

Photo by Tom Grote

The 28th Annual

2026

PENNSYLVANIA

Abandoned Mine Reclamation

CONFERENCE

"Meeting the Challenge"

October 20-22, 2026
Holiday Inn
Grantville, PA

www.treatminewater.com

Welcome

Welcome everyone!

When I first came to western Pennsylvania to work for WPCAMR over 20 years ago, I was immediately impressed by the tenacity of the members of our reclamation community and how they wanted to do more to clean up the local environment. Funding streams came and went, political winds blew one way then another, and yet, our community continued to do more and more. They found ways to work with what they had, while they had it… no small feat!

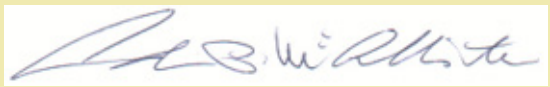
Any time I traveled to other states to see how reclamation was done in their jurisdictions, people there often asked me, "How do the nonprofits and community groups get their reclamation done in PA? They do so much and they're so involved." There was only one answer I could think of. "Folks here aren't afraid of challenge", I said.

In the intervening years since I started at WPCAMR, I've seen quite a bit of cooperative work between non-profit groups, government agencies, industry, and landowners to "meet the challenge". It is an encouraging thing.

With that said, I welcome you all to the 2026 Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, the longest-running annual environmental conference in Pennsylvania focused on abandoned mine reclamation and the associated issues our communities face. The PA AMR Conference provides a forum for the dissemination of information and encourages discussion between industry, watershed groups, and decision-makers that can help to further innovations in public policy, abandoned mine reclamation and restoration of PA's watersheds and communities.

This is your conference and I trust you all will take advantage of the new connections you make, the information you learn, and the stories you'll tell and hear. Because, only together, will we continue to "Meet the Challenge"!

Keep up the good work!



Andy McAllister, Regional Coordinator, WPCAMR



2026 Mayfly Award

This year's award to be presented at Wednesday's Banquet Dinner



Mayfly Award 2026 by Michael Bestwick



Mayfly Awardee for 2025 was Larry Hutchinson
Pictured above: Melissa Reckner, Larry Hutchinson, Jeff Sarver
Photo by Tom Grote

2026 Planning Committee

* Andy McAllister & Anne Daymut
  Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
* Bobby Hughes & Michael Hewitt
  Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
* Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Incorporated
* Amy Berrios, PA DEP
* Tom Grote, Volunteer
* Cristy Sweeney, ARIPPA
* Carla Ruddock, Mountain Watershed Association

Tuesday - Field Tour Highlights

Tuesday



Rausch Creek Active AMD Treatment System, a ~50-year-old DEP-run lime silo treating all of Rausch Creek



Drive under the conveyor of Reading Anthracite's New St. Nicholas Breaker active since 1963

Lunch @ Reading Famous Outdoor Darkwater Trailhead





Overlook the Wadesville Pit, a 400-foot-deep active strip mine where the Mammoth Vein folded over itself 4 times

Otto AMD Passive Treatment System operated by Schuylkill Conservation District





Rausch Creek Generation guided tour of active cogen plant.

Extra Activities

Cornhole Tournament

Wednesday, October 21, 8pm in the Majestic Ballroom I



2023 Inaugual Cornhole Tournament Champions: Bobby Hughes and so

For the fourth year in a row, Kleinfelder will be sponsoring a night of networking around a very competitive Corn Hole Tournament that will add names to The Anthracite Rock of Champions.

Come sign up at Kleinfelder's booth on Tuesday and Wednesday for the Wednesday evening after-dinner event. A random selection of teams will then compete for that championship and an array of prizes.

May the best Corn Hole'ers win!

KLEINFELDER

Bright People. Right Solutions.

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Drink Tickets and Hospitality Suite also Sponsored by Kleinfelder!!!

Drink tickets will be available at the Cash Bar during Wednesday Night's Banquet Dinner and will continue through the Corn Hole Tournament.

The Hospitality Suite will open after the Tournament ends. Exact time and location will be announced at the Tournament.



