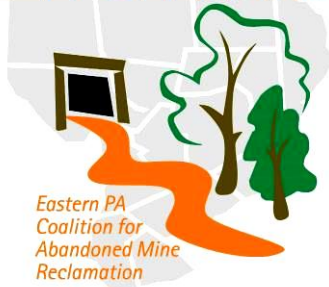


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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September 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Participated in a conference call with other panel speakers for the upcoming *Pennsylvania Environmental Council's* Policy Conference in Harrisburg, PA hosted by *John Walliser* to talk about AMD and Mine Water Resources across PA: Opportunities and Challenges; Attended and presented as a guest panel speaker on September 17th for the **PEC Policy Conference**; Submitted EPCAMR Executive Director Bio and copy of completed presentation in PDF format
- Attended the *Plymouth Historical Society's* Program on the celebration of the 145th Anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster in Plymouth Township, PA and served as a guest speaker to talk about the work that EPCAMR had done with volunteers over the last decade to preserve and improve the abandoned mine land site that is now soon to become a trailhead location; In the last year, the PA DEP BAMR Office came in and installed a bat gave at the tunnel opening and assisted with the relocation of one of our community gardens at the site to make improvements
- Finalized the tour route plan for the Southern Wyoming Valley Field Tour with Mike Korb-PA DEP BAMR that will be conducted jointly with the Earth Conservancy for the *Anthracite Section-Society of Mining Engineers* Annual Meeting scheduled for October 16th, 2014
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a "Critters of the Creek" Macro-Invertebrate Educational Program for over **125** students at the *Bear Creek Charter School* at the YMCA's Camp Kresge, White Haven
- Provided *Cait Dickson*, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialist Intern from Bloomsburg University with a copy of EPCAMR's Interim Report on *the Mocanaqua Highlands Tract Trail Marking* for the Earth Conservancy to get her caught up to speed on the field work that other staff are working on that she can be expected to participate in during her internship
- Finalized a collaborative chapter on Storytelling in Environmental Education for an e-book with a small team of environmental educators involved with an online Urban Environmental Education course offered by Cornell University
- Forwarded a newsletter article from the Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited, EPCAMR's newest partner on their upcoming AMD Panel Discussion Presentation to be held at Penn-State Hazleton Campus, Hazleton, PA in October to EPCAMR's regional media contacts on behalf of *Mike Gondell*, Chapter Media Relations Contact; <http://standardspeaker.com/community/acid-mine-drainage-forum-to-be-held-at-psu-hazleton-in-october-1.1748899>; <http://m.citizensvoice.com/news/panel-will-discuss-acid-mine-drainage-oct-21-1.1751486>
- Inquired *Teresa Geruson*, an Energy Intern from PennFuture about their Fossil Fuels Subsidy Report that their Staff had been working on and researching over the Summer; EPCAMR provided PennFuture with information on abandoned mine reclamation in PA for the report and other links to resources that could be easily cited

- Partnered with *Kelly Donaldson*, PA Communications & Media Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, on supporting their Clean Water Counts Campaign; Provided her with photos, quotes, and information related to AMD and AML in PA; Forwarded information around to the EPCAMR Conservation Districts to encourage each of our Counties to pass a resolution in support of clean water and or Social Media outlets; cbf.org/PAMForCleanWater

