



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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### October 2016 Progress Report

#### Education & Outreach

- Discussed with the PA Leadership Team the EE Capacity Professional Development Survey and extending the deadline for receiving the survey results for final analysis of the types of programs, events, and resources that traditional and non-traditional professionals are looking for to reach broader audiences on environmental topics
- Received a formal request from *Senator Yaw's* Office to speak before ***the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Subcommittee*** at a public hearing on the future of "Waste Coal Reclamation", Jim Thorpe, PA on October 11<sup>th</sup>; Submitted my formal written testimony to Adam Pankake, Executive Director of the Committee, after working on it for several days; Gave testimony before the Subcommittee on October 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Provided a copy text of my Guest Blog on the RECLAIM Act, AML Trust Fund, and EPCAMR work in the Delaware and Lehigh River drainages for the Delaware River Watershed Coalition's website and PennFuture's site to *Madeline Emde*-Delaware River Watershed Coalition and *Zakia Elliott*-PennFuture; [Delaware River Watershed Coalition Blog](#); EPCAMR signed on to a sign-on letter supporting the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act as a part of the larger Federal Water Resources Development Act and forwarded our confirmation to *Madeline Urbish*-Director of the Delaware River Watershed Coalition; Informed Madeline that I had met with State Representative Doyle Heffley, (122nd District in Carbon County), who serves within the upper portions of the Lehigh River Watershed, which ultimately flows into the Delaware River; He was very supportive of our efforts in the watershed to clean up abandoned mines and improve the water quality of the Lehigh and Delaware River watersheds
- *Rose Frederick*, Artist from Denver, CO reached out to EPCAMR about the use of our iron oxide for a Fall 2017 Art Show themed "Industrial America"; *Abbie* and I followed up with her and will wait to hear back from her later in November; Requested that *Abbie* look into [Art Place America](#), a grant program that provides a novel approach to working with communities with environmental, social, economic, and justice issues
- Signed on to a letter with the Choose Clean Water Coalition directed to FERC to seek a revised or supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project that crosses abandoned mine lands in several counties of the EPCAMR Region
- *Abbie* is going to be writing up some updates for the RECLAIM Crew notification newsletter that goes out to our EPCAMR Volunteers beginning in the Fall; *Gabby* will be showing her the format that she had used when she was sending the information out before being promoted to the GIS Specialist position; Passed along a resource document to *Abbie* for recruiting volunteers called [Toolkit for Rural Volunteers](#)

- Worked with *Abbie* is create an informational fact sheet referencing the material data safety sheet (MDSS) about iron oxide and the proper handling of the pigment to alleviate some concerns of artists that we work with that may want to use it in their glaze creations
- Participated on a conference call with Senator Casey's Office Staff, *Scott Spinucci*-Director of America's First Park: River Common, to discuss ways in which a local grassroots effort in the Wyoming Valley might take shape to support getting the River Common designated as a National Historic Landmark and Park in the City of Wilkes-Barre; Provided the Office with a list of potential partners via e-mail following the call
- *Kelly Flick*, artist, from Howard, PA ordered iron oxide pigment from EPCAMR
- Provided *Stacey Widenhofer*-Webmaster for the PAEE website with background information and answers to 5 questions that will be highlighted on the website for each of the PAEE Board Members from across the State; EPCAMR Executive Director is the NE Regional Director of PAEE
- *Emily Krafjack*-President, informed us that the Board of the Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association made a donation to EPCAMR to support our continued educational programs in the region on AMD and watershed restoration due to our continued work in the watershed
- Co-signed on a response Letter to the Editor in the Citizens' Voice related to an article from the Clean Air Council that portrayed the Waste Coal Industry in a negative light; EPCAMR Executive Director and *George Ellis*-ARIPPA Executive Director, co-authored a letter highlighting the great work that the industry has done for abandoned mine land reclamation in PA
- *Tim Duggan*-Sales Representative for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders contacted EPCAMR about becoming a Community Organization of the Game at a 2017 baseball game to promote our mission and cause and as a fundraiser; Attended an Open House for the Railriders to see the venue and to discuss planning a date for next season and reviewing the plan of events for the evening; Table area located in the plaza entrance area of PNC Field which can be used for passing out information regarding your organization, its mission and upcoming events, as well as conversing with fans that approach your table; Pre-game, on-field interview with the nightly RailRiders emcee (60-90 seconds) to discuss EPCAMR, information on any upcoming events, our causes and our mission; During this time EPCAMR name and or logo will be highlighted on their video board; Ceremonial "First Pitch" to be thrown out by a member of EPCAMR; On-air radio interview with our broadcasters on NEPA Sports Radio, The GAME in the top of the 3rd inning
- Forwarded a copy of the Hazleton Rotary Grant to *Denise* and *Abbie* for consideration of a project related to water as a focus area and a connection to Hazleton
- Provided *Andrew Heath*-Executive Director of Renew Growing Greener with some landscape images of AMD and abandoned mine lands for inclusion in an updated ***Finding the Green Guide***

