



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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September 2018 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Reviewed the new *Centralia PA'S Lost Town* Documentary Poster for the University of Scranton Public Screening on September 10th that will have a panel discussion with the EPCAMR Executive Director and Executive Producer *Joe Sapienza*; The event was coordinated and sponsored by EPCAMR, the University of Scranton's Environmental Studies Concentration, History Department, and the Office of Sustainability; Around 60 people attended the event; Reached out to *Larry Holeva*, Executive Editor for The Scranton Times-Tribune and Times-Shamrock (Citizens Voice) to see if he could assist with finding a staff correspondent to cover a story on the public screening; Sent Joe a video link to a historic mine [fire](#) in Carbondale from the 1970s; Continued working on the t-shirt for volunteers and received all necessary logos and finished up the design with *John Welsh* and *Brandon Stivers*; Ordered 150 t-shirts through MOZIP, Kingston, PA; *Michelle Dunn*-Keep PA Beautiful mailed EPCAMR an International Coastal Cleanup banner since our project was registered with them officially as a partner
- Sent a 'thank you' message to *Emily Ackerman*, Senator *Casey's* Office for supporting PILOT Funding for Appalachian States for economic development projects on abandoned mine lands for FY2019; Informed her that EPCAMR is working on updating the PA AML statistics based on the newly aligned Congressional boundaries and will send them out once the November elections are over and the seats are filled
- Accepted as an Admin to the [Appalachian Mentoring Project Facebook Page](#)
- Participated on the PA AML Campaign conference call
- Provided a webinar on October 18th for Cornell University's Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on "Reclaiming Our Past Mining Legacy in the Heart of the Northern Appalachian Coalfields: EPCAMR's Role in Filling the Voids"
- Attended a Wilkes University Volunteer Fair with an EPCAMR Volunteer, *Trishia Kinney* to recruit for the upcoming Centralia Cleanup on October 20th
- *Denise, Laura, Shawnese*, and the EPCAMR Executive Director conducted a "Critters in the Creek" Macro Survey and Identification Program for the Bear Creek Charter School's 4th grade class of 46 students in the 10 Mile Run tributary to the Wapwallopen Creek that is on the school property

- EPCAMR Executive Director conducted an AMD Tie Dye Outreach Program with bandanas purchased by Misericordia University with dozens of students participating over the lunch hour on campus in Dallas, PA; There were plenty of volunteers to help from the MU Bio Club; The event was coordinated by *Kate Totino Molly Lorenzan*, and *Laura Gorney*, as a part of their Annual Giving Day Event and support of local non-profits
- EPCAMR is partnering with Wyoming Seminary who agreed to work with us following their Community Service Day when they were presented with an artistic opportunity where the students can illustrate the connections between the society, economics and the environment in the solution to the problems created by abandoned mining operations; The project would be painted on individual hexagons, that would create a “jigsaw” or “honeycomb” mural; The painting would be used by EPCAMR in our educational programs, and would serve to focus attention on this important regional/global issue and its remediation with audiences ranging in age from kindergarten to adult; Since it will be constructed of small individual pieces, it can be easily transported and should have interesting visual appeal; It can also be submitted to the Hexagon Project (<http://hexagonproject.org>) art competition, where EPCAMR is already a community partner with renowned artist, *Beth Berkhauser*; EPCAMR would like some pigments processed from mining residue processed by EPCAMR that the students would create themselves to underscore the need to envision the repurposing of waste materials; The goal is to have the mural completed by the end of the Spring 2019 term, so that EPCAMR can feature it in an upcoming mining conference where it might serve to motivate other groups to reach out to high school students for help at the National NAAML P Conference in September 2019; This is basically a STEAM service opportunity that incorporates environmental science and art together to help EPCAMR continue to bring awareness to the issue of AMD and abandoned mines; Participation in this event will include membership in the Environmental Club at Wyoming Seminary; 7 students (*Jerry Tang, Nancy Chen, Ally Saayed, T. Yang, Yifei Liu, Andy Yin, Caitlin Walker*) were interested and were taken on a tour to the Solomon Creek AMD boreholes and the Askam Boreholes where they collected water samples, some iron oxide, and green algae samples
- Provided *David Collins*-WBAL TV-11 News, Baltimore, MD with EPCAMR’s thoughts on sediment and debris behind the Conowingo Dam and what needs to be done to remedy the situation on a watershed-wide approach
- *Dr. Megan Kepler Schall*, Penn-State Hazleton Campus, Assistant Biology Professor inquired about Summer 2019 Internship opportunities that she could make some of her students aware of throughout the year; EPCAMR Executive Director followed up with her to provide her with details on how students can apply and submit their resumes and cover letters to EPCAMR for future consideration
- Met up with *Clint Leroy*-Founder and Principal Scientist-[MARG Energy Inc.](#) to give him a brief tour of the Wyoming Valley’s AMD discharges and an overview of AML problems that EPCAMR deals with on a daily basis
- Provided *Rachael* with newsletter article ideas for the September and October EPCAMR Newsletters