Technical Assistance

- Investigated the Underwood Tunnel along the Lackawanna River in the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool and completed monitoring the remaining boreholes in the upper Wyoming Valley
- Assisted *Ray Clarke*, Chairman, *Huber Breaker Preservation Society* with inputting additional paver orders for the Huber Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation in Ashley, PA and forwarded the new orders to Olde Mill Impressions for engraving
- Followed up with *Andy Gegaris*, Nanticoke City Manager to provide him with additional stormwater and MS4 resources such as downspout disconnect systems that can occur along Main Street in Nanticoke, in the Municipal Parking Lot, and along the Municipal Building; Provided links to Andy on other successful implementation of green infrastructure projects around PA; <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/north/2014/08/15/Etna-celebrates-green-infrastructure/stories/201408150015>; <http://www.etnaborough.org/storm-water-management.html>
- Provided *Matt Rokitko*, a 12 year old student from Hanover Area Elementary with pictures of the Huber Breaker at his request to be utilized in an online video that he's creating in honor of the Huber Breaker using a song performed by Eric Church, called "My Hometown" as background music for the video
- Provided *Bob Hedin*, Hedin Environmental with some contacts for toll drying companies in our area who might have unused drying capacity to assist with processing and drying iron oxides from Western PA; <http://www.thomasnet.com/eastern-pennsylvania/process-dryers-24780603-1.html> ; <http://www.thomasnet.com/products/rotary-kilns-42002006-1.html>
- EPCAMR provided *Dan Koury*, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office with mapping and information on the Nescopeck Creek basin above State Route 309 related to stream designations since some of the designations of tributaries in that area seem to be listed improperly because that particular area is High Quality-Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishery waters
- EPCAMR reached out to the Pittston Historical Society regarding some mine maps that we could possibly scan for them and add to the PHUMMIS for the Mine Subsidence Insurance Program going forward when our grant agreement is amended; The maps are mostly from the Ewen Colliery and the #9 Colliery from the PA Coal Company; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/greater-pittston-historical-society-sees-new-life-1.1753130>; Discussed with Mike about the PA DOT 4-0 Maps that contained thousands of borehole logs from the Casey Highway Project in Lackawanna County that we might also incorporate into our amended grant agreement with PA DEP MSI
- Provided the EPCAMR Staff with background information on Red Spring Run and Campbell's Ledge Run in the Lackawanna River Watershed for a possible submission to the Coldwater Heritage Partnership Planning Grant Program before the grant deadline of December 19th, 2014
- *Kevin Trychta*, Benton Foundry, Benton, PA has a beneficial use permit for the use of foundry sand and is looking for viable alternatives in abandoned mine reclamation and has reached out to EPCAMR to see if we can locate some places or uses for the material

Project Coordination

- Cleared brush and conducted a cleanup at “The Point”, along the confluence of the Lackawanna and the Susquehanna River on the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy property that will serve as a take-out for an upcoming river kayak trip with SMS, LLC who are partners on the **Old Forge AMD Treatment Project**; River kayak trip along the N. Branch Susquehanna with SMS, LLC on September 5th to conduct upstream baseline river water sampling
- Meeting with *Nick Lylo-PA DCNR District Forester-Bureau of Forestry* to update him on the work that EPCAMR has completed on the 3050 acres of the Mocanaqua Highlands, in terms of trail marking, cleanups, and assessment of illegal dumping on Earth Conservancy’s tract of property that will soon be purchased and become a part of the Lackawanna State Parks Forest Tract; Discussed future partnership opportunities with PA DCNR once the transfer and sale of the property occurs
- Completed a Progress Report for the **Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design/Construction Project** and Program Reimbursement; EPCAMR’s Project Officer Dennis Palladino retired and EPCAMR was informed that our new Project Officer will be *Gregg Davis*, PA DEP BAMR; Sent a request to PA DEP NE Region to see how our Joint Permit Approval Process is coming along so that we can proceed with preparing the bid package and on-site pre-bid meeting prior to construction
- Followed up with Joe Sapienza on the upcoming abandoned mine lands cleanup in Centralia, PA; Contacted *Greg Yeager*, Aristes Hose Company #1 to see if they would come down and water down the tires that will be collected and worked with the Centralia Fire Company’s *Tom Hynoski* to get permission to utilize the Borough Building as our Central Command for the Cleanup on October 25th, 2014; Worked with Pagnotti Enterprises and Blaschak Coal Company to obtain permission to place dumpsters on their properties that border Centralia for the cleanup and received their permission and support following the creation of a Waiver of Liability that is standard in these types of projects created by EPCAMR; Put out a Call for Volunteers through EPCAMR’s online MailChimp Campaign tool; Bridgestone Tire is a new partner that will be recycling all tires picked up at the event for us through the Tires4ward Program; PennFuture’s NE Office will be participating in the cleanup and assisted with publicity; Wilkes University will be providing 20 or more students as a part of their college’s participation in the annual Make A Difference Day community service project; <http://epcamr.org/home/2014/clean-up-centralia-epcamr-assesses-trash-problem-in-americas-lost-town-for-october-25th-2014-cleanup/>; <http://vimeo.com/104065441>; <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/clean-up-centralia-pa>
- Participated in a Conference Call with the Leadership Team of the PA State Consortia to plan out the agenda for the EE Capacity Community of Learners upcoming Meeting
- On September 3, 2014 the Antrim Treatment Trust (Treatment Trust) was issued a license by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate a 40 kW micro-hydropower project in Duncan Township, Tioga County Pennsylvania; This is the first project ever licensed by FERC that uses mine drainage to generate electricity that can be sold on the grid; The power generated by the Antrim Micro-Hydropower Project (AMHP) will help offset the operational cost of the Antrim Treatment Plant that abates the largest source of mine drainage within the Babb Creek Watershed; Excess electricity generated by the AMHP will be sold on the grid to help provide much needed funding to the Treatment Trust and to help sustain the efforts of the Babb Creek Watershed Association; The AMHP was a collaborative effort of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Moshannon District Mining Office), Babb Creek Watershed Association, Antrim Treatment Trust, ARIPPA, EPCAMR, WPCAMR, Tioga County, and the project design/build partner, BioMost, Inc.
- Continued to work with *Ray Clarke*, Huber Breaker Preservation Society and PA DEP BAMR to coordinate an effort to pick up the Pink Ash Fan from the former Pink Ash Colliery up in Richmondale, PA to place it as an industrial heritage art piece in the Huber Miner’s Memorial Park, Ashley, PA
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a cleanup on abandoned mine lands and the Green Trail along the Mocanaqua Loop Trail System owned by the Earth Conservancy, just outside of Lee, PA
- Followed up with *Ben Larson*, PA Fish & Boat Commission to check on the status of the Mitigation Funding package from PA DOT for the upcoming Solomon Creek Stream Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project in Ashley, PA;