## **Technical Assistance**

- *Douglas McCarty*, student at Keystone College working on his Capstone Project will be monitoring several metals (Arsenic, Copper, and Nickel concentrations) at the Old Forge AMD Borehole on the Lackawanna River for his research Project and will be providing EPCAMR with the final research report
- Provided *Joe Sapienza* numerous leads to regional theatres and art venues to preview his upcoming Centralia documentary for its eventual release in the Spring of 2017; Joe sent along two copies of release forms for *Mike* and I to be included in the documentary
- Provided *Palmira Miller*-PEC NE Office with a copy of EPCAMR's volunteer waiver of liability/photo use document for her future cleanups and other volunteer events

## **Project Coordination**

- Began seeking Letters of Support for the proposed ***Abraham's Creek Watershed Coldwater Heritage Plan*** grant from partners and municipalities within the watershed; PEC NE Office and Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited has already submitted letters to EPCAMR; EPCAMR is waiting on additional letters from the ASTA, ACWA, NBLT; The boroughs of Exeter, Forty Fort, Swoyersville, West Wyoming, and Wyoming and the townships of Dallas, Exeter, Franklin, and Kingston are all located within the watershed; Invited to participate in a meeting led by Representative Aaron Kaufer with Vince Holland- President of the Abrahams Creek Watershed Association (ACWA) and attended to catch him up on some of the watershed activities being led by EPCAMR
- Prepared and submitted a **\$5000** grant to Community Aid, Inc. to support several abandoned mine land cleanups in 2017 across the EPCAMR Region entitled ***"Cleaning Up Our Anthracite Lands & Streams (COALS) Program"***
- Added technical comments and revisions from SRBC into the ***Mocanaqua AMD Tunnel Mine Pool Consumptive Use Mitigation Feasibility Proposal*** Scope of Work and forwarded along to *Pierre MaCoy*, Hydrogeologist-SRBC for final review and approval by *Drew DeHoff*-Executive Director; Reached out to *John Maza*-PA DCNR Forester to see if he'd join us on a field tour of the area in late October and he agreed to meet with us; Provided SRBC with a copy of the State Forest Research Agreement that was initially provided to PA DCNR to allow access and monitoring on the Pinchot State Forest property
- *Keith Moules*-Wilkes-Barre Area School District STEM Teacher provided EPCAMR with a copy of a powerpoint presentation created by a student group on Monarchs that complimented our EE Program with the STEM students; Conducted the Abandoned Mine Lands and AMD Tour with the Wilkes-Barre Area EL Meyers High School STEM students with the EPCAMR Staff; *Abbie* created a short video of our release of our monarch butterflies on the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park that is being reclaimed from abandoned mine lands as a final deliverable for our ***Monarchs on Minelands: Release the Monarchs!! PA DEP EE Grant***; [Monarchs on Minelands video](#)
- Followed up with *Joyce Zaykoski*-Wilkes-Barre City and *Andrew Korzon*-LandStudies to see if we needed to do any edits to the draft ***Green Infrastructure Plan*** or the Construction Plans for the bioretention area proposed for W. Ross and W. River Streets; Councilman *Tony Brooks* suggested a Community Garden project to be included in the Green Infrastructure Plan; Set up a meeting for November 25<sup>th</sup> to tour potential project areas that will be included in the plan