Wednesday - Schedule

Wednesday

7:00 - 8:55	Registration (Hotel Lobby) Breakfast for Overnight Guests	
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome (Majestic II & III)	
9:15 - 9:30	Keynote Address: Pennsylvania Senator David G. Argall, 29th District	
9:30 - 10:10	Chesapeake Bay Program and AMD - Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP	
10:15 - 10:25	Break (Grand Ballroom)	
Track	Track 1 (Majestic II & III)	Track 2 (Royale)
10:30 - 11:10	*Update on BAMR Projects and Funding* - Joe Sassaman, PA DEP BAMR	*Macroinvertebrates: A Stream's Version of a Canary in a Coal Mine* – Carla Ruddock, Mountain Watershed Association
11:15 - 11:55	*DEP-BAMR AML/AMD Grant Program Stats* – Cindy Wolfe, PA DEP BAMR	*Bat Habitat Creation at Abandoned Mine Sites* – Lauren Quintrell, Northampton Generating Company
12:00 - 12:55	Lunch (Great American Grill)	
1:00 - 1:40	*AML/AMD Grant Program Updates* – Cindy Wolfe, PA DEP BAMR	*Use of Eggshell Waste and Shrimp Tail Waste for Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment* – William Oswald, Villanova University
1:45 - 2:25	*Nonprofit Organizational Management and Capacity Building* – Tali MacArthur, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)	*Big flow with a small footprint isn't easy: lessons learned from 10 years of passive treatment at Fall Brook* - Neil Wolfe, Hedin Environmental
2:30 - 2:40	Break (Grand Ballroom)	
2:45 - 3:25	*Kiski Valley Watershed Association Capacity Development* – Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation	*Phillips Discharge Phase 1 Feasibility Study* – Ben Roman, Tetra Tech (Tt) & Deb Nardone, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW)
3:30 - 4:10	*Advancing AML Priorities at OSM* - Tom Koptchak, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (Majestic II & III)	
4:15 - 5:00	Free Time	
5:00 - 6:00	Networking (Grand Ballroom)	
6:00 - 8:00	Cash Bar, Mayfly Award Presentation and Banquet Dinner (Majestic II & III)	

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Wednesday - Schedule

Registration (Foyer) Breakfast On Your Own	7:00 - 8:55
Welcome (Majestic II & III)	9:00 - 9:15
Keynote Address: Pennsylvania Senator David G. Argall, 29th District	9:15 - 9:30
Chesapeake Bay Program and AMD - Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP	9:30 - 10:10
Break (Grand Ballroom)	10:15 - 10:25
Track 3 (Majestic I)	Track
Reclamation of Legacy Mine Hazards: A Multi-Disciplinary Reclamation Approach - Kirk Roderick, Atlas Technical Consultants	10:30 - 11:10
Finding and Funding Mined Land Reforestation: An Innovative Partnership Approach - Tom Gilbert, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Eric Oliver, Green Forests Work	11:15 - 11:55
Lunch (Great American Grill)	12:00 - 12:55
Geospatial support tools to evaluate acid mine drainage remediation alternatives at the watershed-scale in West Virginia - Jordan Kincaid, West Virginia University	1:00 - 1:40
Sustainable Landscape Reclamation of Granite Quarries: Environmental Impacts, Restoration Strategies, and Strategic Study Analysis from Guntur, India - Surendra Babu Gantenapati	1:45 - 2:25
Break (Grand Ballroom)	2:30 - 2:40
AML/AMD Permitting Best Practices - Tom Clark, Kleinfelder	2:45 - 3:25
Advancing AML Priorities at OSM - Tom Koptchak, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (Majestic II & III)	3:30 - 4:10
Free Time	4:15 - 5:00
Networking (Grand Ballroom)	5:00 - 6:00
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Thursday - Schedule