- Created a full profile for [Patagonia Action Works](#) and began our continued recruiting efforts for the October 20th, 2018 Centralia Cleanup; *Sam Murch*, Program Manager informed EPCAMR of the available free training webinars

Technical Assistance

- Applied for a **\$5000** Community Aid “Cleaning Our Anthracite Lands and Streams (COALS) Program Support grant in their Period 2 Application
- Provided *Peter Haentjens*, EMARR with an update on the conversation with *Lorne Possinger*-PA DCNR on the Butler Enterprises Tract in the Catawissa Creek Watershed; PA DCNR is looking for a private investor to come to the table to support the acquisition of the land because there isn’t enough funds in the ATV Fund; PA DCNR was denied funding under the ARC; *Peter* requested further information, if available on how PA DCNR might divide up the parcel for the potential for an ATV Park since Eagle Rock Resorts might be interested in the non-AML lands adjacent to their property for future residential development; EPCAMR followed up with Lorne on the issue
- Provided *Ben Mack*, Tetra-Tech Program Manager, with contact information for several of our regional partners that may have additional water quality data on the Quakake Tunnel discharge in the Upper Lehigh River watershed; *Ben* is collected additional information for our partnership proposal with WPCAMR and Tetra-Tech on sampling Rare Earth Metals in AMD across PA for a FY 2018 PA AML Pilot Project; Suggested *Ben* check out SRBC’s Mine Drainage Portal and Datashed initially for additional water quality data; *Ben* was going to find out more about EPCAMR’s questions related to QA/QC, process for sampling, and lab analyses of the samples
- Attended a Field Reconnaissance Tour with *Rob Frank*-Dauphin County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, *Essie Karnes* and *Bill Nace*-members of the Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association (WCRA), and *Russ Collins*-Doc Fritchey Chapter TU to look at some improvements to the Bear Creek AMD impacted tributary in Elizabethville; Provided recommendations following the visit to all partners and the results of the two AMD water samples that were collected in the field; Informed *Kerry Teter*, private landowner who has given us permission to access his property to further investigate other discharges from the Lykens Valley Tunnels in the area and is willing to work with us on future project; *Bill Nace* provided EPCAMR with some contact information for two individuals who have access to mine maps for the area that they are willing to share and talk about at a future date; *Marlin “Shorty” Umberger* is one of them-a local historian from Wiconisco and Scout Leader for over 40 years; Received and reviewed the September 2018 newsletter from the WCRA
- Provided *Aimee Erickson*, Citizens Coal Council, with statistics for Allegheny County at her request, on the AML numbers in the PA AMLIS; Racheal conducted the research and provided the information to her; It looks like there are 305 total AML sites; 22 of which are supposed to have been completely reclaimed (from the *AML sites shapefile*); There are also around 4,404 acres of abandoned mine lands (from the *AML Polygons 2018 shapefile*)
- Ordered an additional batch of pavers at the request of *Ray Clarke*, Huber Breaker Preservation Society Board Treasurer from Olde Mill Impressions

Project Coordination

Harry E. Breaker Swoyersville Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

- Followed up with *Dean Baker*-PA DEP on Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management's inquiry as to how the reimbursement payments will be processed during the project and if the process suggested was acceptable; Keystone Reclamation Fuels Management was wondering when the project can begin since the GFCC was nearly completed