## **Project Coordination**

- Received comments back from *Theron Bisko* and *Mike Lower-Skelley & Loy* about the Bid Document Package comments that EPCAMR sought from them prior to putting the ***Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Project*** out to bid; They have asked additional questions of EPCAMR and it has taking a bit of time to get them answered due to legal questions
- Met with project partners for the ***Harry E. Bank Reclamation Project***, Swoyersville, PA at the PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office to discuss how to phase a government financed construction contract (GFCC) and mine permit for the proposed economic development and reclamation project; EPCAMR mentioned that highlighting the benefits of improved stormwater management within the Borough and the Abrahams Creek Watershed along with the potential for great flood control protection would bode well for the municipality and the County in relation to the MS4 requirements for the municipalities; *Mike Menghini*-PA DEP Pottsville said that it would be beneficial to talk to someone from the PA DEP NE Regional Office about the stormwater benefits; EPCAMR also suggested that the project be potentially considered for Project RECLAIM funding for 2017 to assist with the hauling and trucking costs and other economic development considerations; It was suggested that we follow the Bliss Bank Model for seeking supplemental funding from other State grant sources like Growing Greener, much like Northampton Generating Company did with the Earth Conservancy; *Tiffany Folk*-PA DEP Pottsville DMO Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC) Coordinator talked about the GFCC Process and the 5 year timeframe; *Nate Houtz*-PA DEP Pottsville DMO described the permit process and was from the Permit Section; Discussions were had around a phased approach to a few different GFCC's to alleviate some concerns about runoff and constant truck traffic; Some material will need to be left behind to help with the grade controls on the property; A wash plant could be constructed across the street along Shoemaker Avenue; No chemicals are used during the screening process; Reject coming off the screens can stay as well as rocks and timbers; Zoning requirements will have to be met with Swoyersville Borough when configuring the flood protection, stormwater management, and future land use of the site, once reclaimed; Careful consideration should be given to this part of the project, if in fact, future land development or real estate development should occur on the site, post-reclamation by Pagnotti Enterprises; *Hank Zielinski*-Northampton Generating Company talked about the need for sediment and flood control stabilization on the site and the necessity of having to use some of the material for such construction control structures such as a stepped-down sedimentation basin and the probability that certain piles will need to be blended; There will be a phased stormwater management approach taken for the project; The desire is excavate to the virgin ground beneath the piles as the reclamation continues; Finally, *Mike Menghini* suggested that we need another on-site meeting with PA DEP BAMR, Pottsville DMO, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE), EPCAMR, Olympus Power, Northampton Generating Company, Swoyersville Borough representatives, and Panther Creek Partners; PA Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) Problem Area #2233
- Submitted several dozen engraved paver forms to Olde Mill Impressions on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society in order for them to be created and placed in the ***Huber Miner's Memorial Park***, Ashley, PA
- Forwarded a draft Excel file of the ***NAAEE National Affiliate Survey*** to *Ruth Roperti* to update for PAEE; Interviewed by *Nezam Ardalan*-New Knowledge Organization, Ltd. who is working with Lori Mann as part of the NAAEE team and Cornell University as external evaluators on the EPA- funded national project ***Expanding Capacity in Environmental Education Project*** (EECapacity); EPCAMR has been an active, long-term PA Team Leader and wanted to learn more about our PA Community of Learner's Team and Leadership Team and how we've grown over the last 5 years of our involvement; Provided Nezam with a link to our online community group; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PAStateConsortiaCOL/>

