

Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



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September 2024 Progress Report EPCAMR Conservation District Mining East Project

Project Coordination

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

- Provided *Hank Zielinski* with some reference resources for the Abrahams Creek watershed from EPCAMR's previously written [Coldwater Conservation Plan](#) at his request for some work that he is doing on pulling together information on the north side of the Harry E. culm banks; Hank found a map showing the former stream [alignment](#) of the Creek; Planned for a field meeting on the site on October 2nd with PA DEP BAMR and the Pottsville DMO and *Hank*, to look over the GFCC boundary and AML boundary for the project and discuss the material movement and placement for process and hauling and excavation of material

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

- EPCAMR received a denial letter for the project; Requested feedback on the application from the PA DEP BAMR and informed the project partners of the unsuccessful proposal that has previously been submitted following several iterations and improvements that were made to the application in previous rounds; OSMRE denied BAMR's vetting submission because they believed the project is research and development based on 2 CFR 200.87; They believed the project may not result in any community or economic development as the project may not prove economically feasible; They believed that the project would require a Title V active mining permit to move the refuse to the Hollywood AMD treatment plant to be processed for REE/CM; They referenced SMCRA definitions in Title VII Section 701(28)(B); PA DEP Legal Counsel reviewed OSMRE's comments and agreed with their opinion; OSMRE believes that the Calcination process (heating the REE Oxalate) would require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which would take an extended period of time to produce; BAMR did previously mention the need for an Air Quality permit to Tetra Tech who felt it was not necessary; PA DEP Active Mining Operations Staff also stated that a permit would be needed to remove the refuse for REE/CM extraction; Reprocessing is considered an active mining activity and AMLER, BIL, and Title IV AML funds can't be spent of this type of activity; Looking at the cost vs revenue (economic summary) for processing the sludge only for REE/CM, the project would not be viable and would actually cost the State more to operate the AMD Treatment Plant than it currently does; Since the refuse removal is considered a Title V activity by OSMRE, and since the sludge revenue will not cover operational expenses, they couldn't move forward with a recommendation of an award

Loyalsock Creek AMD Sampling and Tour for Sullivan County Conservation District

- Participated in the monthly Sullivan County sampling of the AMD Treatment Systems and other monitoring points for the Sullivan County Conservation District, White Ash Land Association, and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

MSI Mine Mapping Project

- *Mike* had informed *Shawnese Taylor*- GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist that he was able to recover some files from the Kidney Vein that were corrupted and suggested she use the updated geodatabase that he has going forward while she is working on the Wilkes-Barre West Quadrangle, and to save all data every two weeks to prevent further loss of work and submit when she sends in her timesheets; *Nick Zmijewski*- Industrial Archives & Library (IAL) dropped off the Lattimer Mine collection for scanning by *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps; There are about **2,900** map images between the 2 collections (*Joe Michaels* and *Alex Chamberlain*); Patrick Jaquay, PA DEP California District Mining Office said it would be great to find them and rescan them in 400 DPI TIFF format; We are interested in cross-sections from the *Joe Michaels'* Collection for the northern portion of the Jeansville Basin, Beaver Brook, and Spring Mountain Collieries; We are interested in surface maps; These show streets, houses, and boreholes, and they usually have grids on them; The surface maps were used to line up the underground maps and are useful when we georeference them; It's best to have surface maps from the colliery where you are georeferencing underground mine maps; *Nick* has Lehigh Valley & Reading Anthracite mine maps

BeaverBrook East AML Reclamation Project

- Informed *Jeff Randolph*, BlueCup Ventures, LLC, that EPCAMR is awaiting a final grant agreement from the PA DEP Grants Center before we can proceed any further; Provided *Riyad Barkawi*, PA DEP BAMR with a copy of the approved Excel file budget that was submitted to the PA DEP Grants Center for the project while he was created an Attachment A for the project; EPCAMR hasn't received a fully executed agreement yet, however, our Board Officers have signed the agreement electronically

NFWF Southern Wyoming Valley Small Watersheds Grant Assessment Plan

- *Steve Cornia*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist, created a placeholder for the Story Map link for the project; A new Uniform Guidance coming out in October 2024 will raise the De Minimis to up to 15%, effective October 1st, 2024; NFWF will be providing grantees with additional information about this change and some other Uniform Guidance updates; Communicated with *Oleksandr Faryga* and *Tess Dunkell*- Project Officer to finalize the final reimbursement request report on the EasyGrant portal