Growboxx Food by Youth, Reclaiming Our Backyard

- Forwarded some sales on garden equipment and Fall seedlings to *Laura* and Denise for considerations and review from HOME DEPOT's Garden Club; Provided *Laura* with *Scott's* research on the IT supplies that we will eventually pick up for the project, some of which may come as refurbished products through Apple; Suggested to *Laura* to follow up directly with Apple to see if they have a donation program for non-profits to help reduce our purchasing costs since we've seen that some products are already out of stock; News release put out by EPCAMR was picked up by the [PA Environmental Digest](#) and forwarded around to our project partners; *Steve Konrad*, Plymouth Historical Society provided EPCAMR with pictures and resources related to Company Stores and food prices that could be purchased from them from the Plymouth area to be incorporated into our education curriculum; *Claudia* provided EPCAMR with *S. Loren Cole's* legacy [film](#) to allow them to gain an understanding of his philosophy and ecosystem restoration approach to his work and that of ISI, LLC; *Nicole Negron*, Eckley's Miner's Village Education Coordinator provided EPCAMR with some Company Store worksheets and invited us to participate in a tour of the Village; She also invited EPCAMR to consider bringing school groups to the site for a guided tour through the village and into the buildings, butter-making, a short video on life in a Patch Town, educational scavenger hunts, time in the gallery, and tour of a miners' house and garden; Contacted the local newspapers to see if we could get an article in each of them to reach the public; Followed up with *Tom Venesky* and *Paul Golias* from the Times-Leader and Citizens Voice, respectively; 200 Growboxxes that were shipping from Mexico made it to San Diego on 9-20-18 on their way to EPCAMR where they were received on 9-25-18 while *Claudia* was still in town; Groasis Sales sent EPCAMR the instruction documents and other supplemental sheets; EPCAMR will need to buy the fertilizer packets at HOME DEPOT; *Pieter Hoff*-CEO of Groasis answered the majority of questions that Staff had about the mechanics and how to plant the Growboxxes; EPCAMR convened a ZOOM conference call with *Pieter* and *Claudia* to answer any questions

Luzerne County Rail Corporation Mapping Project

- Made the necessary contract edits and changes requested by the LCRA and provided to Mike to forward over to *Andy Reilly*, Executive Director with the EPCAMR Executive signature block signed; Reached out to *Margie* to coordinate the pickup and delivery of maps from her office in W. Pittston and to clarify what information details the EPCAMR Staff will be pulling off the maps to be placed in the GIS attribute tables; Inquired about how the LCRC application to ESRI for an ArcGIS non-profit license was coming along

Solomon Creek Dam Removal and Stream Habitat Restoration

- Worked with *Laura* to send along additional photos, logos, text, and bulleted summaries for the project that will be graphically designed and placed on to the interpretative panel to be placed within the Ashley Borough Park; Sent along a working draft to Fossil Industries to work into the overall design; Continued to evaluate the graphic design drafts coming back to EPCAMR for several weeks until satisfied and was finally approved for production

Mocanaqua AMD Mine Pool Consumptive Use Feasibility Study Project

- Scanned the general geology and stratigraphic column out of the Black Creek Report and provided it to *John Pippy*, AES, LLC to have on hand as we begin to drill the boreholes in the Mocanaqua Area on the Pinchot State Forest Mocanaqua Tract; The lead driller was sick on September 10th, so the drilling date moved back a day to September 11th; Provided all project partners with information on when the drilling was going to begin on September 11-15th and a listing of local lunch spots; Informed *Teddy Borawski*-PA DCNR and some of his Staff when EPCAMR and AES, LLC were going to be on-site and progress being made on the drilling in case they were to stop by the project area; Informed the PA Geological Survey as well, however, *Kristen Hand*, was not able to make it to the field due to a conflict on another project site she had to be on; Received the Hawk Mountain Lab Analysis Report for 8-28-18 and input it into the Water Quality Database; Provided *John Pippy*, AES, LLC with an updated Site Roster for him to prepare a report to include with our Quarterly Report to SRBC on the results of the drilling done by Eichelberger's; Requested a copy of the drill logs from *Dave Ney*, Eichelberger's; *Pierre* provided EPCAMR with his and Graham's drill log notes that were in draft form that were forwarded to *John Pippy*, AES, LLC to have Josh convert them into drill log lithographic column images; Requested that AES, LLC come up with a solution to leaving the 10" diameter casing open entirely with the 6" casing contained within it; Some type of ventilated seal or screen/sleeve should be placed around the 10" collar and the plastic that is taped to it now very hap hazardously should be removed to prevent a potential vandal from setting fire to the plastic since there are two camps located in the vicinity with small camp fires that were previously burning in the area; Made a request to SRBC on the AES LLC Invoice for \$4100

Upper Toby Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan Project

- Conducted a day of field reconnaissance in the Kingston Twp., Dallas Twp., and a small portion of Dallas Borough on 9-26-18 looking for watershed impacts with *Tom Maykas*, Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) Stormwater Coordinator; Reached out to *Christine McCarthy*, a resident of Dallas Borough who is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR when we go out in the field to conduct our initial reconnaissance and future field work in the watershed; Requested that if she wanted to help us from afar, she could begin some research on the history of the watershed from a historical perspective and look for old photos and maps that we can include in the plan

SRBC Rausch Creek 3D Mine Pool Feasibility Study Project

- *Tom Clark*-SRBC has requested that EPCAMR pull together a final 5 page final report, the organized and scanned maps, the 3D Mine Pool Model on DVD, and a descriptive Excel File of the Map File

