



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition  
Meeting Report  
Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

**Opening** This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:34 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Resource & Education Center.

**Present** The meeting was attended by: Rachel Kester, Shawn Rummel, Mick McKay, Joyce McKay, Bill Beacom, Dave Barrett, Terry O'Connor, Scott Koser, Ann Donovan, Kathleen Lavelle, Delores Rose, Art Rose, and Gail Kulp.

**Information and Discussion Items**

- Item 1: Introductions: Those present introduced themselves and stated the group(s) they represent.
- Item 2: The minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting were distributed and reviewed. No changes were noted.
- Item 3: Dr. Shawn Rummel, Trout Unlimited, gave a presentation regarding the upcoming West Branch Susquehanna Recovery Benchmark II Project. TU, along with many partners and volunteers from state agencies, county conservation districts, and watershed groups, will be duplicating the study of AMD recovery that took place in 2009. Macroinvertebrate surveys are underway. High flow samples will be collected in May, while low flow samples will be collected in July. Anyone wishing to help with this project should contact Shawn at [srummel@tu.org](mailto:srummel@tu.org).
- Item 4: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, shared a policy/legislative update that was provided by Amy Wolfe of Trout Unlimited. Items of interest include: Congressmen Hal Rogers of Kentucky and Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania introduced HR 1731 (RECLAIM Act) bill that would authorize the release of \$1 billion from the Title IV Abandoned Mine Land Fund over five years. A hearing was held April 5<sup>th</sup> and markups are underway, with a possible release in May. This bill is different than the one that was introduced last year in that it doesn't require strong stakeholder collaboration and it loosens requirements for economic revitalization project. Also, the calculations are different this time around, resulting in PA losing around \$46 million in potential funding. TU is concerned with some of the changes and is trying to provide input during the markup period.
- Amy noted that word in DC is that a bill on Good Samaritan cleanup liability may be introduced in the next few months. TU and WPCAMR have been working with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission to make sure the bill will provide the necessary protections for those who are voluntarily participating in AMD cleanup projects.
- Amy also noted in her update that the Title IV Abandoned Mine Land Fund is slated to expire in 2021. TU and WPCAMR would like to see reauthorization included in the RECLAIM bill if it goes through. Anyone seeking more information regarding these topics can contact Amy at [awolfe@tu.org](mailto:awolfe@tu.org).
- Item 5: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, reminded the group of various upcoming grant opportunities.
- Item 6: Watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2017 in Clearfield County.