



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, March 9, 2010**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:30 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Shirley Sholtis, Art Rose, Ken Undercoffer, Gary Tucker, Roger Kuhn, Terry O'Connor, Aaron Furgiuele, Mark Killar, Scott Koser, Carl Undercoffer, Bill Beacom, Kelly Williams, Amy Wolfe, Rebecca Holler, Becky Dunlap, and Rachel Kester.

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 8, 2009 meeting were distributed. No additions or corrections were noted.
- Item 3: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, provided a PowerPoint presentation about the recently completed KC204 Mine Pool Stabilization project in the Kettle Creek watershed. Amy noted that this project is unique in that it was able to address the potential problem before a catastrophic "blowout" occurred. With approximately 38 million gallons of highly polluted water contained in the mine pool, a blowout would have devastated the lower portion of Kettle Creek and the West Branch Susquehanna River for an undetermined length.
- Item 4: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, informed the group of upcoming grant opportunities. She also reminded the group that grant opportunities are posted on the coalition website at www.wbsrc.com/grants. Anyone wishing to submit a grant opportunity to include on the website should contact Rachel.
- Item 5: A Growing Greener update was provided by Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited. Due to DEP budget cuts, there has been a shift in work responsibilities for the District Mining Office Watershed Managers almost exclusively to bond forfeiture work. There is concern that with the DMO Watershed Managers unable to work on watershed projects, no new mining projects will be included in the Growing Greener announcement this year. This could put funding programs such as OSM's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds matching funds program in jeopardy. Amy stated that she has been working with WPCAMR to offer suggestions to the DEP that could restore the ability of DMO Watershed Managers to work on watershed projects and stave off the loss of mining projects this year. Growing Greener grants will be announced soon pending resolution of this issue.
- Item 6: Rebecca Holler updated the group about her new role as OSM/VISTA for Trout Unlimited and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. She said that she will be helping to build capacity of the WBSRC, as well as, any other groups working on AMD. She went over the results of a survey she sent out regarding the WBSRC. She has asked for volunteers who will help to write or solicit newsletter articles and help to set up speakers and field trips for future meetings. It was suggested that various member groups begin hosting future meetings. Scott Koser, Clinton County Watershed Specialist, offered to give a tour of/provide a presentation about the Tangascootack watershed for the June meeting. Those who have additional ideas for newsletter items or future speakers/tours are asked to contact Rebecca.
- Item 7: Rachel Kester updated the group on the planning that is taking place for the 5th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium to be held at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport on May 6 & 7, 2010. She reviewed the lineup of speakers and stated that the agenda and registration will be posted on the website soon. She reminded everyone to get their nominations in for Watershed Group of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and

Professional of the Year by April 23rd. She also told the group about the Student Poster Contest and asked that students working on AMD research projects be encouraged to submit an abstract by April 30th.

- Item 8: Becky Dunlap updated the group about the education and outreach grant that has been submitted to the DEP Environmental Education grants program for student symposiums and tours that will build off of the AMD mini-symposiums and tours that were held around the watershed last year. She should find out in April if that grant has been awarded.
- Item 9: Rebecca Holler told the group that she is involved in the planning of the West Branch Sojourn this year. The tentative dates of the sojourn will be from June 13 through 19, 2010. It will begin in Renovo and end at Northumberland. She encouraged everyone to join in for part or all of the sojourn as their schedules allow, noting that there will be 2 free education sessions each day that are open to the public. Registration will be open sometime in April on the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership website.
- Item 10: "Round-the-table" watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting will be held at the Trout Unlimited office (KCNet Community Room) on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, as the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference will be taking place during the regularly scheduled June meeting date.