, demographics from the Community Portal data (County, Municipal (if possible), especially for Frackville and Morea and New Boston) and data that might be available from the [www.energycommunities.gov](http://www.energycommunities.gov) IMS site that we can export and create our own data files from it; Updated our WBS through October 18th and submitted to US DOE on the OneDrive shared file folder system; *Deb Ponzer*- Grow Rural PA, sent EPCAMR a copy of the *Hydrogen Production from Solar Power on Reclaimed Mine Land Report* authored mainly by *Pete Rozelle*; She suggested reaching out for assistance if needed and giving *Pete* a call; EPCAMR Executive Director provided her with a link to the [PA Solar on Mine Lands Summit](#) and our [Assessment Report](#) completed in July of 2023; *Fabiola Gomez*, -Sr. Environmental Justice Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation reached out to EPCAMR to inform us that they will be responding shortly with some resources and technical assistance from the US EPA Region 3 Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC); Participated in a Zoom Prep call with *Anne Reiner* to discuss the short video production for the project and planned tour to the Gilberton Power Co. Co-Gen Plant, the surrounding towns, and reclaimed AML Frackville-Wheelabrator site; Participated in a Teams Cohort 2 call with US DOE to provide an update on the project

## **EPCAMR/WPCAMR/SRI Survey of Community Watershed Organizations on AMD/AML**

- *Cliff Denholm*, SRI copied everyone on the Final CWO Report and Appendices that will be submitted to POWR/PEC; *Cliff* and the EPCAMR Executive Director will be making a Summary Presentation on the completed work at the PA AMR Conference, and it is up to POWR/PEC to decide on the release the Final CWO Report; Worked on our co-presentation, added word clouds provided by *Frank Sindaco*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, and completed it for the Conference after providing a draft of it to POWR/PEC for some last minute comments before finalizing it; Presented the presentation at the PA AMR Conference; Submitted the final invoice to SRI before *Cliff* had to submit the final request to POWR

## **Sugar Notch Run Trail AML Tire and Watershed Cleanup**

- EPCAMR Completed the Activity Information form as a long-standing conservation partner, to access the PA DCNR portion of the Pinchot State Forest for the tire and streamside cleanup of Sugar Notch Run and submitted it through the online portal after receiving a link from *Megan Finnen*- Recreation Forester with the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, for the November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-2PM event organized by EPCAMR, WVSA, Luzerne Conservation District, Keep PA Beautiful NE PA, and PEC NE Office; *Megan* created a map of landowners to include with the submission of the Activity Information form; Worked with *Ann Keating*- WVSA and *Rachel Stark*- PEC to come up with a poster/flyer announcing the cleanup to be posted on social media pages to recruit volunteers; Posted the flyer and made the Luzerne Conservation District, PEC, and Keep PA Beautiful NE PA co-hosts of the event on social media to increase our outreach for volunteers ([Facebook.com/EPCAMR/Events](https://www.facebook.com/EPCAMR/Events)); Invited the Nanticoke Conservation Club to participate in the cleanup and to help spread the word to their members since they have helped on many earlier tire cleanups and streamside cleanups over the years in the Southern Wyoming Valley; Filled out and submitted the Certificate of Liability Insurance request form to *Angela Vitkoski*, and added WVSA and PA DCNR as additionally insured; *Angela* provided EPCAMR with the copies of the COLs for the event and they were forwarded to WVSA and PA DCNR; Sent WVSA EPCAMR's sign-in form and photo waiver and the PA DCNR Conservation Volunteer sign-in registration form; PA DCNR had informed EPCAMR that the [Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club](#) is looking for additional volunteers to maintain the trails on the Pinchot State Forest tracts and EPCAMR will encourage volunteers at the cleanup to consider joining them on future trail cleanups of the Pinchot Trail; Tire Cleanup in Hanover Tract- LOA-2024-11-248 from PA DCNR was completed, signed, and approved; EPCAMR Staff and *Keith George*, Luzerne Conservation District, spent several hours over the course of a few weeks through October to move all tires off the steep hillside and areas adjacent to the Sugar Notch Run waterfall down to the upper Sugar Notch Run ridgetop trail for easier removal by volunteers on the actual cleanup day