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

- Purchased a PA fishing license for *Steve Cornia*- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist for fishery monitoring in the watershed; Received our Special Use Permit from the PA Game Commission for SGL 260 and 55; EPCAMR informed *James Roberts*- PA Game Commission Wildlife Habitat Land Manager that we had received the approval to be able to hike and assess the various watersheds and abandoned mine lands and AMD discharges on the former Stackhouse Colliery, Salem Coal Company lands, and Dogtown area near Rocky Run; EPCAMR applied for and received our PA Fish & Boat Commission Scientific Collector's Permit on September 19th and sent along a check in the mail; EPCAMR received permission from Councilwoman *Rosalie "Bubbles"* from Shickshinny Borough and the Road Department Supervisor *Dave* to be able to park at the bottom of road where the SGL gate is locked along Little Shickshinny Creek while assessing the creek; Provided Morgan with maps of the watershed, RAMLIS summaries of the Problem Areas (PAs) the outline for the PA American Water Charitable Foundation grant, and other reference information and resources on the watersheds; Printed out blank NAACC culvert assessment field

forms for over 50 culverts and bridge crossings; *Mike Korb* informed EPCAMR out of caution of a stretch of land along Parker Hill area from the gate in Shickshinny that is posted

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

- Milestone 1 was completed and accepted by EnergyWerx; Provided *Frank Sindaco*-EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist and *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps Watershed Outreach Specialist with the most recent Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and our contact list of stakeholders that we are building for a future informational meeting on the project; Directed Frank to look over the GIS data needs and asked Morgan to add additional contact information for partners in the region that we will eventually reach out to after the New Year; Chuck Cravotta provided an excellent resource article on the social history of the Anthracite Region (*Marsh, Ben*, 1987, Continuity and decline in the anthracite towns of PA: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, v. 77, p. 337–352); Requested a quote from *Anne Reiner*- Reiner Productions for the production of a 5 minute video production as a part of the project to interview a few attendees at an information meeting for the project, footage inside and outside of a Co-Gen Plant, and driving around the small coal towns of Frackville, Morea, Mahanoy City, and Gilberton; Reached out to LCCC President *John Yudichak* to schedule a Zoom call to talk with him and his Staff working on Workforce Development and Job Training Programs to see if they would be involved as stakeholders in the project; *Doug Palmieri*-LCCC reached out and EPCAMR scheduled a meeting with them for October 17th 2024; Reached out to Penn-State Hazleton, Schuylkill, and Wilkes-Barre Commonwealth Campuses, and PennTAP to see if they have an interest in being a stakeholder; Sent along an updated WBS to PSU Professors for their review; PSU sent back a draft WBS for EPCAMR to review; much of which is repeated in the EPCAMR WBS; EPCAMR will have to review and breakout tasks and deliverables that have already been completed and discuss further other elements that are outside of the scope of the project with the PSU Professors; Downloaded a great template for developing a Community Benefits Plan

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

- *Cliff Denholm*- Stream Restoration Inc. pulled together an Executive Summary for the report at the request of POWR/PEC; *Deb Nardone*-Foundation for PA Watersheds, provided comments on the draft report; POWR and PEC requested some teasing out of some of the data to separate responses from community watershed organizations and Conservation Districts; Provided *Patrick Starr*- PEC, with a copy of SRI/EPCAMR PowerPoint presentation to them as an update; Began working with our partners on addressing comments and the writing of the Final Data Analysis and Report to POWR/PEC

Sugar Notch Run Trail AML Tire and Watershed Cleanup

- Coordinated with *Keith George*, Luzerne Conservation District to discuss our approach to the illegal tire pile cleanup along the Sugar Notch Trail, waterfall, Hanover Township municipal land, and a PA DCNR Pinchot State Forest tract along Interstate 81 Southbound; *Keith* is going to request some funding through the Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program; EPCAMR reached out to the WVSA since a majority of the tires are on Hanover Township property and they were willing to fund a major portion of the tire cleanup recycling and removal along with EPCAMR, Luzerne Conservation District, PA American Water Charitable Foundation, and PEC NE Office through the Water Quality Advisory Committee; Worked with *Megan Finnen*-PA DCNR to obtain permission to access and cross PA DCNR property for the cleanup through a Letter of Authorization and to receive a template for signing people up who may want to sign up as a PA DCNR Community Volunteer; EPCAMR created a group account through the PA DCNR Community Volunteer page and added Pinchot State Forest to our service area; Provided PA DCNR and WVSA with

