

**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition  
Meeting Report  
Tuesday, July 11, 2006**

**Opening** This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clearfield County Conservation District Office at Clearfield, PA.

**Present** The meeting was attended by: Amy Wolfe, Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Dr. John Way, Ken Flanigan, Mary Voccola, Art Rose, Jennifer Demchack, Rachel Kester, Terry O'Connor, Dean Merts, John Lorson, Andy Gavin, William Hellier, Beth Dillon, and Jim \_\_\_\_\_.

**Information and Discussion Items**

Item 1: Amy Wolfe introduced Beth Dillon and Andy Gavin of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and announced that they were interested in obtaining restoration plans and water quality information from the watershed groups represented at tonight's meeting. This information is requested to facilitate the development of West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Planning. It was also mentioned that the purpose of this meeting is to entertain questions and initiate a dialog to begin the process of information collection.

Item 2: Amy Wolfe introduced Paul \_\_\_\_\_Justin(?), Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program and invited him to become a part of the Coalition. He described his role as liaison/coordinator for a new position created by EPA as an attempt to help support watershed efforts and help agencies to better operate and cooperate.

Item 3: Jim \_\_\_\_\_ provided a description of the 40,000 gallon sodium hydroxide spill that occurred in Portage Creek on June 30, 2006.

Item 4: A question and answer period with Beth Dillon and Andy Gavin followed. Andy Gavin stated that scoping and data collection would be the main emphasis for the first several months of the project. Phase 2 of the project will involve the development of a database and an analysis strategy, and phase three will be the final report. Beth Dillon requested any available information from the watershed groups and discussed the desired format. Also, latitude and longitude for each site was requested. Her address is 1721 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Amy will e-mail that address to the committee.

Item 5: A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of creating a West Branch Clearing House/comprehensive data base. Mary Vuccola mentioned that the POWR had compiled information from many groups. Andy Gavin mentioned that making data available comes by default with this type of project.

Item 6: A discussion regarding funding for private landowners whose land is not open to the public followed.

Item 7: Mary Vuccola posed a question regarding the accomplishments of the group. Amy Wolfe mentioned that projects should be determined by the group. A suggestion was made that the group might create a website. Mary Vuccola suggested that activities to increase public awareness should be stressed.

**Announcements**

The next meeting date was set for September 12, 2006 at the Clinton County Conservation District.

<Recorded by Ken Flanigan>