## **Technical Assistance**

- Provided *Jacob Smith*, ARM Group with our HACH Testing kit model for Acidity; 5 to 400 mg/l Model AC-0 Cat. No. 2223-01 Lot A3025; It's a titration kit basically; Easy to use and you just have to know whether or not you need to use the high range or low range method based on what you the historic acidity levels are so that you are not going through so much sodium hydroxide solution
- Completed a Suitability Solar evaluation on AML for the Browns Run 328-acre site for Kleinfelder and scheduled a follow up meeting with them to discuss some future proposed work in the Shamokin Creek watershed
- EPCAMR had brochures printed at the request of the Pocono NE RC & DC to take to the PA AMR Conference to distribute as a part of their C-SAW Outreach Technical Assistance Program; Pocono NE RC & DC will reimburse EPCAMR for the costs of the printing
- *Mike Korb*, -Tetra Tech inquired if EPCAMR had any post-2003 borehole monitoring data in the Shamokin Creek watershed and we had informed him that there was no monitoring that had been funded that was performed by our organization

- Provided *Deb Nardone*, Executive Director for the Foundation for PA Watersheds some ideas on developing a State-wide Strategy for the future operation, maintenance, monitoring of AMD Treatment Systems, past and current, and the future funding of all of them, that are not under the direction and responsibility of the State
- Provided *James Pagnotti*, Pagnotti Enterprises, with a template for a liability waiver at his request
- Sent out our [Swoffer](#) flow meter computer box and motherboard for repairs to Swoffer to ensure that we have a fully calibrated and working flow meter for future field work and monitoring; There was some delay in getting it back, however, the repairs were completed in time for future work
- *Allison Burbach*, Environmental Communication Specialist - [Green Fin Studio](#) is working with the Chesapeake Bay Program to study four priority regions in the Chesapeake watershed, including Luzerne County to make recommendations on how they align community conservation benefits with local concerns; These concerns may or may not be directly related to the local environment; EPCAMR participated in a Stakeholder Zoom call with other regional partners to discuss community concerns, opinions, and needs related to conservation activities
- Provided *Bonnie McDevitt*- USGS with local nomenclature of AMD discharges in the Nanticoke, Warrior Creek, and Newport Creek Watersheds based on our historic knowledge and periodic sampling of the discharges over the years; Reviewed data provided by *Chuck Cravotta*- CGC
- *Juan Serrat*, State Programs Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Justice requested feedback by the PA DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) members for the PA DEP's Energy Programs Office, regarding the RISE PA Industrial Grant program which will be available to industrial entities to pursue pollution reduction measures at their facilities to combat climate change and improve air quality; The State is in the process of developing program guidance for the Community Benefit Bonus, which will provide an additional 10% of the total awarded funding to entities who provide a plan to partner with community organizations to provide benefits to residents in specified environmental justice communities; The State's contractors at Deloitte were interested in getting some community feedback to ensure the efficacy of the Community Benefit Bonus Program; An aspect of the program planning involves potentially developing a steering committee for a Community Benefits component, which is where our EJAB could provide some guidance; EPCAMR Executive Director and member of the EJAB reviewed the Community Benefits Bonus guidance and prepared a feedback and comment document that was returned to Juan Serrat for consideration
- *Tom Paris*, -Director of Eagle Stone, Sheppton, inquired about starting a non-profit animal shelter in Schuylkill County and wants to form a shelter and pet wash for adoption and walking trails on strip mining property; He wants to conserve land for animal lovers in his community; EPCAMR followed up with him and asked several questions to get further information and provided him with some other resources to follow up with depending on if he actually owned mining lands that are abandoned in Schuylkill County; Suggested he follow up with [PA DEP BAMR](#) and [Catawissa Creek Restoration Association](#) (CCRA)

