



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

Field Tour - Members attended a field tour of the Emigh Run Headwaters Relocation Project.

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, Clearfield, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Rachel Kester, Aaron Furguele, Mario Carrello, Paul Zeph, Carl Undercofler, Geoffrey Smith, Art Rose, Ann Donovan, Jim Ryan, Bill Beacom, Edith Hebel, Lee Hebel, Mary Vuccola, Jim Gillman, Bill Bailey, Ken Flanigan, Shirley Sholtis, Terry O'Connor, Eric Weaver, Dale Honeyfield.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting were distributed. The only change noted was the incorrect year of the next WBSRC meeting.

Item 3: Stream assessment using fatty acid content of stream biofilm (Periphyton) – Dale Honeyfield, USGS

Dale presented background information about using periphyton as an indicator of stream health and preliminary findings using this indicator in local AMD-impacted stream systems. Dale expressed interest in collaborating with WBSRC partnering groups to collect additional periphyton samples in treatment systems. His contact information will be distributed to WBSRC members who will contact him with more information regarding their particular systems.

Items 4 & 5: West Branch Susquehanna AMD Remediation Strategy and Economic Benefits Analysis

Copies of the West Branch Susquehanna AMD Remediation Strategy and Economic Benefits Analysis were distributed. Members were urged to take additional copies for distribution. Amy announced that Trout Unlimited will be producing a 4-page summary of these documents for mass distribution. In addition, members were reminded about the importance of the water quality database that coincides with the Remediation Strategy. Groups should contact Tom Clark of the SRBC for data pertaining to their watersheds.

Item 6: Trout Unlimited's Technical Assistance Program (TAG)

Amy Wolfe announced the continuation of TU's TAG and new mini-grant program. Groups interested in the TAG program should contact Amy. Details about the mini-grant program are forthcoming.

Item 7: Website

The WBSRC website (www.wbsrc.org & www.wbsrc.com) is now public. Members were asked to look at the site and send comments or additional articles to Becky. This site is to serve as a central location for all events and data pertaining to AMD-reclamation in the West Branch. Watershed assessments and projects are being collected and will be added to the site soon.

Item 8: Newsletter

The first edition of the WBSRC newsletter was distributed. Members agreed that a quarterly schedule for newsletter publication was appropriate. No one volunteered to help coordinate this publication.

Item 9: DEP Environmental Education Grant

It was announced that the DEP awarded funds to the Clearfield County Conservation District to match TU funds to host a series of AMD education workshops throughout the watershed. The workshops will begin in the spring of 2009 and include a bus tour of a local AMD-project. Preliminary watershed groups to host a workshop have been identified: Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition, Beech Creek Watershed Association, Kettle Creek Watershed Association, Babb Creek Watershed Association, Bennett Branch Watershed Association, and the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association. Becky will be contacting these groups to arrange program details. Paul Zeph and Art Rose volunteered to help implement the grant.

Item 10: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium IV / V

Symposium IV details were reviewed and members were asked to send ideas for speakers and topics for Symposium V to Amy.

Item 11: Watershed Updates

Next Meeting: December 9, 2008 in Lock Haven