EPCAMR's Certificate of Liability Insurance and added them as an additionally insured; Keith reached out to PA DOT, with no response; Settled on November 17th from 9-2PM for the cleanup

Technical Assistance

- Conducted a Zoom interview with *Owen Harrington*, a PhD candidate in the Geography Department at Penn State, where his advisor is *Dr. Jenn Baka*; His dissertation research is focused on studying the ongoing efforts to establish a critical minerals economy in PA with AMD and coal wastes as the primary feedstocks; Forwarded the recent Center Square news [article](#) on the subject
- *Lucas Hower*, a Penn-State student was working on a GIS map for the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) of AMD discharges; EPCAMR provided him with some suggestions on how to map them including providing latitude and longitude points for the seeps; That would probably help him get them on the map and develop a symbology and legend for them; EPCAMR suggested overlaying the Priority 1 & 2 Health and Safety features for the Problem Areas that are abandoned mine land features and the other AMD discharges, in addition to the seeps that are in that area of the watershed. Suggested that he include the stream names and or tributaries, elevation data, and LIDAR data; He may want to add the impaired segments from the Impaired List of Waters to be able to have a data attribute table that goes along with the file that he is creating as metadata for the list of the specific impairments (i.e., pH, metals, stream modification, sediments, etc.); Suggested that he include the PSU Logo, and other partner logos, including SRCA, EPCAMR, and Northumberland County GIS Department; Finally, EPCAMR suggested that he identify the landowners and municipalities as well through tax parcel data
- Provided *Jacob Smith*- ARM Group Staff Engineer, with contact information for *Chuck Cravotta*, and some suggested labs for running an ANC gran titration
- Provided *Peter Haentjens*, Eastern Middle Anthracite Regional Recovery, Inc. ([EMARR](#)) with a list of potential grant funding sources for the Green Mountain Water Project permit application; EPCAMR looked at the recreational component for planning purposes and those grants usually come from PA DCNR and the Butler Tract being a part of the whole area and DCNR's ownership
- *Mike Hewitt* and *Morgan Romanowski* assisted the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) in the sampling of Critical Rare Earth Elements (CREM) around the watershed on September 17th to the Cameron culm banks and to the Excelsior culm banks
- Provided *Cara Alice Steinberg*, Intern, University of Pittsburgh, with resources on AML and AMD for Western PA and Fayette County; She is currently working with *Dr. David Sanchez* on the Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative (ACRI) at the University; The project is on year 4 out of 10 and is focused on the history, culture, and prospects in the Appalachian region. Pitt students from urban studies, political science, business, and sustainability have been working creatively and intentionally to balance informed research with community perspective. Her current efforts aim to support economic development in Fayette County; EPCAMR suggested she sign up to attend the PA AMR Conference and we would provide her with a travel scholarship
- Requested that *Tom Shubilla*, Plains Township Commission, Luzerne County, provide EPCAMR with latitude and longitude coordinates for the abandoned mine site around the Hilldale section of purchased by the Township; The plot of land is behind Grace Drive and adjacent to the Municipal park off Clark Lane; EPCAMR works with *Cody Forgach* in *Senator Fetterman's* Office locally and could inform him of any additional support needed for the proposed reclamation project; EPCAMR

could pull a summary review of the e-AMLIS inventory information for the site and provide them with a summary of any information that we might have that is historic for the Problem Area (s) that we can provide and research; EPCAMR may have some watershed information as well since it's more than likely in the Mill Creek watershed, where we have already completed a Coldwater Conservation Plan; EPCAMR will provide the Township with a Letter of Support should they propose any future grant applications