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Thursday

7:30 - 9:25	Registration (Hotel Lobby) Breakfast for Overnight Guests	
9:30 - 10:15	Congressional update and legislative and policy priorities for state AML programs - Benny McCament, IMCC (Majestic II & III)	
10:15 - 10:25	Break (Grand Ballroom)	
Track	Track 1 (Majestic II & III)	Track 2 (Royale)
10:30 - 11:10	*Understanding AMD Data: Is it Good or is it Crap?* – Tim Danehy, BioMost, Inc.	*Grabbing Green: DEP Funding and Concierge Service* - Louie Krak, PA DEP
11:15 - 11:55	*How to Develop a Watershed Restoration Plan* – Ben Hedin, Hedin Environmental	*Prevailing Wage Requirements: A Deeper Dive* – James Kunz III, Pennsylvania Foundation For Fair Contracting
12:00 - 12:55	Lunch (Great American Grill)	
Track	Track 1 (Majestic II & III)	Track 2 (Royale)
1:00 - 1:40	*Long-term Performance and Costs for Passive Treatment Systems in PA* – Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental	*Ground Truthing PennEnviroScreen: Community Education, Environmental Justice, and GIS Tools* - Jordi Comas, PA DEP
1:45 - 2:25	*Measurement and Interpretations of Acidity, Specific Conductance, and pH for Mine Water Treatment* – Charles A. Cravotta III, Cravotta Geochemical Consulting LLC	*Directing the Expectation: A Backwards Approach to Forward Thinking on Project and Construction Management* - Lee Yost, Kleinfelder
2:30 - 2:40	Break (Grand Ballroom)	
2:45 - 3:25	*Watershed Scale Acid Mine Drainage Assessment Using High Definition Stream Survey (HDSS)* - Brett Connell, Trutta Environmental Solutions	*The Wild Trout Man Experience* - Dr. Joseph Simons, III, Wild Trout Man
3:30 - 4:10	*Meeting The Challenge Of AMD/AML In 2026 And Beyond* - Dave Hess, PA Environmental Digest (Majestic I)	
4:15 - 5:00	End of Conference & Take Down Exhibits	

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Thursday - Schedule

Registration (Hotel Lobby) Breakfast for Overnight Guests	7:30 - 9:25
Legislative Update, Benny McCament, IMCC (Majestic II & III)	9:30 - 10:25
Break (Grand Ballroom)	10:15 - 10:25
Track 3 (Majestic I)	Track
How Abandoned Mine Reclamation is Changing in Pennsylvania Since Passage of the BIL - Eric Dixon, Ohio River Valley Institute	10:30 - 11:10
Grassroots Advocacy Makes a Difference - Emily Baldauff, Mountain Moving Strategies	11:15 - 11:55
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Expanding Brook Trout Populations into Historically Extirpated Waters: The potential of waterways impaired by Abandoned Mine Drainage to Increase Species Resiliency - Brian Cooper, Trout Unlimited, Inc.	1:00 - 1:40
AML-Connect: A Working Introduction to the Network's Shared Knowledge Platform - Frank Sindaco, EPCAMR	1:45 - 2:25
Break (Grand Ballroom)	2:30 - 2:40
PHREEQ-N-AMDTreat Case Study - Ricky Wagner, RESPEC	2:45 - 3:25
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Wednesday - Synopses

Wednesday

9:15 – 9:30

Keynote Address: Pennsylvania Senator David G. Argall, 29th District

"As a coal region kid who literally grew up in the shadow of an abandoned strip mine, I understand how important these projects and partnerships are. That's why I've supported mine drainage and reclamation efforts, including the work of ARIPPA's coal refuse co-generation plants to remove waste culm banks and reclaim abandoned mine lands. We've made significant progress cleaning up the black wastelands and polluted rivers and streams left behind by long-gone coal companies and turning them into green hills and forests, but much work remains ahead. I remain committed to supporting the partnerships and investments that will continue this important reclamation work for future generations."

9:30 – 10:10

Chesapeake Bay Program and AMD - Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP

Pennsylvania has long been a leader in Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) and Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment. The Chesapeake Bay Program is a partnership of nine signatory members, four independent advisory committees, and hundreds of interested parties and stakeholders. In 2025, the Chesapeake Bay Program revised the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and, for the first time, recognized the impact and importance of AMD treatment for fish habitat. This session will focus on how we work with Pennsylvania partners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and, more specifically, how we aim to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement target of improving AMD-impaired streams.

10:30 – 11:10

Update on BAMR Projects and Funding - Joe Sassaman, PA DEP BAMR
Presentation will discuss updates to abandoned mine land funding, current projects, and ongoing priorities.

Macroinvertebrates: A Stream's Version of a Canary in a Coal Mine – Carla Ruddock, Mountain Watershed Association

Populations of macroinvertebrates can be used to track improvements or impairments in streams. Many of these organisms are very sensitive to pollution and can not tolerate living in it, which makes them an excellent indicator for water quality health. The presentation will touch upon the benefits that macroinvertebrate surveys can provide to tracking improvements or impairments in local streams, particularly upstream and downstream of AMD treatment systems.

