



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition  
Meeting Report  
Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

**Opening**      This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Resource and Education Center, Mill Hall, PA. The meeting was preceded by a Holiday Party.

**Present**      The meeting was attended by: Amy Wolfe, Rebecca Holler, Shawn Rummel, Ann Donovan, Kelly Williams, Carl Undercofler, Don Quigley, Rachel Kester, Buddy Thomas, Roger Thomas, Eli Long, Scott Koser, Bob Hedin, Art Rose, Ken Undercoffer, Shirley Sholtis, Bill Beacom, and Terry O'Connor.

**Information and Discussion Items**

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

Item 2: There were no additions or corrections to the October minutes.

Item 3: Shirley Sholtis, DEP Bureau of Conservation and Restoration, provided an update on the Lancashire #15, Hollywood, and Cresson active treatment facilities. The Lancashire plant has been online now for a year and recent water quality data show a vast improvement in the West Branch compared with data from 2000 and 2008. At all sites below the treatment plant pH and alkalinity have increased while metal loadings have decreased. Fishery data from May 2012 show that there are trout present in the West Branch to below Emeigh Run and other fish species, though no trout, were found in the stream one mile below the plant. The Hollywood plant has been online for about six months now, collecting water from 20 different discharges and treating it before releasing it into the Bennett Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek. It is currently treating about 400 gpm but is rated for up to 4000 gpm. Water quality monitoring has shown good results so far and biological monitoring is also planned for the stream. Additional work may be necessary in the Caledonia Run area to fully restore the stream, but that determination won't be made until further monitoring has taken place. The Cresson plant is currently in the planning stages. It will be built on Shaft Road outside of Cresson and is being designed to collect and treat water from three mine complexes. Completion of this plant should mean restoration of Clearfield Creek to Brubaker Run. This will be Shirley's last meeting as a DEP employee as she is retiring in January. Best of luck to Shirley in her future endeavors!

Item 4: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, provided a brief update on the progress of the DEP-led committee tasked with reviewing and making changes to the draft AMD Set-Aside Guidelines. Art Rose is a member of the committee and provided additional details of the changes that are being considered. The revised draft guidelines should be completed by mid-January at which time they will be sent out for stakeholders review and comment. Amy indicated that she will send the draft guidelines out to WBSRC members once she receives them and encourages members to make comment to the DEP if they see reason. Once the stakeholder review is complete, the draft guidelines will be put in the PA Bulletin for public review and comment, after which they will become policy.

Item 5: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, updated the group about upcoming grant deadlines. There are several grants due in March and April that will require advanced planning. Anyone wishing for assistance developing a grant proposal can contact Rachel at [rkester@tu.org](mailto:rkester@tu.org). The group is reminded that funding opportunities are posted on the WBSRC website at [www.wbsrc.com/amdtech.html](http://www.wbsrc.com/amdtech.html).

Item 6: Rachel Kester presented the group with copies of the survey that was developed based on discussions at the October meeting. An email with a link to an online version of the survey will be distributed after the

meeting. All members are asked to complete the survey which will help TU to better understand and address the needs of the member organizations. Anyone with questions should contact Rachel at [rkester@tu.org](mailto:rkester@tu.org).

Item 7: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, spoke of the need to form two committees for upcoming West Branch events. The first committee is to assist with planning of the 1<sup>st</sup> River Researchers Teen Camp to be held August 4-8, 2013. The second committee is needed to help plan the next West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium slated for the spring of 2014. Please contact Rebecca at [rholler@tu.org](mailto:rholler@tu.org) or 570-748-4901 if you are able to devote an hour every 6 weeks or so for a conference call to help plan these events.

Item 8: Watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting of the WBSRC will be March 12, 2013 at the Clearfield County Conservation District.