

**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Elks Meeting Hall in Lock Haven, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Mario Carrello, Tom Clark, Becky Dunlap, Jen Demchak, Ken Flanigan, Andy Gavin, Terry O'Connor, Scott Roberts, Art Rose, Alice Trowbrige, Carl Undercofler, Mary Vuccola, Amy Wolfe, Mel Zimmerman, Rachel Kester, Dean Mertz, John Larson, John Way, Shirly Sholtis, Todd Deluccia, Nicole Rhodes.

Information and Discussion Items

Item 1: Introductions - Amy Wolfe asked that all meeting participants identify themselves and the group they were representing. Also, the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Item 2: Amy Wolfe noted changes to the Memorandum of Understanding and presented the materials to the representatives to take back to their groups for sign-on approval.

Item 3: Presentation - DEP Deputy Secretary Scott Roberts mentioned that Congress had reauthorized the fee that supplies funding for the AML program. He noted that there are public policy questions and that input is needed from interested parties to resolve the issues. He mentioned that he has met with all legislators having abandoned mine lands in their districts and noted high level of interest in the problem from them. He has also met with the Citizens Advisory Council, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Mine Reclamation, and the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Mine Reclamation. Secretary Roberts stated that the Abandoned Mine Program in Pennsylvania was funded from OSM Grants and that typically the funding amounted to \$20,000,000 per year. He also mentioned that the new law has provided a new funding stream that will eventually increase funding incrementally to \$1.4 billion for Pennsylvania per year in the next decade. This money will be used primarily for resolving safety issues. The law also provides a 30% set aside option for the state to deal with abandoned mine drainage. This could provide over \$400 million for mine drainage issues.

Secretary Roberts also discussed the need for a built-in funding system to sustain Operation and Maintenance for both passive chemical treatment facilities. He mentioned \$250 to \$500 million as an estimated figure to clean up the West Branch of the Susquehanna with an additional \$40 to \$50 million per year in operational costs.

A question/answer period followed the presentation.

Item 4: Amy Wolfe announced that WPCAMR will provide instruction on selecting and sequencing restoration projects on Friday evening, April 27, 2007 West Branch Symposium.

Item 5: Andy Gavin and Tom Clark (SRBC) gave an overview of their work regarding the development of the West Branch Remediation Strategy. The main phases of the project will be to: 1) Define the Scope of Work 2) Inventory and Analysis of Existing Data, and 3) Develop Model and Final Report.

Item 6: Jen Demchak expressed concerns regarding grant matching.

Item 7: Amy Wolfe reminded the group of the upcoming West Branch Restoration Symposium III that will be held on April 27th & 28th. The location will be the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport, PA. AMD programs and discussions are planned features of the Symposium. Additionally, field trips to the Babbs Creek AMD Treatment Facility will be available for those who wish to participate.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2007

<Recorded by Ken Flanigan>