## **Project Coordination**

- Completed the PA EE Capacity State Consortia Model Product 2-page Summary document with three members of the PA Leadership Team and forwarded it to Lori Mann-NAAEE prior to attending the NAAEE Conference in Madison, WI to report out on the projects, including EPCAMR's project in the City of Wilkes-Barre, PA; Followed up with Project partners to obtain information for the final report and completion of the Phase II workload
- Provided *Gavin* with a Dam Removal Checklist for him to review prior to EPCAMR adding it to the Scope of Work for a sub-contract to Larson Design Group (LDG) to submit as a part of the Waiver Restoration and E & S Control Plan submission for the ***Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Restoration Project***; Put in a call to *Jack Reuter*-PA DEP Dams & Waterways, Harrisburg, PA to help us answer a few questions that LDG had before we can continue to develop the draft sub-contract agreement
- Provided *Joe Sapienza* with a link to the video created by Abbie of the results of the September 24<sup>th</sup> Centralia cleanup; [EPCAMR Cleaning Up Centralia for Centralians video](#)
- Stanley Cooper Chapter Trout Unlimited sent EPCAMR a high resolution image of their logo for inclusion on the side of our Trout Fish Tank for the ***Trout in the Classroom Project*** so that we can show our support for their financial support for the project

## **Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops**

- EPCAMR Staff participated in a tour of the Mt. Carmel Co-Generation Plant with the Eastern PA Anthracite Section of the Society of Mining Engineers on October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Followed up with *Diane Fitzgibbon*, Sale Director-The Woodlands Inn & Resort on a quote for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in June 2017
- *Parras Ashe*-Event Coordinator, Best Western Genetti Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, PA provided EPCAMR with a quote for the ***19<sup>th</sup> Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference*** in June 2017; The PA AMR Conference Committee reviewed and accepted the Genetti quote by unanimous consent on our conference call with a few minor adjustments to the contract that needed to be cleared up before signing; EPCAMR to take care of the contract and the minor changes to the contract agreement; Provided *Parras* with our sales tax exemption certificate; Put in an early request to see if Senator John Yudichak would be interested in being a keynote speaker at the Conference
- Requested assistance with registering several EPCAMR Staff online for the AOP Culvert Assessment Certification from *Phil Thomas*-Habitat Coordinator for the PA Coldwater Habitat Restoration Program with Trout Unlimited to assist us in conducting coldwater conservation watershed assessments and providing additional valuable information to Trout Unlimited



## **EPCAMR Program Administration**

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Requested that the EPCAMR 2015 Payroll be forwarded from RJ Zagrapan to Kovalchik & Kollar, our CPA to complete our 2015 990s
- Created the October 2016 EPCAMR Staff Agenda and sent along to Staff for our meeting on the ??
- Completed the October 2016 Monthly 319 Progress Report and EPCAMR Board Report
- Requested that *Mike* set up two e-mail accounts for *Abbie* and *Rachael* under our EPCAMR Gmail Account
- Renewed [www.epcamr.org](http://www.epcamr.org) domain with GoDaddy
- Forwarded several names to *Bernie McGurl*-EPCAMR President of potentially interested candidates for the EPCAMR Board at large positions; *Joe Simons*, *Alana O'Rourke*, *Scott Spinucci*, and *Alana Mauger*; Talked with *Daniel Taroli*-Attorney, who was referred to EPCAMR by Bernie about his interest in becoming a Board Member as well
- Reached out to the Executive Directors of several Leadership organizations in the Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Lackawanna and Schuylkill area to ask them if they would help promote EPCAMR and our desire to add additional Board Members to our organization and that we are looking for regional professionals to consider joining; We are not just looking for Board Members to have an affinity for the environment, but those that have skill sets in marketing, banking, accounting, fundraising, landscape architecture, community development, business & industry, human resources, consulting, project management, art, and education
- Talked with *Abbie* about setting up a small fundraising campaign on GiveGab for GivingTuesday where they will be waiving their 5% platform fee on November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Staff Evaluations were submitted and reviewed