- EPCAMR prepared a Letter of Support for the North Branch Land Trust's (NBLT) grant application to the Susquehanna River Greenway Partnership's Mini-grant Program to support a watershed signage project at the Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary located in Hanover Township, Luzerne County; Through the project, NBLT will work with conservation and community partners to create and install contextual watershed educational signage at Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary; The proposed informational graphic will detail wetland habitat and ecosystem processes and benefits that are occurring in front of the visitor; The 40-acre site is an important habitat for a variety of native species while providing public benefit in the form of water quality and stormwater management, AMD improvement, as well as natural walking paths. Due to the proximity to developed residential and industrial areas, this site deals with heavy pressure from litter and invasive plants; This site was previously impacted by abandoned mines in the Warrior Creek watershed and was a part of EPCAMR's NFWF Small Watershed Grant Southern Wyoming Valley Watershed Assessment

### **Luzerne Conservation District AML Grant on State Game Lands 260, Shickshinny (*proposed*)**

- Informed *Jeff Painter*-PGC and *John Levitsky*-Luzerne Conservation District, that EPCAMR had investigated and sampled the suspected seeps; We ended up spending more time in the other SGL 260 area and didn't get to the tunnels initially; We have looked at Paddy Run (which was dry) and were up at Rocky Run where we found that the two bridge crossings had already been assessed by an observer for NAACC; We also were over on Little Shickshinny Creek along the gated SGL trail up to the point of the end of the road where it met the stream and we sampled there for water quality, which was very good; We didn't do any macros at this time; The biological sampling will be a part of our proposed Coldwater Heritage Conservation Plan should it be funded; We were initially looking for culvert crossings on our first hike out and we were describing and inventorying things on the landscape that we found; Many of the features are already documented in the Problem Area e-AMLIS reports that Mike had provided to everyone; We are starting to populate a GIS map of our photos and photos that *TJ Matinas*- PA DEP BAMR had taken as well as photos EPCAMR had taken with *James Roberts*- PGC Land Manager; All EPCAMR photos are geotagged for population of the map we will have produced for our assessment work; We may have found additional features that aren't in the inventory so we are going to cross-reference them with what's in it and provide that information to PGC and PA DEP BAMR to update the inventory; LDG is trying to identify a few land owners to reach out to from the Luzerne County Tax Parcel database just to make them aware of the proposed project; Provided partners with additional narrative and photos of other AMD and AML features that we discovered on a few additional field investigations and requested whether or not we should help put together a budget estimate for additional sampling by a third party lab (Hawk Mountain) or estimate just field sampling

### **Education & Outreach**

- Participated in the weekly PA AML Campaign calls
- Delivered a box of iron oxide pigment that was ordered by *Mike Shimko*, STEM Teacher at the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, for an art and science project that he is working on with his students to make a Japanese art form out of clay and iron oxide which will produce smooth round clay balls of iron oxide called Dorodangos
- Forwarded photos of some of EPCAMR's work in the region to *Mellisa Goldberg*, - The Just Transition Fund and informed her that we couldn't attend the National Convening Forum this year



- TV Globo, and 3 reporters from Brazil, for 2 days who visited the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour that EPCAMR set them up with and met them at the Old Forge AMD Borehole on their way back down the Lackawanna Valley before taking them to our Swoyersville AML Reclamation Project and finally to the headwaters of Nanticoke Creek to see water loss into the mine workings before they head down to visit Centralia; EPCAMR demonstrated how we reuse the AMD for pigment and stains by creating an AMD Tie Dye shirt and staining a birdhouse for their piece; They got plenty of drone footage and a lot of information from EPCAMR that they will be airing in Brazil in Portuguese
- EPCAMR was chosen for [The Luzerne Foundation's 2024 WishBook](#) to be highlighted for our work in the region that will allow potential donors to contribute up to **\$1000** to support our organization
- EPCAMR had a color banner produced of our logo from Center City Print for our outreach and education when hosting meetings and events (36" x 36")
- Helped *Ariana Genna*, -SC Environmental Justice Regional Coordinator, get the word out about her office hours for community groups to be able to reach her; Posted her flyer on EPCAMR's social media since several of her counties are covered in the EPCAMR Region; The Office of EJ does not have a Facebook social media account available for them to conduct outreach on that platform; EPCAMR informed Ariana that the flyer was picked up by our former PA DEP Secretary, *Dave Hess*, - and placed in his PA Environmental Digest, where it reached thousands of readers across PA, who shared it as well through his online social media platforms; *Maria Ocasio*, NE Regional Coordinator was not able to attend the PA AMR Conference, however, the Executive Director offered to follow up with her post-conference on a Teams Call to introduce her to a number of partners in the NE Region and on EPCAMR Project updates
- Provided *Cliff Denholm*, -Stream Restoration Inc. some information on [WeConserve PA](#), since it was an organization that he was unfamiliar with as was the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition;
- Shared on our social media an excellent ArcGIS StoryMap of the Phillips AMD Discharge in Fayette County, completed by a group of University of Pittsburgh students for their Senior Capstone Project, entitled [The Story of Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#)
- *Stephanie Golden*, Marywood University provided EPCAMR with contact information for *Maria MacDonald*, -Executive Director for the [Center of the Living City](#), who has been involved with countless community projects in the Scranton area and *Jodi La Coe*, -Director of Marywood University's School of Architecture, who might want to foster a future collaboration with EPCAMR
- EPCAMR Executive Director was invited as a Guest Speaker to be interviewed about our decades of work in the region for a very popular [On the Stacks Podcast Interview](#) with *Bill Corcoran*