Developed a new partnership with *Ross Hill*, Aquascapes Unlimited, that offers wetland plants for stream stabilization projects and informed them that we would follow up in Spring 2015 when we know more details about the project

- Followed up with *Ann Devine*, PA DEP EE Program to inform her that EPCAMR was going to begin making purchases for the AMD & Pottery Art Grant with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District and our other partners this Fall; She informed EPCAMR that our request for advancement of our **\$3000** was moving right along through the Comptroller's Office and that we should have it within the month; Made some minor budget amendment changes to our proposed budget and submitted it to the PA DEP EE Program for approval

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; June 25th and 26th, 2015, Ramada Inn & Conference Center, State College, PA will be the dates for the 2015 Conference confirmed by the Ramada; Reviewed a draft "Save the Date" brochure that WPCAMR will be taking out to the NAAMLCP Conference in Columbus, OH to promote the Conference in 2015
- Participated in the *PAEE PA Environmental Education Capacity State Consortia* Community of Learners Webinar
- Developed a summary invite and description of the upcoming face to face group meeting and forwarded to Kacy Conley, PSAYDN, who will be forwarding it along to the members along with the revised agenda; EPCAMR hosted the *PAEE PA Environmental Education Capacity State Consortia* Community of Learners for their second face to face group meeting; EPCAMR Executive Director and Staff participated in the daylong event
- Registered for the *NAAEE* Conference in Ottawa, CA where EPCAMR will be making **5** presentations on our work in the Northern Anthracite Coalfields as they relate to Environmental Education, Community Capacity Building, and Serving Underserved Coalfield Populations in distressed communities; A full scholarship was awarded to the Executive Director to cover the costs of the registration to attend the Conference due to already working with the EE Capacity Consortia from PA as a Leadership Team member affiliated with PAEE

