



West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition Meeting Report Tuesday, December 13, 2011

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 6:35 pm by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held in the Community Room at KCnet in Lock Haven, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Amy Wolfe, Ann Donovan, Art Rose, Bill Beacom, Bob Weber, Carl Undercofler, Dick Sodergren, Donna Carnahan, Edie Sodergren, Eli Long, Joyce McKay, Jim Ryan, Kelly Williams, Ken Undercoffer, Mick McKay, Mohamed Khalequzzaman (Dr. K), Rebecca Dunlap, Rebecca Holler, Rich Wycoff, Scott Koser, Shawn Rummel, and Von Holguin.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the Sept. 13th, 2011 meeting were distributed. No changes were needed.

Item 3: Bob Weber, PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) gave a presentation the PFBC's Unassessed Waters Program. PA has ~ 86,000 miles of flowing water. Of these 86,000 miles 22,000 mile were assessed for trout populations prior to 2010. This leaves many miles of unassessed streams that are in danger due to a lack of protection. PFBC can not assess all of these streams before they would be risk of being impacted by energy development. In order to offer the most protection in the least amount of time, PFBC identified streams at most risk, and then in 2010 they partnered with 2 universities to begin assessing these streams. In that year 307 streams were assessed and 169 wild trout waters were confirmed. In 2011 the program expanded and 9 partnering agencies assessed streams. ~750 streams were assessed in this year. The PFBC is looking to continue expanding its program and has received funding to do so. This program will hopefully continue to assess and protect streams for years to come.

Item 4: Rebecca Dunlap, Trout Unlimited updated the group about a Capacity Building Grant through the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. Trout Unlimited applied for this grant and if funded the program would provide trainings and workshops for local watershed groups to learn new skills to make their groups run better. This grant is especially important because it will make the connection between the Bay and the West Branch Susquehanna. The AMD impacts felt in the West Branch flows to the Bay this impacts the Bay in many ways including how nutrients such and phosphorous are sequestered and released. Questions regarding this grant and project should be directed to Becky at rdunlap@tu.org.

Item 5: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited then led a discussion of the proposed Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) merger. This merger was proposed by Secretary Salazar and since then the proposal has come under scrutiny. The issue is that OSM and BLM have opposite and opposing goals. The concern is that if the two agencies combine OSM will not be able to regulate mining as it has in the past. Trout Unlimited submitted a letter into testimony at the Congressional hearing on this matter. The decision to merge these groups has been postponed to Feb 15th. If any one has any questions or concerns please contact Amy at awolfe@tu.org.

Item 6: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited updated the group about upcoming grant deadlines. The group is reminded that all grants are posted on the WBSRC website at www.wbsrc.com/amdtech.html. Anyone wishing to submit a grant opportunities for the website please contact Rachel at rkester@tu.org.

Item 7: Rebecca Holler updated the group about the upcoming West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium. The Symposium will be held on April 27th and 28th. Rebecca will be contacting the group about any need for assistance with the planning of the event. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca at rholler@tu.org.

Item 8: Kelly Williams and Von Holguin, Clearfield County Conservation District gave the group an idea of the ways Von can assist groups in his role as an OSM/VISTA. Von can assist with article writing, and outreach as groups need it. Von can offer capacity building to groups in the West Branch during his year long term.

Item 9: "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 on March 13th, 2012. The location will be announced closer to the meeting time.