Community Volunteer Coordination

- 6 Wyoming Seminary Upper School students accompanied the Executive Director and *Dr. Andrea Nerozzi*, Chair of the Science Department, to clean out several dozen Waterboxxes in the Huber Breaker Miner's Memorial Park and process iron oxide pigment as a part of their Day of Service at Wyoming Seminary; One of the students from China, *Andy Yin*, is working on an Algal DNA Research Project and is interested in collecting some filamentous algae at a few discharges
- Coordinated with *Roseann Weinrich* and *Jim Chappell*-Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association on their assistance with the 5th Annual Centralia Cleanup on October 20th; Roseanne reached out to area school students and *Jim* donated his time as the Grill Master at the Municipal Building to grill up hot dogs, hamburgers, and cheeseburgers for the EPCAMR Volunteers; Encouraged MCWA to once again become a member watershed organization with EPCAMR

- *Ann Kotch, Plymouth, and John Masur, Hanover Township, PA signed up to become EPCAMR Volunteers*
- *Krystal Daniele, Glen Lyon, PA is interested in doing some community service work for EPCAMR*

Conferences, Training, Tours, & Workshops

- Participated in the PA AMR Conference call to discuss the **2019 PA AMR Joint Conference** Planning with NAAMLPA and NASLR; A planned meeting is going to be held in Pittsburgh in early November; Provided *Anne Daymut-WPCAMR* with last year's sponsor letter to redraft it according to the levels of sponsorship for the NAAMLPA Conference before sending out to our potential sponsors and vendors for next year
- Presented at the *PA TU Annual Meeting and Training* in Bellefonte, PA on the Utilization of GIS for Culvert Assessments and CHP Watershed Planning in Mining Impacted Watersheds; Exchanged presentations with *Shaun McAdams* so that we could compliment one another's presentation before the Training; Co-presented along with *Shaun*, Habitat Coordinator for TU/Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads, who talked about available funding for design of culvert replacements; Provided the EPCAMR Staff with the combined presentation that will eventually go up on the PATU website
- EPCAMR Executive Director received a scholarship to attend a one-day Fundamentals of Financial Management Training sponsored by the Moses Taylor Foundation and the Scranton Area Foundation Center for Community Leadership and Non-Profit Excellence to be presented by the Non-Profit Center at LaSalle University; Attended the September 6th Training on Montage Mountain
- EPCAMR Executive Director and ARRI Partner was invited by *Laura Bray*, PEC Program Coordinator, Pittsburgh, PA to attend the "*Roots to Success*" Panel Discussion in State College, PA on building additional collaborations for abandoned mine land reclamation and reforestation across PA; The goal of the focused-group meeting is to build upon the theme, "*Developing Partnerships for Mine Land Reforestation*,"; PEC will be bringing together partners, ideas, and opportunities to further the mission of ARRI and accelerate reforestation efforts in PA
- Inquired to *Lois Wallenhorst-Just Transition*, to see if she had any additional details on the National Convention for November and if there were going to be any scholarships available to non-profits who might not otherwise be able to attend; EPCAMR has participated in the past and have worked on Just Transition and abandoned mine reclamation and economic development issues in the Coalfields of Northeastern and Northcentral PA for years; Informed her that we are a major part of the PA AML Campaign with the Foundation for PA Watersheds and are working on the RECLAIM Act and Reauthorization of the Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act
- *Liz Rosser-PSU Master Watershed Stewardship Program Coordinator* is hosting a February 2019 State-wide Watershed Conference with PEC in State College, PA and requested to purchase some iron oxide for staining some of the awards that they want to give out; Provided her with a picture of the stained fish play structure at the Nay Aug Avenue Park in Scranton and a link to a related news [article](#) on the project from WNEP

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA, Invest Accounts; Paid Health Care Premiums for EPCAMR Staff; Balanced EPCAMR Checking Register
- Completed the September 2018 EPCAMR Board and 319 Reports and submitted to Mike for inclusion with our anticipated reimbursements
- Provided *Laura Rinehimer* with the necessary paperwork from OneSource for her to fill out for her Part-Time, Hourly Employment with EPCAMR as our Environmental Education Watershed Outreach Specialist and provide to EPCAMR; Once the paperwork was completed, it was forwarded to *Jessica Barbose*, OneSource for proper filing
- Requested that *Mike* take care of the annual verification of all of the EPCAMR domains with GoDaddy
- Provided *Bob Hauer*, Community Aid, with EPCAMR's updated contact information
- *Billy Joe Mondulick*, teacher at Bear Creek Charter School inquired about her son Jeff, who is a freshman at King's College, in the Environmental Science Program and in Work Study; He may be interested in applying for a future internship; Suggested to her that he forward EPCAMR a cover letter and resume
- Got our GMC SubUrban inspected