Reclamation of Legacy Mine Hazards: A Multi-Disciplinary Reclamation Approach - Kirk Roderick, Atlas Technical Consultants
How to successfully reclaim a legacy mine site while exploring standard engineering approaches, design challenges and integrated solutions required to reclaim the Rohr Highwall site. With hazards that include 7,300 feet of abandoned highwall, extensive spoil and refuse material deposits, and AMD from abandoned auger holes, the project demanded a coordinated design that balanced geotechnical stability, drainage management, AMD mitigation, environmental protection and property owner objectives.

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Wednesday - Synopses

11:15 - 11:55

DEP-BAMR AML/AMD Grant Program Stats – Cindy Wolfe, PA DEP BAMR

Join us to review the statistics of the AML/AMD Grant Program since its inception in 2022 and participate in an open discussion regarding the information shared.

Bat Habitat Creation at Abandoned Mine Sites – Lauren Quintrell, Northampton Generating Company

Northampton Generating and Northampton Fuel Services have been working with PADEP and the Pennsylvania Game Commission on a project to create suitable habitats for several species of bats at the waste coal sites we are mining and remediating. We have constructed several 'bat condos' to house these bats, and remediated landscapes to build habitats most conducive to bats. My presentation will cover the requirements of the various native species of bats who utilize these habitats, the construction methods we are employing to make sure that our bat condos draw in as many bats as possible, and discuss the impact that these features have on abandoned mine land.

Finding and Funding Mined Land Reforestation: An Innovative Partnership Approach - Tom Gilbert, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Eric Oliver, Green Forests Work

This presentation highlights a collaborative framework led by Green Forests Work (GFW) and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) that bridges state agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions to scale up reforestation on legacy mined lands. central to this approach is the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing workflows. By leveraging high-resolution aerial imagery digitization, spatial data modeling, and GIS-based site-screening rubrics, the partnership systematically identifies candidate mine sites, prioritizes high-impact restoration acreage, and designs site-specific prescriptions using the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA).

1:00 - 1:40

AML/AMD Grant Program Updates – Cindy Wolfe, PA DEP BAMR

What's new in 2026? Are more changes on the horizon? We'll discuss the program updates which occurred in 2026 and discover how those changes may impact current or future applicants and/or subrecipients under the Program.

Use of Eggshell Waste and Shrimp Tail Waste for Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment – William Oswald, Villanova University

This research addresses the use of eggshell waste (ESW) and shrimp tail waste (STW) to treat water contaminated by abandoned mine drainage (AMD). Batch and column treatment methods are being investigated at laboratory scale for pH adjustment and for the removal of metals using a pH 3 sulfuric acid solution of various ionic strengths with and without added metal sulfate.

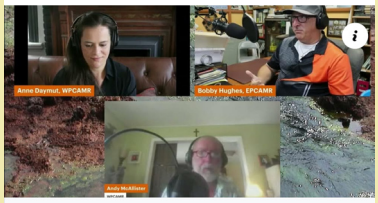
Geospatial support tools to evaluate acid mine drainage remediation alternatives at the watershed-scale in West Virginia - Jordan Kincaid, West Virginia University

An ArcGIS Pro toolbox was developed to allow remediation planners to explore water quality data and analyze different treatment scenarios in a given watershed as a precursor to more detailed remediation design. The tools centered around current best practices relating to the

chemical, hydrological, and spatial constraints of various AMD treatment technologies.



The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles is a one-of-a-kind podcast that converses with passionate Abandoned Mine Reclamation partners, highlights outstanding work, showcases stream improvement successes, and shares emerging ideas and technologies.



youtube.com
The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Chronicles: A Podcast

Tune in the first Friday of each month at 12 noon on WPCAMR's YouTube Channel, EPCAMR's YouTube Channel, or any of EPCAMR's Facebook accounts.

Thank you to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, thefpw.org, for underwriting our first 12 episodes.

Wednesday - Synopses

Wednesday

1:45 - 2:25

Nonprofit Organizational Management and Capacity Building – Tali MacArthur, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)

This presentation will focus on various elements of Community Watershed Organization (CWO) best management practices and requirements for effective, sustainable, fair, and responsible organizational management. Topics covered will include: Board of Directors and Officers Recruitment BMPs, including fiduciary responsibilities and rights, Risk Management (Insurance), Accounting and Records Retention BMPs, Nonprofit Registration Required Reporting to maintain charitable status (BCO, 990s, etc), Donations Acknowledgements.