- Informed *Clint LeRoy*, MARG Energy, that there were **40** mine fires state-wide and there are 19 in the Anthracite Region, from our last count; EPCAMR's [link](#) provides information on all of them that was gathered from available State datasets; EPCAMR is not working on any of them actively; The State is the agency that deals with mine fires and utilizes funding from the federal abandoned mine land program to try and put them out, excavate them, trench them, and then reclaim them; We don't have any authorization to get on these lands in particular; We just know where they are happening and are inventoried; Suggested that any inquiries into the mine fire locations that they follow up with the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Wilkes-Barre or the [regional office](#) in Cambria County
- Informed *Bonnie McDevitt*, PhD, Physical Research Scientist with the USGS and other Staff that from experience with PA DCNR, if instrumentation or monitoring wells are to be placed long-term or for a particular study period in the Nanticoke Creek watershed, the USGS may want to inquire about their [State Forest Research Agreement](#) that they required EPCAMR to sign and provide to them when we worked on the Pinchot State Forest in Mocanaqua on their Mocanaqua Tract that was formerly Earth Conservancy lands when we completed a feasibility study and line pool work for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in the Black Creek Watershed

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

- Assisted the Luzerne Conservation District and [Larson Design Group](#), the Luzerne County Action Plan Coordinator Technical Assistance provider with identifying information on State Game Lands 260, Shickshinny area, since it is a part of our current watershed assessment overview on water quality, macroinvertebrate sampling, fishery aquatic passage, culvert and road/bridge assessments under the [NAACC](#) Non-Tidal Aquatic Organism Protocols, and a minor focus on wildlife habitat since it wasn't the main focus of our grant from the PA American Water Charitable Foundation; PGC has a crew trained and equipped to install bat gates; EPCAMR couldn't participate in the field visit date selected, however, Staff made a follow-up trip to the SGL Problem Areas (PAs) and areas that are not included in official PAs on several occasions to provide them with additional qualitative field data of the abandoned mine lands and AMD seeps that were found; Provided LDG with our RAMLIS Summary for the Dogtown Problem Area and a map of the Paddy Run, Rocky Run, and Little Shickshinny Creek watersheds that was an area they were focusing on; Jeff Painter, PA Game Commission met with PA DEP BAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District on SGL 260 on September 23rd and noted that one of the features that's currently not in the grant application they will be revising for re-submittal is the 4188-01 discharge at the east end of the SGL; *TJ Matinas*-PA DEP BAMR, shared a file folder with photos from the tour; They observed the AMD from well upslope and didn't take any field measurements; PGC requested if EPCAMR had any data on the discharge or had assessed it yet to determine whether it is adversely impacted; Reviewed the LIDAR and Problem Area Aerial data from LDG, where the coordinates of the AML features are off considerably due to the older GPS technology back in the late 80s and early 90s; The grant is going to be a design phase; EPCAMR Executive Director began hiking and surveying the field locations of AML and AMD features with *Morgan Romanowski*-AmeriCorps on SGL 260; EPCAMR provided to PA DEP BAMR and PGC, an updated map of AML features and photos explored, documented, and mapped by the EPCAMR Executive Director and AmeriCorps member

in the Paddy Run, Rocky Run watersheds on SGL 260; Mike produced RAMLIS Summaries for *TJ Matinas*-PA DEP BAMR and encouraged him to provide them to all project partners