#### **LIU, NEPA Arts, and PA DCNR AMD & Art Environmental Education Grant (*proposed*)**

- Worked on finalizing the grant submission working document with the LIU and partners and budget needs and convened a follow-up Zoom meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> to review everyone's input

#### **Mine Mapping Outreach Video**

- *Joe Sapienza*, Centone Picture Productions, provided EPCAMR with two rough cut videos that we were not able to review in the month of October due to the PA AMR Conference Planning and Coordination; Responded back to him that we would get to review it in the late Fall 2024; Made a request for logos from partners

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

### **26<sup>th</sup> PA AMR Conference Planning for 2024**

- Participated in 2 PA AMR Conference Planning Committee calls; Conference registrations continue to come into EPCAMR; [Kleinfelder](#) and [Dutchland](#) became Gold Sponsors of the Conference; [CEC Inc.](#) became a Silver Sponsor; *Eric Rosengrant*- Moshannon Creek Watershed Association informed the PA AMR Conference Committee that Blues artist *Robert Cray* happened to be appearing at the State Theater on October 23<sup>rd</sup> during the conference and we promoted it on social media and an announcement was made in case attendees wanted to attend, however, we already had plenty of entertainment planned for the Conference at the facility with the annual cornhole tournament and the NEPADOC screening with popcorn; [OneAtlas](#), [CEC Inc.](#), and [Living Carbon](#) became Exhibitors; PA AMR Conference Committee Polo Shirt sizes were obtained and ordered; Reviewed *Anne's* PA AMR Conference Program brochure draft before it was finalized and sent to Center City Print for printing of **175** copies and **150** evaluation sheets on October 11<sup>th</sup> ;

The PA AMR Conference Planning Committee approved a travel scholarship for *Anna Branduzzi*, [GreenForestsWork](#), *Vanessa Whipkey*- Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, *Brenna Schneider*-Northumberland County Conservation District Watershed Specialist to attend the Conference; Requested a and received a revised printing quote that was approved from Center City Print, due to the need to increase the number of pages in the program due to an increase in the number of sponsors; Received an update on the final contract and scholarship and blocked rooms from the Ramada Conference Center; OSMRE Principal Deputy Director *Sharon Buccino* has confirmed her attendance and will be providing a keynote address since *Dr. Steve Feldgus* is not able to attend; Worked with *Rebecca French*- Executive Assistant Office of the Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals Management,- US Department of the Interior to coordinate *Sharon's* arrival to the Conference; Provided some suggested talking points to *Rebecca* and *Joe Sassman*,- PA DEP BAMR to provide to *Sharon* following a conference call; *Elliot Copeland* from Sen. Fetterman's State College Office confirmed his attendance to say a few words on behalf of the Senator; *Briggs White*- Interagency Working Group ([IWG](#)) confirmed his attendance and speaking engagement;

