

# West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition

## Meeting Report Tuesday, March 14, 2006

**Opening** This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Conservation District Office at Lamar, PA.

**Present** The meeting was attended by Tom Beauduy, Mike Brownell, Kathleen Campbell, Jen Demchak, Erin Dunleavy, Ken Flanigan, John Gwin, Foreman, William Hellier, Rachel Kester, John Larson, Michelle Merrow, Terry O'Connor, Dave Olson, Arthur Rose. Mary Vuccola, John Way, and Amy Wolfe

### Information and Discussion Items

Item 1: Amy Wolfe provided an update on the SRBC's proposal pertaining to the development of an Abandoned Mine Drainage Remediation Strategy for the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Watershed.

#### Summary

- The development of this plan is a goal of the West Branch Task Force.
- The goal of the remediation plan is the improvement of water quality.
- The remediation study will consist of three phases. (1) Develop the Scope of Work (2) Inventory and analysis of water quality data (3) Develop a database and model. The model will be constructed to allow continuous updates.
- The SRBC already has a good deal of the needed data.
- The total cost of the plan is \$123,000.

Item 2: SRBC Deputy Director Tom Beauduy provided an overview of the proposed Barnes and Tucker Project in the West Branch headwaters in Bakerton, Cambria County.

#### Summary

The SRBC regulates the consumptive use of water. SRBC regulations require that consumptive users mitigate the consumptive loss. Mitigation methods might consist of maintaining a reservoir and releasing water during low flow conditions. These releases must equal the amount of loss to put water back in the system. Agriculture represents a consumptive use and the Commonwealth is funding the SRBC to look into ways for agriculture to put water back into the system in a manner that the Commonwealth could support. A potential method is to utilize mine pools to supply the 16 million gallons/day needed during dry conditions. In dealing with coal mine pools the impact might be the ability to take care of water quality problems and flow issues at the same time. A study was completed in 2005 and negotiations were conducted with DEP to look at potential mine pools that could be treated in this fashion. The Barnes and Tucker property provides these opportunities. The cost for construction would be between \$5 and \$9 million and the O&M amount would be \$6.1 million for this facility. A draft support letter was offered for those wishing to convey support for the project to their legislators. A suggestion was made to write and send a support letter on behalf of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition.

Item 3: Amy Wolfe reported that there is a proposal (Peterson/Rayhall) to extend the AML program for 15 years. However, there is a compromise attached that would involve reducing the mining company's contribution amount to \$0.12/ton of coal. Amy urged those present to convey their wishes to their legislators and suggested that a letter be drafted on behalf of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition. Amy Wolfe volunteered to recast the sample letter and send it out for comment.

Item 4: Amy Wolfe postponed revisiting/reviewing the group's goals and activities until the next meeting.

### Announcements

The April Meeting of the Coalition will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm on April 11, 2006 at the Clearfield County Conservation District.  
<Recorded by Ken Flanigan>