Education & Outreach

- Participated in weekly PA AML Campaign calls; Provided the PA AML Campaign a federal update from our colleague *Peter Marx*-Contractor for Federal Affairs for the Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Received logos from *Shelby Street*- Conservation Legacy Program Coordinator, to be able to use in future outreach and education to highlight our federal partners; Executive Director went through the Supervisor Onboarding for the AmeriCorps Program; Instructed Morgan Romanowski to complete her I-9 Form and draft up a few paragraphs on her background for a News Release on the EPCAMR website and our social media; Directed *Morgan* to read the EPCAMR Employee Personnel Manual and sign the last page that *Mike Hewitt* witnessed once she had a chance to go through it; The I-9 was signed, completed, and forwarded to *Meaghan Scott*- AmeriCorps Program Manager; Finalized *Morgan's* onboarding [article](#) to *Meaghan* who greatly appreciated it and posted it to the EPCAMR website and our social media channels
- Participated in a Teams call with *Ariana Genna*-PE DEP Office of Environmental Justice Regional Coordinator to discuss updates on projects in the region
- Received a copy of *Clint LeRoy's* MARG Energy blog that discussed our meeting on using algae to remove metals from AMD
- Helped to push out Catawissa Creek Restoration Association's (CCRA) new [website](#) to help them increase their membership and awareness of the new projects and efforts of the community watershed organization; EPCAMR was able to push out the release of the website to our social media page, the PA Environmental Digest, the Stanley Cooper Chapter of TU on each of their Facebook pages, the [Catawissa Township](#) (has 237 followers) page, and a [Catawissa Facebook Group](#) with over **3000** followers; Posted a [link](#) to the Catawissa Creek Cleanup being organized by a local group of volunteers on October 13th; Anne from the Farm at Catawissa provided additional Facebook pages that needed to be joined before being able to post on the new CCRA website:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/columbiacountynewsandevents>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/elysburgpa>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bloomsburgpa>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/619295954876670>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2243139186016838>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/867251524895038>
- [Gordon Tomb](#)- Senior Fellow with the [Commonwealth Foundation](#), published his [article](#) on how regulations subvert environmental justice in regions across PA that are continuing to reclaim abandoned mines with EPCAMR and WPCAMR's partnering Co-Gen Plants through ARIPPA, ran in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette
- *Chuck Cravotta*, sent EPCAMR an article in [Nature Magazine](#) on some current research on "*Treating abandoned mine drainage can protect streams cost-effectively and benefit vulnerable communities*"; It's a very good research article and current as of this year, and used a lot of data from Datashed and references the IAJA funding

- Discussed among some partners in the EPCAMR Region as to whether they had responded to *Grace Edinger*, Procurement Policy Strategy Lead- Environmental Policy Innovation Center ([EPIC](#)), and her survey and questions to examine the PA AML Program utilization; EPIC as a non-profit organization is one of the few that has focused on the underlying procurement policies of government environmental programs, providing analysis and recommendations in partnership with agencies to help alleviate capacity constraints and hold-ups in the procurement process; Her current research project will result in a report on possible solutions for getting the enormous amount of available AML funds into good projects more quickly; Along with state statute and federal legal review, she is conducting a suite of interviews with government staff, past PA grantees, and AMD AML experts to learn more about past experiences with the financial aspects of the program; EPCAMR invited her to attend the PA AMR Conference to hear our summary of our findings of our results, however, she was going to be out of the country; Participated in a brief interview with *Grace* since her topics seem to overlap with our survey of Community Watershed Organizations and Conservation Districts; Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) is serving as a pass-through for the research project; We've provided similar input already to the GAO and the federal Office of Inspector General (OIG) awhile back before they produced the report on Abandoned Mine Lands that made several recommendations on how OSMRE could improve their internal communications and outreach ; It didn't focus much at all on the concerns of the community watershed organizations working on projects or trying to propose and write federal grants to infuse those dollars into coalfield communities
- Participated in a Zoom PA Certified MWEE Facilitator - Professional Development Refresher Session to review the Executive Director's AMD Environmental Literacy Plan and to maintain the Facilitator level status
- America250PA has launched its [Keystone Classroom Initiative](#), a storytelling and visitation program for kindergarten through fourth-grade classrooms, children's hospitals, and youth camps across the Commonwealth; EPCAMR AmeriCorps assisted with packing bags for the schools that we work with in the region as a part of the [AmeriCorps National Day of Service](#)
- Provided brainstorming comments to *Rich Mackrell* on the LIU Environmental Education Grant proposal in partnership with PA DCNR Friends of Nescopeck State Park and the PA Council of the Arts to use AMD iron oxide pigment in an immersive AMD and Art education program
- *Kylie Montigney*, - Host of Talk of Fame Podcast & NEPA Story, reached out to the EPCAMR Executive Director to plan a future interview and episode for a feature on Amazing People of NEPA
- EPCAMR inquired to *Colleen Epler-Ruths*, NC PA Environmental Literacy Hub Coordinator IF she had a separate list of the school districts for the NE Region of PA, in addition to the NC part of the State; EPCAMR region overlaps several areas within our coverage area as a non-traditional educational organization including the NC, NE, SC, and SE; It's nice to see that the PAEE map that is used that was created by EPCAMR many years ago is still useful
- Participated in a Zoom call of the Pocono NE RC & DC Board; Informed the Board that EPCAMR has begun publicizing *Brian Oram's* [Know Your H2O – Outdoor Environmental and Global Resources for Citizen Scientists](#) website; *Wes Keller* was interested in seeing that the RC & DC invested in an Exhibit table, tri-fold board, and promotional materials or project highlights booth; The RC & DC needs a better web presence and some brochures printed