EPCAMR paid for the deposit on the Fullington Bus for the PA AMR Conference Tour; Discussed bringing the DVD for comic relief of a video EPCAMR/WPCAMR produced years ago, *An EPIC TALE*, produced by *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR featuring EPCAMR's Cast of Characters, the AMD Avengers and the Pollution Posse; EPCAMR brought along a backup monitor for one of the Exhibitors ([Trutta Environmental Solutions](#)) who requested one to borrow so they didn't have to ship one; Picked up the PA AMR Conference Programs and Evaluation sheets from Center City Print before heading down to State College; **30** Exhibitor/Sponsor tables; Followed up with the Non-Profit Exhibitors to ensure them they had a table and what room they were going to be setting up in at the Conference; Conference was convened with **185** attendees, our largest single attendance ever in the 26 year history of the Conference; *Bill Reichert*-Schuylkill Headwaters Association and Schuylkill Conservation District was presented with the 2024 Mayfly Award remotely; EPCAMR utilized his bio to create a press release and photos provided by *Jenna St. Clair*, -District Manager for the Schuylkill Conservation District, and provided it to *Dave Hess*, PA Environmental Digest and *Doyle Dietz*, from the Pottsville Republican, for an article; *Tom Grote*, PA AMR Conference Planning Committee volunteer photographer sent us dozens of photos from the Conference in a shared file folder that we will use for future publicity; All details, presentations, and speakers, are posted on the [website](#)

## **Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Anthracite Geology Tour with Kutztown University & PA Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG)**

- Participated in a coordinating conference call with [Dr. Sarah E. Tindall](#)- Professor of Geology, and *Vincent Carbone*, PG with [HDR, Inc.](#), to plan the stops for the Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Anthracite Geology Tour scheduled for November 9th

## **READY Grants to Grow Pre-Application Webinar**

- EPCAMR participated in the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) pre-application webinar

## **Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers ([POWR](#)) Networking and Strategic Planning Workshop for Technical & Organizational Service Providers in PA's Watersheds**

- EPCAMR registered to participate in the Workshop and were requested to attend on November 15th at Susquehanna University Freshwater Research Institute, Selinsgrove

## **The Climate Reality Project Training**

- Completed the virtual [Climate Reality Project](#) training online and provided information to other attendees on the relationship between watershed restoration, flooding, abandoned mines, and AMD; EPCAMR Executive Director received a certificate of completion; EPCAMR Executive Director became a member of the NE PA Climate Reality Chapter

## **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell U. Center for Sustainability & the Environment**

- [19<sup>th</sup> annual Susquehanna River Symposium](#); Registered to have an EPCAMR Exhibit table at the Symposium, in addition to registering as one of the keynote panel speakers for the Conference on November 8th & 9th sponsored by the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, and the Pennsylvania Water Resources Research Center; The symposium brings together students, faculty, professionals, and governmental and non-governmental agencies to share research, ideas, and strategies regarding the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond; *Mike Hewitt*-EPCAMR will be down on Friday to participate in the Shamokin Creek AMD Tour with *Chuck Cravotta*, the USGS and members of the Chesapeake Bay Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC); *Dr. Ben Hayes*, Bucknell U. stated that he felt strongly that folks in the lower Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay region need the chance to see abandoned mine lands and AMD-impacted streams and learn about treatment alternatives and the sheer magnitude of the discharges and loads; He hoped that everyone will better appreciate their impact on the bigger Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay and direct attention, help, and funds to the region for reclamation and restoration

## **[Horizon Conference](#) in Harrisonburg, VA at James Madison University**

- Confirmed EPCAMR's presentation at the Horizon Conference on November 8th entitled, Environmental Restoration and Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Northern Appalachia: "Exploring the watershed work in environmental justice communities of the Anthracite and Northern Bituminous Coal Region in Pennsylvania; PA's critical minerals are known as conflict minerals in South Africa and several organizations wanted to know how we are working with community groups to monitor and advocate for cleanup work in the US; Forwarded the Executive Director's [LinkedIn bio](#) to *Rod Makelele*, -Conference Organizer and colleague