Big flow with a small footprint isn't easy: lessons learned from 10 years of passive treatment at Fall Brook - Neil Wolfe, Hedin Environmental

Constructed in 2015, the Fall Brook passive treatment systems are a unique public-private collaboration to remediate AMD impacts to Fall Brook, a tributary of the Tioga River in Tioga County, PA. One of the two systems, Fall Brook South, treats an average flow of 580 gpm using three drainable limestone beds with a total system footprint that's less than five acres. This talk will cover the lessons learned during a decade of operation such as the development of improved limestone cleaning techniques and optimized limestone bed plumbing design.

Sustainable Landscape Reclamation of Granite Quarries: Environmental Impacts, Restoration Strategies, and Strategic Study Analysis from Guntur, India - Surendra Babu Gantenapati

My academic research examines the environmental impacts of granite quarrying and explores sustainable approaches for restoring degraded quarry landscapes. Using vegetation analysis, hydrology, and landscape-planning strategies, the study evaluates a granite quarry area in Guntur, India, and proposes an integrated reclamation framework. The research emphasizes land stabilization, ecological restoration, native vegetation, water management, and adaptive reuse to transform abandoned quarry sites into environmentally stable and productive landscapes.

2:45 - 3:25

Kiski Valley Watershed Association Capacity Development – Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation

For more than a decade, many watershed associations have experienced little or no increases or turnover in board leadership and volunteer rolls. They devote their time and expertise toward projects, and have little to devote to board and volunteer recruitment/donor development, training and orientation, recognition and retention. To help address this issue, Allegheny Ridge Corporation is working on a capacity development initiative with 3 watershed associations in the Kiskiminetas Valley.

Phillips Discharge Phase 1 Feasibility Study – Ben Roman, Tetra Tech (Tt) & Deb Nardone, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW)

The Foundation for PA Watersheds retained Tetra Tech to complete a Phase 1 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for controlling abandoned mine drainage impacting Redstone Creek near Uniontown, PA. The Phillips Discharge is the largest source of AMD in the Redstone Creek Watershed and contributes to the lower 16 miles of the stream being impaired. The study reviewed historical mine pool and discharge data, evaluated current flow and water chemistry, characterized the mine pool, and assessed treatment site alternatives through parcel screening for key treatment components and conveyance routes.

AML/AMD Permitting Best Practices - Tom Clark, Kleinfelder

Each AML and AMD site is different and will have its own permitting challenges to allow for construction. Questions can arise as to delineation thresholds, what does and does not need to be mitigated, possible waivers available, and even new surveys and possible reclamation requirements when it comes to bats. Kleinfelder will walk through site-specific permit challenges and their solutions, which will give attendees the means to better understand what their project's permit matrix could be, so those tasks can be priced properly for project proposals or bid selections.

3:30 - 4:10

Advancing AML Priorities at OSM - Tom Koptchak, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (Majestic II & III)

This presentation will provide an overview of recent updates from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), with a focus on key developments within the AML program. Topics will include policy and directive changes, program updates, and a summary of current grant funding opportunities. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of recent initiatives and their implications for Pennsylvania's AMR community.

Thursday - Synopses

9:30 - 10:15

Congressional update and legislative and policy priorities for state AML programs - Benny McCament, IMCC

Updates on current federal legislation and priorities related to mining and Abandoned Mine Lands (AML). This presentation will cover national AML reclamation implementation challenges and opportunities.

10:30 - 11:10

Understanding AMD Data: Is it Good or is it Crap? – Tim Danehy, BioMost, Inc.

Water analysis data for abandoned mine drainage (AMD) is the foundation on which all water treatment projects are built. It is paramount that the samples are collected in a location and manner that will provide the best information possible to avoid costly design mistakes. The quality of the data received from the laboratory is just as important. This presentation will discuss where and how to collect water samples, field techniques (including flow measurement), how to review laboratory results to ensure that we are using good data, and how to check if your data is crap.