- Pushed out [NEPADOC](#) documentary released on Blue Ray and DVD through EPCAMR's social media outlets; The Blu-ray and DVD of NEPADOC include new content, created specifically for this release; Special features include:
 - Director's introduction
 - Behind-the-scenes images from the film's production and touring
 - The film's original trailer
 - Scene selection & animated menus

Trout in the Classroom

- PATU asked EPCAMR if we could provide some technical assistance and support to the Hanover Area School District that has been approved for a TIC start-up grant and a chiller; Given EPCAMR's years of experience in the program and our partnership with the Stanley Cooper Chapter TU, EPCAMR had no issue reaching out to *Crista Koter-Langdon*, Principal at the school; EPCAMR received word that the eggs were going to be shipping on January 13th 2025

Mine Mapping Outreach Video

- Received an invoice from Centone Picture Productions for the professional video services and made a payment; Informed *Joe Sapienza*, Director, that EPCAMR Staff would get outside later this week to fly the various areas to include in the video production two-part series; EPCAMR Staff had flown some of the sites within the Nanticoke Creek watershed with the drone and mailed along the footage on a thumb drive to *Joe*; Provided *Joe* with partner logos including the Luzerne Foundation and the Earth Conservancy; *Joe* provided a rough cut of the 2 segments of the video that still needs to have the mine maps inserted into them within the video interviews and footage

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

26th PA AMR Conference Planning for 2024

- Held a Zoom banquet Food Committee Meeting to choose the meals and break foods for the PA AMR Conference; Conference Registrations and Exhibitors continue to come into EPCAMR; Coordinated with the Schuylkill Conservation District to set up a time where we can have a Zoom call to provide *Bill Reichert*- Schuylkill Conservation District with the 2024 Mayfly Award; [Lionheart Advisors](#) and the Sullivan County Conservation District became an Exhibitor; Approved additional travel scholarships for 3 [Mountain Watershed Association](#) members and *Chelsea Walker*- Westmoreland County Conservation District; Participated in a monthly PA AMR Conference Planning Committee call; Received a Gold level sponsorship from Robindale Energy ([RES Group](#)); [Lupine Site Design](#) became an exhibitor; [Camp Dresser McKee Smith](#) (CDM Smith) became a sponsor; [RESPEC](#) became a Silver level sponsor; Followed up with *Briggs White* from the IWG about his commitment to speak at the PA AMR Conference; Approved a travel scholarship for *Vanessa Whipkey*- Executive Director for the [Sewickley Creek Watershed Association](#); EPCAMR reviewed the Exhibitors list and produced a [News Release](#) on the Draft Program for the Conference and posted it to social media and our website; *Sharon Buccino* from OSMRE committed to coming to the PA AMR Conference following her attendance in Branson, MO at the IMCC Conference; Filled out documentation to request that *Steve Feldgus*-OSMRE join us as a speaker at the PA AMR Conference; Approved the trucker PA AMR Conference hats for embroidery and stitching and Mike obtained sizes from everyone for the Polos for the Committee members; *Anne Daymut*-WPCAMR, and the Committee started looking at proofreading and preparing the updated survey for the post-conference evaluation, *Andy's* Welcome message, and the Conference Program booklet; Participated in our monthly PA AMR Conference Zoom Planning Committee call to discuss logistics and agenda; *Tom Clark*-Kleinfelder wrote a marketing piece for the Conference Program to invite attendees to participate in the annual corn hole tournament; EPCAMR got a printing quote for the Conference Program printing quote of \$371, 5-7 day turnaround, with a deadline of Oct 11th

Luzerne County Association of Township Officials Conference

- Morgan exhibited on behalf of EPCAMR at a tabling event on September 19th to highlight EPCAMR's Borehole Monitoring Awareness Campaign to Luzerne County officials at the Checkerboard Inn, in Kingston Township; EPCAMR is trying to increase awareness among the officials so that they don't pave over the monitoring boreholes into the mine pools around the County that were installed back in the 1970s, however, are not listed on PA One-Call