## **Virtual Datashed Training by Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI)**

- The sessions are free and will provide participants the opportunity to not only learn about Datashed capabilities, but also learn how to get an account, create projects, and upload data and documents; The trainings will consist of 3 different sessions (1-3) (~ 1 to 1.5 hours long) conducted over 3 weeks in November 2024; Each session (1,2, & 3) will be held at two different times (A & B) during the same week to provide flexible participation options; Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, & 20<sup>th</sup>



### **Gunston School-Chesapeake Semester Annual Wyoming Valley AMD/AML Tour**

- *Mel Skirkanich*, -Associate Director of the Chesapeake Watershed Semester coordinated her annual tour with her students from Centerville, Maryland to visit EPCAMR and tour several watersheds impacted by AMD/AML; Director, *Brad Hirsh* from Sultana Education Foundation, joined her this year; We conducted an AMD Tie-Dye T-shirt workshop for them and allowed them to take photos with our trout puppets before the tour on October 31<sup>st</sup>; The students also visited Eckley Miner's Village, and *Ed Wytovich* in the Catawissa Creek Watershed and Pioneer Tunnel in Ashland

### **2025 NE Region Contractor's Workshop at Keystone College, LaPlume Co-Hosted by the Wyoming County and Lackawanna County Conservation District on March 9, 2025**

- *Dave Taylor*, - Resource Conservation Specialist for the Wyoming County Conservation District requested an EPCAMR Presentation before the District Staff and Contractors that will be attending the annual workshop where over **250** attendees will be present; EPCAMR Executive Director will give a regional update and focus on some work that we're doing in partnership with other Coalition partners in Wyoming and Lackawanna County watersheds at two different sessions and will set up our EPCAMR Exhibit overseen by *Morgan Romanowski*, AmeriCorps Watershed Outreach Specialist; Confirmed with *Katie McClain*, -Admin. Assist., - Wyoming County Conservation District

### **EPCAMR Community Volunteers**

- *Colton Smith*, Glen Lyon, signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and to become trained in NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage Protocol Training before he can go out with EPCAMR to become a certified Lead Observer after having assessed 20 culverts and bridges

## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Account and PA Invest Accounts in QuickBooks; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff for October 2024 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB; Made reconciliations with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services; Looked into our PA Invest Accounts to find out why we are being charged wire transfer fees from one account to another when we didn't request dividend interest funds to be moved from one account to another; Worked with *Marianne* to send over financial reports to Kohanski & Co. for the 2023 990 Filing and Single Audit Filing; Requested a Balance Sheet from *Marianne* for 2023 for a Luzerne Foundation Youth Allocation Committee (YAC) grant proposal being prepared for \$5000 for a 3D Printer
- Informed *Shelby Street*, -Program Coordinator for Stewards Individual Placement Program (SIPP) and Conservation Legacy, that EPCAMR had interviewed *Colton Smith* and *Mark E. Jones*, for the Community Development Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer position and eventually offered *Mark* the position, and he accepted; Let *Patricia Urquiza Silva*-Program Manager-SIPP, know that EPCAMR will revise the Volunteer Activity Description Work Plan to add some general activities and any anticipated projects for a second year and third year, should those positions be filled in the following years or the current positions would like to continue to extend their terms of service
- Followed up with *Robert Ashbrook* from the Ashbrook Family Foundation and informed him that our CPA was working on completing our 2023 990 and likely will request an Extension to November 15<sup>th</sup> from the IRS to complete it; Provided *Robert* with an update on several projects that EPCAMR is currently working on and some photos
- Submitted two confirmation letters from EPCAMR to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that stated the Executive Director was appointed previously to the PA DEP Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) and the Aggregate Advisory Board (AAB) by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and *Mike Hewitt*, EPCAMR Program Manager as alternate
- WPCAMR created the invitation for EPCAMR/WPCAMR Board Members that was distributed to begin having those that can make the November 20 & 21st Joint Visioning Session in person; Provided WPCAMR with a tentative draft agenda to be reviewed for the planned November 2024 Joint EPCAMR/WPCAMR Visioning Meeting in State College at the Penn-Stater; EPCAMR sent out our invitations to our Board Members along with the agenda; EPCAMR 4th Quarter Board Meeting will be modified to be held in the morning of the 21st at 8:30-9:15AM