Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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September 2015 Progress Report

Highlights:

- EPCAMR staff continued to scan 128 mine maps into TIFF images, georeferenced 221 SID files & digitized features from 65 maps into a geodatabase for the MSI Mine Map Processing Grant.
- EPCAMR staff discovered a new discharge to the Susquehanna River in the **Wyoming Valley**
- EPCAMR staff participated in work day with **Kings College** at **HBPS Park**, an AMR Conference Call, an EPCAMR staff meeting, interviewed by **Bold Gold Media** (Radio) and educated legislators in **Washington D.C.**
- Updated and tried new versions of ArcGIS, earthVision & WP Shop Theme; worked out glitches
- Provided 2 sets of maps and statistics to EPCAMR partners; Continued printing/PDF-ing maps for municipalities in the **Wyoming Valley**
- EPCAMR staff took daily gauge readings and sampled flow/chemistry at **Askam** Boreholes
- Updated www.epcamr.org; administered the EPCAMR Facebook and Google Apps for Nonprofits accounts.

Education, Outreach and Admin.:

- Reconciled the 2015 AMR Conference budget with our records to show how much money we have to carry forward to 2016. Reported to the AMR Conference Planning Committee list serve.
- EPCAMR Staff took photos and documented work as the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) had the switchman's shanty delivered to the Anthracite Miner's Memorial Park. The shanty was along the railroad tracks behind our office. The Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority donated the structure to the park. A HBPS board member arranged to have it moved. Also, a railroad signal was donated to the park from Ashley Borough as they are relocating their office from Main Street to a side street in Ashley. A few weeks later, EPCAMR worked with King College students to dig a utility trench and place benches on the park property.
- Worked in QuickBooks to update some program budgets and invoices from reimbursements. Fixed some deposits that were missed in February to May.
- EPCAMR staff held a staff meeting to coordinate efforts for the month.
- Coordinated with Anne Daymut of WPCAMR, and Louise Dunlap of Dunlap and Browder to visit legislative offices in Washington D.C. The PA AML Campaign requested that we visit as many Pennsylvania Congressmen and Senators as we could and provide them with information about the AML Economic Revitalization portion of the Power Plus amendment to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and possible reauthorization of SMCRA. It has been about 10 years since we went to D.C. and about all of the district have new representatives. Ended up meeting with 5 Congressional staffers, 1 actual Congressman, 1 staffer from the House Committee on Natural Resources, 2 Senate staffers and a reporter from an environmental magazine over 2 days. Travel expenses were reimbursed by the Foundation for

PA Watersheds through a common grants form. Anne, Louise and I debriefed and wrote up some meeting notes when we returned to our respective offices.

- Taught EPCAMR Bookkeeper, Denise, how to calculate staff time spent on different grants for invoicing and reimbursement purposes. I find it easier to use old ledger charts and it's a break from looking at the computer screen. We found several pre-made sheets that Earth Conservancy was going to toss, so we decided to recycle them.
- EPCAMR staff participated in an AMR Conference Call to review comments and begin planning for the 2016 AMR Conference.
- EPCAMR management staff traveled to the Bold Gold Media Group office to participate in a talk radio show which will air on 94.3 FM The Talker, 105 FM The River and The Game on several AM radio stations. We were interviewed by the talk show host and basically explained what EPCAMR is and what we do in regard to dealing with Abandoned Mine Issues in Eastern PA.
- Discovered an AMD discharge coming from the bank of the Susquehanna River at the site of the Knox Mine Disaster. Took a video and GPS location of the site, and plan to revisit the site to gather water quality. The flow would be difficult to judge since the discharge manifests itself via many seeps along a several thousand foot stretch of the river bank, which would be covered by river water during normal flow conditions.
- Served jury duty for 3 days but was released in the afternoon and returned to work to complete flow sampling at Askam, fix issues with the calendar page on www.epcamr.org, complete some work/training for the MSI program and update the AMD discharges GIS shapefile.
- MSI program staff attempted to connect to PHUMMIS one day and a new security message came up stating that our Anti-Virus program was inadequate to access the state VPN. Discussed with our project advisors at PA DEP California DMO. This is a new security requirement passed down from Harrisburg and ours is the first incident they are dealing with.
- Ran to Staples for some discount office supplies with a big coupon. At EPCAMR we like to employ a "stock up and save with coupons" policy when it comes to purchasing office supplies. We keep a list of diminishing or needed supplies and try to build up orders to meet thresholds for coupons or free shipping.
- Met with David Barocca, who is working on the history of the Knox Mine Disaster. He wants to make a video that shows the paths that worker took to escape the rising mine water. He was interested in our 3D mine pool models and wanted to know if it was something he could include. We told him that the regional Wyoming Valley mine pool model was lacking in the Pittston area and encouraged him to help us find funding to complete the model. It would be a fantastic collaborative publicity effort and excellent training opportunity for staff and we may consider doing the work with EPCAMR funding alone. It's a struggle to show the 3D models in anything other than a live demonstration or a video. 3D printing of the EarthVision models is not turning out to be feasible. It looks like another program for Dynamic Graphics Inc. called CoViz 4D is needed to export the model into an STL file. We do not have a license for this program but are working with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) TIPS representatives to see if it is a possibility.
- Catch up on writing Program Manager reports for previous months and posted them to www.epcamr.org.