Grabbing Green: DEP Funding and Concierge Service - Louie Krak, PA DEP

Hear from DEP's Grants Innovation Officer about this new role and ongoing initiatives to improve the Department's grant-making process. This session will also cover information on what grants DEP offers for nonprofit organizations, including program descriptions, award information, match requirements, and application deadlines. Additionally, participants will learn about the new Funding Concierge service to help potential applicants navigate DEP's complex funding landscape and determine if there are funding opportunities that align with their goals.

How Abandoned Mine Reclamation is Changing in Pennsylvania Since Passage of the BIL - Eric Dixon, Ohio River Valley Institute

How is the recent influx in federal AML funds impacting Pennsylvania? That is the question animating a new report in development by the Ohio River Valley Institute. By comparing the four-year periods before and after passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), this presentation will share preliminary findings regarding how this new era in reclamation in Pennsylvania is shaping up--such as how the construction market to reclaim AMLs is changing, and how the amount and type of AML reclamation is changing--for discussion and feedback from stakeholders across the Commonwealth. The forthcoming report will also estimate how many jobs are supported by the program, and the extent to which mine reclamation jobs are local, union, and good-paying.

11:15 - 11:55

How to Develop a Watershed Restoration Plan – Ben Hedin, Hedin Environmental

Your watershed is polluted by AMD, so you formed a watershed group, got the conservation district and DEP interested in funding projects, and located some discharges. Now what? Where to start? What problems to prioritize? You need a plan! A proper watershed restoration plan prioritizes projects and guides restoration efforts based on data. A good plan 1) documents baseline conditions, 2) prioritizes projects, 3) determines Title V/IV eligibility, 4) determines stream mile benefits per project, and 5) monitors priority discharges. The presentation will discuss what information is needed to create a good watershed restoration plan, pitfalls to avoid, and successful examples.

Prevailing Wage Requirements: A Deeper Dive – James Kunz III, Pennsylvania Foundation For Fair Contracting

Prevailing wage requirements can be daunting to navigate for non-governmental organizations. Many grants and other government funding opportunities often require that recipients require the paying of prevailing wages by any contractors they use to perform construction work. This presentation will be a deep dive into how to navigate both state and federal requirements. What actions to take before putting the job out to bid, how to monitor compliance during, and what actions you can take if your contractor does not comply. This will include how and where to find prevailing wage rate determinations, certified payroll reports, and contact information for the agencies that help enforce the law.

Grassroots Advocacy Makes a Difference - Emily Baldauff, Mountain Moving Strategies

Grassroots advocacy is often misunderstood or avoided, yet it is one of the most powerful tools available for elevating local work to the regional, state, and even federal levels. This presentation will provide a clear "Advocacy 101" overview designed for small community groups that are unsure how to begin demonstrating their impact to decision makers and public forums such as newspapers and social media. Participants will learn practical skills including how to schedule effective meetings with officials, craft compelling letters to the editor, develop fact-driven social media content, and engage in education-based advocacy while staying within 501(c)(3) guidelines.

Thursday - Synopses

Thursday

1:00 – 1:40

Long-term Performance and Costs for Passive Treatment Systems in PA – Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental

Many substantial passive treatment systems are approaching 15-20 years of operation. The treatment performance, construction costs, and operational costs will be presented for several systems operating in PA. Similar evaluations will be conducted of conventional chemical treatment systems. The comparison will provide insights into treatment reliability and long-term treatment costs.

Ground Truthing PennEnviroScreen: Community Education, Environmental Justice, and GIS Tools - Jordi Comas, PA DEP

Ground-truthing is an important process of cross-data applications that is increasingly being implemented for quantitative and qualitative data tools; it is being used more widely. Generally, ground-truthing is a reciprocal process to check the accuracy of quantitative and qualitative data. It can be used to check the "lived experience" of a mapping tool. PennEnviroScreen was built for DEP for permitting but has not been ground-truthed. The Office of Environmental Justice [OEJ] has found that the tools have been used and adapted by many stakeholders for community education and environmental civics.

