



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

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 Lock Haven Elks Club, Lock Haven, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Paul Zeph, Geoff Smith, Art Rose, Jen Demchak, Rachel Kester, Carl Undercofler, Terry O'Connor, Eric Weaver, Aaron Furgiuele, Mario Carello, John Way, Erin Dunleavy, Mark Killar, Jim Ryan, Bill Beacom, Christy Hensler, Ann Donovan, Mel Zimmerman, Renee' Carey, Amy Wolfe, Becky Dunlap

Information and Discussion Items

Item 1: Introductions: All meeting participants identified themselves and the group they were representing.

Item 2: The minutes of the December 11, 2008 meeting were distributed. No changes were needed.

Item 3: DEP Highlands Initiative. Paul Zeph reported on DEP's Highland Initiative Program.

Item 4: Internships/ VISTA updates: Interns and VISTA volunteers introduced themselves and the projects that they have been working on.

- Christy Hensler – Intern from Lycoming Clean Water Institute. Christy has been working with Becky to identify benthic samples, compile biological data collected in the West Branch, complete literature reviews, and prepare for the upcoming West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
- Eric Weaver – Intern from PSU Dubois. Eric has been working with Becky on a proposal for the Old Towns Sportsmans Association to collect benthics/water quality/ and flow data on the main stem of the West Branch between Anderson Creek and the 879 bridge.
- Aaron Furgiuele – VISTA working with Clearfield County Conservation District. Aaron has been working with Becky on the Old Town Sportsmans proposal. Aaron works closely with Rachel Kester and has been involved with grant writing and watershed group assistance.

Item 5: Growing Greener Announcements: Mario Carello updated WBSRC members on the award status of 2007 Growing Greener Grants.

- 21% of EPA 319 funds were granted to groups within the West Branch
- 52% of Growing Greener II AMD/AML funds were granted to groups within the West Branch
- 10% of Growing Greener I funds were granted to groups within the West Branch

For those groups who received an award: Mario and Jason Fellon will organize 1 on 1 training instead of hosting a larger training for all groups. Grants must be signed and returned to the DEP by April 18th.

Growing Greener 2008: AMD construction projects will have to submit to the Growing Greener I program for this round. Interested applicants must meet with their watershed manager by May 2nd. Submittal deadline is May 16th.

Amy Wolfe explained that Trout Unlimited has approached Congressman Peterson and Congressman Spector about a possible earmark for \$700 K to \$800 K to help fund 5 construction projects that were only partially funded or not funded through this round of the Growing Greener program. These projects include Kettle Creek Swamp Area, May Hollow 49 Passive Treatment System, MR-1 MR-6 AMD treatment project, Tangascootak Site #1 Expansion and improvement, and East Branch of Big Run AMD Treatment wetlands.

- Item 6: West Branch AMD Remediation Strategy – The remediation strategy will soon be sent to the printer. The report will not be made public until an organized press event in late May or early June. This press event will hopefully correspond with bidding for the Barnes and Tucker Project
- Item 7: Economic Benefits Analysis – The Benefits Analysis will hopefully be complete in time for the press even in late May or early June
- Item 8: DEP biological sampling locations – A GIS layer detailing biological sampling locations by the DEP had been obtained. Maps detailing these locations were distributed. Any additional latitude and longitude coordinates that detail biological data collected by watershed groups or contractors should be sent to Christy Hensler (hensler2008@yahoo.com) or Becky in order complete this data set. Any group interested in obtaining data in their watershed should contact Becky.
- Item 9: Website – The WBSRC website will be made public soon.
- Item 10: WBSRC display opportunities – A WBSRC display had been purchased with funds from the DANSKO foundation. Becky Dunlap announced that there was an opportunity to take this display to PSU Dubois on 4/23 and Lock Haven University on 4/26. Terry O'Connor volunteered to take the display to PSU Dubois. No member volunteered to take it to Lock Haven University.
- Item 11: DEP Environmental Education Grant –A grant from the DEP's Environmental Education grant program to support a series of 6 public talks and tours in the West Branch was submitted on 3/7. Award announcements are expected in July of 2008.
- Item 12: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium IV - The symposium will be held on July 18 – 19 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Friday July 18th activities will include general sessions, a social event, and an awards ceremony. Nominees for volunteer of the year, professional of the year, and watershed group of the year should be sent to Amy Wolfe by April 30. In addition, a bus will be available to transport symposium attendees from the conference to the State College Spikes game. Saturday July 19th will consist of a full day tour of the Bennett Branch watershed.
- Item 13: Watershed updates: Attending members updated the group on events occurring locally.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2007 in Clearfield