Technical Assistance:
- Attempted to find out where an additional 1,000 gpm of fresh water was coming from between the end of the Askam Treatment System and the downstream sampling points on Nanticoke Creek. The Espy Run tributary comes in, but probably is only contributing about 500 gpm, leaving another 500 gpm unresolved. Reported this to the Earth Conservancy and began looking for an answer. The only Tributary that comes in is Espy Run and the flow on that stream is not that high. Looked at EPA's Envirofacts and DEP's WAVE sites, but could not find any discharges of that magnitude. Assumed that it was an error with our flow monitoring equipment. A week later, Earth Conservancy staff indicated that PA American Water found a

break in their main line along Dundee Road. That would be consistent with the downstream flows that I was measuring [EC].
- Updated the OSM Folio Published Map File (PMF) that EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Specialists use to print maps for the PennEast grant. The new PDF includes roads, colliery boundaries, topographic maps and aerial photography for background information to aid in finding specific folios when given addresses or areas within a municipal boundary.
- Upgraded the EPCAMR Store WordPress Shop Theme to version 8.4, a free upgrade, but wrought with some big changes. Initially attempted to fix some minor errors with the EPCAMR Store in the old version, but contacted technical support who lead me to the update. The update, however, was not an auto-update and had to be manually installed. Tech support guided me through the installation over e-mail. Once installed, there were several issues with items not showing up that had to be troubleshot.
- Setup SyncBackSE to back-up the "M" drive to the "N" drive daily. Used this program in particular instead of the built in backup program, because this creates an exact readable copy of the files as opposed a backup that is not readable until restored. The backups are scheduled in the middle of the night as to not affect transfer speeds, a common drawback of back-ups using this method.
- Installed ArcGIS 10.3.1 on my computer. Typically now when a new version of ArcGIS comes out there are bugs to work out. Also installed EarthVision 9. Tested the programs before MSI staff install on their computers. Ran into an issue with ArcCatalog not connecting to the ArcSDE geodatabase on my computer. Thought it was an issue with the upgrade, so I had Kelsey install the new ArcGIS version on her computer. She was still able to access the ArcSDE geodatabase. Found out the issue is more with Windows 8.1 & 10 with user accounts that are attached to Microsoft.com accounts. I was able to log on to Windows with a non-Microsoft.com account and the issue was resolved.
- EPCAMR full time staff continue to manage the program and oversee quality control. Only 2 maps needed to be re-georeferenced and 3 maps had lost their control points due to a program glitch. It is still a 98% success rate for georeferencing and a 100% success rate for scanning and georeferencing. Program Manager aided in scanning and 3 georeferencing of difficult maps and generally lent support as questions arose. Watershed Specialists, Gabby and Liz, began their cross training in scanning, georeferencing and digitizing. Corresponded with our project manager at DEP California District Mining Office (DMO) via phone and email [MSI].
- Invoiced the MSI program for work completed in July (Invoice 18) and sent a hard drive containing the files to the PA DEP California DMO [MSI].
- Printed 4 maps for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society.
- The HP DesignJet 800 Plotter stopped printing. Discovered that the drive belt was severely frayed. Looked up and fix online and ordered a kit for about $90. The HP plotter is approximately 10 years old and we have been using it a lot by printing the mine maps for municipalities with the PennEast grant. Installed the belt according to a video.
- Answered questions on MSI Invoice 18 from July and made corrections to PHUMMIS and physical files as requested [MSI].
- Invoiced the MSI program for work completed in August (Invoice 19) and sent a hard drive containing the files to the PA DEP California DMO [MSI].
- DYMO Stamp and Label Printer was no longer communicating over the network. Called DYMO technical support to find out it is a common problem with Windows 10 and they had a fix for it using Windows compatibility settings.
- Continued to look at Rausch Creek Lands map set from Skelly and Loy and sort them into useful maps for creating a 3D mine model [SRBC].
- Last but not least, a fluorescent light was flickering over the MSI program office space and I climbed up a ladder to fix it for them just before leaving for a week-long vacation…

[ ] - Denotes funding source where applicable.