Expanding Brook Trout Populations into Historically Extirpated Waters: The potential of waterways impaired by Abandoned Mine Drainage to Increase Species Resiliency - Brian Cooper, Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Abandoned mine drainage (AMD) has extirpated brook trout from many streams throughout the eastern portion of their native range. The central Appalachian region contains thousands of miles of streams degraded by historic coal mine drainage, with Pennsylvania alone accounting for approximately 5,600 AMD-impaired stream miles. We present results from over a decade of monitoring brook trout population recovery following the installation of AMD passive treatment systems in two watersheds in northcentral Pennsylvania. Brook trout were absent prior to treatment in the treated stream reaches. The probability of brook trout occurrence increased nonlinearly with the number of years following treatment with most sites becoming established between 1-8 years following treatment.

1:45 – 2:25

Measurement and Interpretations of Acidity, Specific Conductance, and pH for Mine Water Treatment – Charles A. Cravotta III, Cravotta Geochemical Consulting LLC

Specific conductance (SC), hot peroxide acidity, and pH are routinely used to indicate the severity of contamination and potentially applicable treatment steps for acid mine drainage (AMD). In general, AMD that has low pH and high SC tends to have elevated concentrations of acidity, sulfate, and dissolved metal(oid)s, including Fe, Al, Mn, Zn, Cu, and others. In this presentation, geochemical modeling using PHREEQC is applied to explore the contributions of various solutes to the measured acidity and SC.

Directing the Expectation: A Backwards Approach to Forward Thinking on Project and Construction Management - Lee Yost, Kleinfelder

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), officially the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), provided unprecedented funding for multiple Abandoned Mine Lands Programs. Effective project and construction management success depends not only on delivering the projects within scope, time, and budget, but also on the effectiveness of the reclamation. Determining the end objective helps identify the details that tend to get lost in the shuffle through the design and pre-construction process. Essentially, we want to isolate the design critical bottlenecks to mitigate each problematic issue backwards.

AML-Connect: A Working Introduction to the Network's Shared Knowledge Platform - Frank Sindaco, EPCAMR

AML-Connect (aml-connect.org) is a free shared knowledge and coordination platform that EPCAMR built and operates for Pennsylvania's AML and AMD practitioner community. It responds directly to the gaps the *CAMR network named in its 2024 visioning session: no central hub for information and resources, no shared pathway for technical knowledge exchange, and thin organizational capacity among the smaller groups doing the work. This session is a practical introduction for anyone who has not used the site, or who registered and has not yet had time to explore it.

Thursday - Synopses

2:45 - 3:25

Watershed Scale Acid Mine Drainage Assessment Using High Definition Stream Survey (HDSS) - Brett Connell, Trutta Environmental Solutions

This presentation will demonstrate how the High Definition Stream Survey (HDSS) improves acid mine drainage assessment and restoration planning by replacing isolated sampling points with continuous, meter-resolution data collected across entire stream networks. Using the 2025 Greens Run watershed project in Preston County, West Virginia as an example, attendees will see how synchronized video, GPS, depth, side scan sonar, and water quality data were used to document AMD indicators, infrastructure influences, and changing stream conditions.

The Wild Trout Man Experience - Dr. Joseph Simons, III, Wild Trout Man

This presentation will showcase the presenter's passion for the science, art, adventure, and zen experience of fly fishing. Tips, techniques, and strategies will be discussed for catching and filming trout. The focus is on Class A Wild Trout Streams with emphasis on conserving, protecting, and restoring these waters. Stream monitoring, habitat restoration, fly tying, matching the hatch, stream-side entomology, camera equipment, and video production for YouTube will be reviewed in detail.

PHREEQ-N-AMDTreat Case Study - Ricky Wagner, RESPEC

PHREEQ-N-AMDTreat is a useful, yet complex tool for modeling water chemistry, treatment processes, and associated costs. This presentation demonstrates a real-world application using the two programs in parallel to model a proposed active treatment system in PHREEQ and evaluate alternative treatment approaches, including different chemical additions and passive aeration versus a Maelstrom Oxidizer. The short and long term costs of each treatment scenario are then compared in AMDTreat to identify a cost effective water treatment solution.

3:30 - 4:10

Meeting The Challenge Of AMD/AML In 2026 And Beyond - Dave Hess, PA Environmental Digest (Majestic I)

David Hess is the former Secretary of the PA DEP under Governors Ridge and Schweiker, and has served in and around state government dealing with environmental and energy issues for over 50 years holding positions in the Pennsylvania Senate and the former Department of Environmental Resources. He was recognized with a 2011 Mayfly Award. He now publishes the PA Environmental Digest.

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Jessica Shirley, Secretary

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