



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition  
Meeting Report  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

**Holiday Party:** A holiday party was held prior to the regular business meeting.

**Opening** This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:30 pm by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held in the KCNet Community Conference Room downstairs from the Trout Unlimited office, Lock Haven.

**Present** The meeting was attended by: Ann Donovan, Kelly Williams, Renee Carey, Carl Undercofler, Amy Wolfe, Alice Trowbridge, Rachel Kester, John Way, Art Rose, Art Crossman, Becky Holler, Becky Dunlap and Aaron Furguele.

**Information and Discussion Items**

- Item 1: Introductions: All meeting participants identified themselves and the group they were representing.
- Item 2: The minutes of the September 8th, 2009 meeting were distributed. It was noted that Art Rose was present at both the Morgan Run tour and the meeting. His name was added to the list of attendees.
- Item 3: Art Crossman, DEP-BAMR, gave a presentation on the Barnes and Tucker Lancashire #15 mine drainage treatment plant construction project, which just broke ground on November 12. Art stated that at this time the contractor has begun clearing and grubbing of the site, red dog and refuse removal, and construction of the ponds. He also noted that fly ash is being brought in to help with reclamation on the site prior to construction. Construction should ramp up in the spring once the weather breaks, and the project is slated to be completed in April 2011 with the plant going online by the fall of 2011. He said that BAMR will continue to provide the group with updates as the project progresses.
- Item 4: A Growing Greener update was not available at this time as Mario Carrello was unable to attend the meeting. Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, informed the group that due to the recent budget cuts, there has been a shift in work responsibilities for the District Mining Office Watershed Managers almost exclusively to bond forfeiture work. They are still processing grant reimbursement requests; however, changes can be expected in the handling of Growing Greener grants. There was no news as to when Growing Greener grants will be announced.
- Item 5: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, informed the group of upcoming grant deadlines. She also reminded the group that grant opportunities are posted to the coalition website at [www.wbsrc.com/grants](http://www.wbsrc.com/grants). Anyone wishing to submit a grant opportunity to include on the website should contact Rachel.
- Item 6: Amy Wolfe updated the group on the planning that is taking place for the 5<sup>th</sup> West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium to be held at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport. The dates that have been chosen for the symposium are May 6 & 7, 2010. Anyone who would like to help plan the upcoming symposium or who has ideas for presentations or speakers was asked to contact any of the Trout Unlimited staff. Also, a formal email will be sent out in the next couple of months asking for nominations for the Watershed Group of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Professional of the Year.
- Item 7: Rachel Kester updated the group on our renewed outreach efforts throughout the West Branch. Coalition members will now be presented with a certificate signifying their involvement in restoration of the West Branch. The MOU form has been updated to include optional contact information so that we can add new members to the email and newsletter distribution list. Trout Unlimited staff will be making a concerted effort to reach out to new groups over the coming year and asked that coalition members email them with any

potential groups that they could give presentations to and invite to join the coalition. Rachel also asked for suggestions to improve or update the website. Several members made good suggestions, such as a bi-weekly email update, to increase visits to the website. Anyone with additional ideas was asked to contact Rachel.

Item 8: Becky Dunlap and Rachel Kester updated the group on various education and outreach grants that will be submitted this month including applications to the DEP Environmental Education grants program for student symposiums and tours, an application to the Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program for an educational website and booklet on the Bennett Branch, and an application to WPC/Dominion for a scholarship program for the upcoming symposium. Becky Holler told the group of a Home Depot's Building Healthy Communities grant application that she is working on to provide materials for signage in the Kettle Creek watershed.

Item 9: Amy Wolfe announced that Becky Holler will be joining TU as an OSM VISTA in February. She will continue to work part-time as an administrative assistant in the Lock Haven office until that time.

Item 10: "Round-the-table" watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, at the Clearfield County Conservation District.