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Dale Rio*, Philadelphia, PA signed up to volunteer to be an photographer with EPCAMR at our outings, investigations, and field tours; <http://www.dalerio.com>; Requested that he complete our online volunteer form
- *Kimberly Drozda*, Hanover Township, PA signed up to become a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form
- *Melisa Perkowski*, Dallas, PA asked to become a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR and is interested in learning how to dye t-shirts with AMD; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form
- *Stacy Zaferes*, Downingtown, PA is interested in becoming a Community Service Volunteer Photographer with EPCAMR and has an interest in shooting abandoned mines; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form
- *Mark Wiest*, a 2nd year Forestry student at Penn College in Williamsport, PA is interesting in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and learning more about the field of abandoned mine reclamation; He's planning on attending the Centralia Cleanup in October with EPCAMR; Requested that he complete our online volunteer form
- *Leah Dee*, Wilkes-Barre, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer with EPCAMR to assist us with making Eco-Ornaments AMD; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form
- *Tim Moran*, Wilkes-Barre, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer landscaper and tree planter for future projects; Requested that he complete our online volunteer form
- *Theresa Cullen*, Ithaca, NY is interested in becoming a volunteer with EPCAMR and has a background in Marketing/Graphics Design; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form

- *Giovanni Mazzola*, Drums, PA is interested in completing 15 hours of community service with EPCAMR; Requested that he complete our online volunteer form
- *Gena Mae Berta*, Sugar Loaf, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer through our online form
- *Luis Perez*, Bloomfield, NJ, is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR and becoming a volunteer Photographer; He's currently a student at New York Institute of Photography; Requested that he complete our online volunteer form
- *Elizabeth Krewson-Ross*, Taylor, PA is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR and working on some graphic design project ideas and marketing and outreach for EPCAMR; Setting up a meeting with her for mid-November 2014 to discuss
- *Alina Gluck*, Freeland, PA is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR as a volunteer Photographer; She's a graduate of Penn-State; Requested that she complete our online volunteer form

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Completed paperwork from the **PA Department of General Services Federal Surplus Property Program** on behalf of EPCAMR to remain eligible for supplies and equipment from the State or Federal Programs
- Provided *Peter Falvey*, EPCAMR Communications & Social Media Outreach Coordinator Intern from Misericordia University with an orientation to EPCAMR and a copy of the EPCAMR Employee Policy Manual for his review and signature
- Worked on and completed passport paperwork prior to trip to Ottawa, Canada to make several presentations at the **North American Association Environmental Educators** Conference; www.naaee.org
- Informed by *Josh Longmore*, Luzerne Conservation District Manager that *John Levitsky*, newly hired Watershed Specialist for the District will be replacing Aaron Stredny on the EPCAMR Board since Aaron moved on to take another job in the private sector; Had Mike add John's information to our mailing lists
- Forwarded grant paperwork from PA DEP 319 to *Christine Haldeman*, EPCAMR Secretary to sign on behalf of the Board related to the additional **\$250,000** amendment to our current grant agreement that funds nearly 80% of our Staff budget for Mike and the Executive Director through 2016
- Worked with *Tim Bilski*, Non-Profit/Government Account Executive for Verizon Wireless to get us switched over to them as opposed to Verizon for cheaper internet and phone services; Switched to HELLOFAX as a monthly service for sending and receiving faxes now that we've gone wireless
- Submitted EPCAMR's Payroll information for the 4th Quarter 2013 to our CPA, Kovalchik & Kollar, LLP, to finalize our 990s for 2013
- Added a bunch of links to our EE links page on our website; <http://epcamr.org/home/links/environmental-education-links/>
- Asked *Andy McAllister*, WPCAMR Regional Coordinator what his thoughts were on SB1155; The proposed bill would amend the PA SMCRA Act and not the PA NonCoal SMCRA; It establishes a board to advise PA DEP on aggregate mining and reclamation; <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2013&ind=0&body=S&type=B&BN=1155>
- Completed and forwarded EPCAMR Executive Director's August Monthly Report to Mike for inclusion with our quarterly reimbursement to the PA DEP 319 Program
- Sent out a special invitation to all EPCAMR Board Members and partners to see if they were interested in attending the PEC NE Environmental Partnership Awards Dinner to honor our President, Bernie McGurl and Executive Director of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association who will be receiving the prestigious Thomas P. Shelburne Award