



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:38 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Conservation District – Environmental Resource Center, Mill Hall, PA, and was preceded by a holiday party.

Present The meeting was attended by: Rachel Kester, Kathleen Lavelle, Toby Boyer, Bill Beacom, Ken Undercoffer, Terry O'Connor, Kelly Williams, Dolores Rose, Art Rose, Joyce McKay, and Mick McKay.

Information and Discussion Items

Item 1: Introductions: Those present introduced themselves and stated the group(s) they represent.

Item 2: The minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting were distributed and reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

Item 3: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, provided an AMD funding and policy update and reminded the group of upcoming grant deadlines. She noted that the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was not reauthorized by Congress by the September deadline. She also noted that there has been no movement of the federal Community Reclaimers (Good Samaritan) legislation. She said that Trout Unlimited, WPCAMR, EPCAMR, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds are gearing up for reauthorization of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Title IV AML Fund. Information about previous reauthorization efforts, along with updates on the current effort, can be found at www.amlcampaign.wpcamr.org.

There haven't been any updates as to when the current round of Growing Greener grants will be announced, although it was noted that Section 319 and AMD Set-Aside grants have been announced.

Item 4: Kathleen Lavelle, Trout Unlimited, updated the group on unassessed waters surveys that were conducted in the West Branch watershed this year. She said of forty streams where fishery surveys were performed, eight streams met the criteria to be added to the PA Fish and Boat Commission's wild trout list.

Item 5: Watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent. One important update from Ken Undercoffer is regarding the proposed rollback of federal protections for streams and wetlands under the CWA by the current administration. He noted that there will be a sixty-day public comment period before these rollbacks take place next year and that everyone should pay attention and plan to provide comments in support of maintaining these protections.

The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2019 in Clinton County.