Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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October 2015 Progress Report

Highlights:
- EPCAMR staff continued to scan 269 mine maps into TIFF images & digitized features from 46 maps into a geodatabase for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant. Solved VPN access issues.
- EPCAMR staff discovered a new discharge to the Susquehanna River in the **Wyoming Valley**
- EPCAMR staff participated in work day with **Kings College** at **HBPS Park**, an EPCAMR staff meeting, an AMR Conference Call, 2 AMR Campaign conference calls, the PEC Dinner and lead an AMD tour for students.
- Provided 1 RAMLIS CD and 3 set of maps to EPCAMR partners; Continued printing/PDF-ing maps for municipalities in the **Wyoming Valley**
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings and sampled flow/chemistry at **Askam** Boreholes
- Updated www.epcamr.org; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:
- Updated the EPCAMR Board List as membership renewals continue to come in. Also, invited board and staff members to attend the annual Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Office dinner to help celebrate the nomination of one of our board members, Corey Richmond, from Sullivan County. EPCAMR will pay the entry fee for any board or staff member that wants to attend.
- Toshiba copier sales representative, Shawn Zupa, stopped by to see how the copier was working. It seems to be fine, and I am happy to say I am relieved of the constant task of coper maintenance.
- EPCAMR staff held a staff meeting to coordinate efforts for the month.
- Cleaned office of boxes accumulated from upgrading the server and other computers. I will typically keep the boxes for a while until I am sure the part is working and does not need to be returned. Took recycling to Mascaro's. Fall cleaning after a busy summer.
- Researched insurance for an ATV and renters insurance. Lots of information to gather and submit. Got quotes back from State Farm and Progressive for the ATV insurance. A2Z insurance quoted us for business personal property insurance. In the process discovered that EPCAMR should have a Work Place Safety Policy. We currently have a policy to deal with workers compensation, but nothing regarding safety or emergency guidelines. Found some guidelines at www.nonprofitrisk.org and drafted a policy for personnel committee consideration.
- Received draft federal legislation regarding a proposed Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation from U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources staffer for review and comment for public testimony. The bill seemed good at first glance, but more in depth reading lead to many questions. Passed the bill on to EPCAMR Executive Director and President for review and then on to Foundation for PA Watersheds and WPCAMR.

Congressional staffer was looking for a quick turn around on comments initially (less than a week) but public testimony for EPCAMR requires, at minimum, an executive committee decision. I notified staffer that our board would consider it at our next board meeting and submit comments shortly after (which would still be within the time limits for public comment).

- Participated in a service learning project with Kings College students at the Huber Miners Memorial Park. Installed a trench to bring electricity to the newly placed rail road light and switchman's shanty. Also placed a bench near the switchman's shanty.
- Prepared minutes of the last meeting and a reminder of the upcoming EPCAMR Board Meeting next month.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call to review proposals and begin planning for the 2016 AMR Conference.
- As staff are printing hundreds of OSM Folio maps, ink and paper are depleting quickly. Ordered supplies for the project and sent back ink cartridges to Quill for recycling (and Quill cash).
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Campaign call to update members on the CAMR's trip to DC, review strategy and discuss upcoming legislation. Notified them of the Foundation Bill, but it seems that this bill was not circulated to all and not favored by some on the call.
- EPCAMR staff and president participated in a follow up to the AMR Campaign call to further discuss the Foundation Bill and understand the dissentions from campaign members. In essence, the bill is "headed in the right direction" but nothing we can support at this time. We should thank congressional staff for including us and that we would like to continue the discussion further when we aren't hard pressed against a deadline.
- EPCAMR staff lead a tour of AMD sites in the Southern Wyoming Valley for Wyoming Seminary students. The students collected iron oxide solids from the South Wilkes-Barre Boreholes.
- Prepared a reimbursement for the MSI program and copied files to the travel drive to send to the PA DEP California DMO [MSI].
- EPCAMR staff and board members attended the PEC Northeast Office Dinner. Reconnected with colleagues, cheered on Corey Richmond and other environmental award winners.
- Catch up on writing Program Manager reports for previous months and posted them to www.epcamr.org.

Technical Assistance:
- Upgraded the EPCAMR intern computer to Windows 10 as it was slowing down and not functioning properly with Windows 7 anymore. Actually, it seems generally that Windows 10 works better on older computers than Windows 7 (or maybe that it is a fresh Windows install). Gabby and Liz are using this computer to print thousands of OSM folio maps for municipalities in the Wyoming Valley as supported by a grant from PennEast.
- Corresponded with PA DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) regarding the Mine Subsidence Insurance (MSI) mine map processing initiative. Recent changes to DEP Intranet security no longer allowed us to log in to PA Historic Underground Mine Map Inventory (PHUMMIS). Discovered that it was our antivirus program being incompatible with the Virtual Private Network (VPN). Downloaded McAfee on one of the MSI computers and we were able to get in to the VPN. Spoke with AVG AntiVirus tech support to ascertain as to why their software does not work. After approximately 3 hours of trying to uninstall, reinstall and play with settings we were still not able to access the state VPN through computers with AVG installed. The AVG staff see no problem with their software that would not allow access. We will just pay for McAfee for one computer and be done with it.
- Sampled the Askam AMD Treatment System for chemistry and flow at five monitoring points: at the borehole discharge, after the maelstrom oxidizers, after the pond, downstream after the confluence with Espy Run and upstream of the confluence with the Susquehanna River.
- Provided PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) with mine pool maps of the Repplier and surrounding mines regarding a project they are doing along Rte 61 between Frackville and Pottsville. Okayed with Tom Clark, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), since the

data is actually theirs. Updated geobasins and new mine pools with newly acquired National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) maps.

- EPCAMR Staff began scanning Earth Conservancy's Blue Coal map collection for the MSI Program. Came up with a scheme for the Local ID (which will be a work in progress as we move through the collection) and passed on restrictions from EC to the PA DEP California DMO. Restrictions include the ability to only take a few drawers at a time and that we work with Rick Ruggerio to reorganize and label the shelves/maps.

- Provided Dave Williams and Jim Andrews of the PA DEP Pottsville DMO with maps of the North Franklin and Bear Valley Collieries. A coal company submitted a permit to mine coal on the boundary of these two mines and this was a particular area where no mine maps were available from the state collections. Fortunately, the maps were available from the NMMR collection, but they were difficult to find. The files did not come with a catalog file this time and EPCAMR staff had to go on to the NMMR website to look up the mine map numbers and create a catalog file for each colliery. This took some considerable time, but is now complete. Found that there are 3 sections to the Bear Valley Mine (East, North Mountain and West Rock Slope) and that the SL site 42 drainage originates in the North Mountain portion. It's delivered by a tunnel to the discharge location. This dataset will be shared with the PA DEP Pottsville and California DMOs [MSI].

- Prepared Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory System (RAMILS) v. 15 CD and sent to Joe DeWalle at Geisinger Health Institute. Since he is updating the work from Anne Lieu, I invited him to speak at the 2016 AMR Conference, but he said his work would not be ready by then. He suggested a colleague that was working with the data and was much further along in her study. He did say that their facility might be able to accommodate our conference, however. Later he followed up and said that they don't outsource their facilities to third parties.

- Received another request for mine pool data this time for the Upper Swatara Creek Watershed from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Baltimore District who are working on hydraulic study for the watershed. Passed the request to Tom Clark of the SRBC for approval before sending the files.

- Worked on sorting out maps for the Tower City Mine from the Rausch Creek Lands and NMMR collections. Began filtering out duplicates and combining the aperture card scans for later georeferencing and detailed mine pool model development [SRBC].

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.