NTTP AMD Passive Treatment System Training with OSMRE/PA DEP BAMR & EPCAMR/WPCAMR

- Secured a 15-passenger van from Enterprise to drive down to State College for the AMD Passive Treatment Training tour day and provided them with all the necessary insurance and exemption paperwork; Picked up the van and made the trip to the Ramada Conference Center; Attended the 3-Day AMD Passive Treatment Training, provided technical support, and assisted with on-site coordination of breaks and meals with the Ramada Conference Center Staff and drove the van to the tour locations; 25 attendees from Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups combined

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) Mine Pools as Beneficial Resources Conference at Bucknell University on June 4-5th, 2025

- Dates of the Symposium had to be moved to June 4-5th, 2025 to work out a scheduling conflict with the University; SCRA is developing a [website](#) and finalizing titles of various presentations; EPCAMR's Program Manager and Executive Director will co-present on our 3-D mine pool mapping efforts; Forwarded biography to *Steve Chrismer*-SCRA

- *Chris Lent*, NE Region Sustainable Agricultural Specialist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and [ATTRA – Sustainable Agriculture \(ncat.org\)](https://ncat.org) forwarded EPCAMR a webinar put on by the US Forest Service on [Research Advance on Specialized Tree and Biochar to Remediate the Stabilize Mining Waste — The Webinar Portal \(forestrywebinars.net\)](https://forestrywebinars.net); NCAT have some specialists with experience and the vision to build community around growing good food and increasing access to fresh local food to communities that need it ideally to show production methods to underserved urban growers and help them access local markets; EPCAMR will research and provide a few names of groups working on community gardens in the coalfields in the cities we work in across the region that have utilized our Waterboxxes since they are related to local food access and sustainable food production
- [American Society of Reclamation Sciences Conference](#) will be held from June 1-5, 2025
- Scheduled a Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour for a 3-person news crew from Global TV, the largest news station in South America from Brazil that got a hold of EPCAMR and asked for the Executive Director to give them a tour of the area mining impacts, reclamation, AMD, a look at our mine mapping work, our recovery of iron oxide for art; They are coming in from NY City

EPCAMR Community Volunteers

- *Jasmyne Morgans*, Glen Lyon, signed up as an EPCAMR Volunteer to become certified for the NAACC Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Protocol training for 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 September 2024 with Highmark and United Concordia; Paid EC the rent; Made EPCAMR deposits to FNB; Made reconciliations with *Marianne*, our Bookkeeper-Ignite Business Services
- *Andy McAllister*- WPCAMR reached out to *John Dawes* about the positive responses both EPCAMR and WPCAMR Board members gave regarding holding a Joint EPCAMR/WPCAMR Visioning Meeting in the Winter 2024; WPCAMR submitted a Letter of Intent to the Foundation for PA Watersheds to support the Joint Visioning Meeting on November 21st and 22nd 2024; Worked on contract agreement with the Penn-Stater with *Andy* to finalize the details for the event; Pushed out to the EPCAMR/WPCAMR Board members, the 'Save the Date' and the draft tentative agenda EPCAMR Executive Director first developed and was modified by WPCAMR
- Provided *Laura Holahan*, PA Bureau of Accounting and Financial Management, Office of the Budget with our completed paperwork for the SACF FYE 2023 and informed her that we were working with Kohanski & Co. on our Single Audit for 2023; Reached out to Kohanski & Co., *Cristy Sweeney*, -EPCAMR Treasurer, Bookkeeper -*Marianne Beane*-Ignite Business Services
- EPCAMR received from *Rachel Nelson*, PA DEP Grants Center, our official closeout letter from the PA DEP on the completion of our Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Grant, Doc. Number: C990002343, Conservation District Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program-East

- *Jill Whitcomb*, Acting Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Programs, informed the Executive Director that the appointment letter for the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Stakeholders Advisory Committee, is with the Governor's Office for their review and approval
- Worked with *Trish Attardo*, Water Program Specialist, Watershed Support Section to make minor revisions to the new Work Plan, Budget, and Task & Deliverables worksheets and approved them
- Provided *Daniel Snowden*, who is pulling documentation together for the Aggregate Advisory Board, with an older appointment letter from the State Conservation Commission (SCC), when Karl Brown had reappointed the Executive Director to the Aggregate Advisory Board back in 2014