



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:17 pm by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Resource & Education Center, Mill Hall. The meeting was preceded by a holiday party.

Present The meeting was attended by: Joyce Undercofler, Carl Undercofler, Ken Undercoffer, Mick McKay, Joyce McKay, James Young, Josh Glace, Amy Wolfe, Roger Thomas, Shawn Rummel, Jake Tomlinson, Rebecca Holler, Erin Pierce, Kelly Williams, Matt Gordon, Rachel Kester, and Joe Hoy.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the September 10, 2013 meeting were distributed. No changes were needed.

Item 3: The speaker for the evening was Jake Tomlinson, Habitat Coordinator for Trout Unlimited's PA Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Initiative. Jake talked about TU's work to improve trout habitat in the Cross Fork Creek watershed and what assistance he can offer to groups across the state that are interested in working on trout habitat. Contact Jake at jtomlinson@tu.org with any questions or project ideas.

Item 4: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, gave the group an update on the outreach and education efforts in the West Branch watershed. First she mentioned that the 7th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium will be held April 10-11, 2014 and the Tofrees Resort and Conference Center, State College. The first day will be a workshop on available funding for AMD projects, how to apply for funding, and how to manage grants once funding has been received. The second day will be filled with presentations celebrating the ten year anniversary of the launching of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative. As always, we are seeking volunteers to assist with planning of the Symposium. If you would like to help, or have ideas for presentations (topics or speakers), please contact Rebecca at rholler@tu.org or (570) 748-4901.

Rebecca also noted that the River Researchers Teen Camp will be held on June 22-28, 2014 at Camp Mountain Run near Penfield. Team leaders and volunteer helpers and instructors are needed for this weeklong event. If you are interested in helping or know a student that might be interested in attending, contact rholler@tu.org or visit <http://www.wbsrc.org/teencamp.html> for more information.

Item 5: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, provided an update on governmental issues that she has been working on:

- Amy has been keeping an eye on SB411 that would provide some immunity under clean stream laws for gas companies that use AMD for hydro-fracturing and other industrial users. She noted that there has been a lot of opposition to this bill despite its potential to aid in AMD restoration activities. At this time the bill appears to have stalled but is likely to begin moving again in the New Year.
- Amy noted that the West Branch Task Force was scheduled to meet 12/10/13 but was postponed due to inclement weather. Amy will be working with other task force members to produce a report outlining the restoration successes that have occurred in the West Branch over the last ten years. She will be reaching out to WBSRC members in the near future to gather information about AMD projects for inclusion in the report.

- Amy was asked by the DEP to reconvene the OM&R work group. The work group will be updating their recommendations regarding OM&R across the state and pursuing the idea of a statewide trust fund for OM&R of AMD treatment systems.
- In early November, Amy met with representatives from WPCAMR, OSM, the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, etc. to continue working on federal Good Samaritan coverage for those performing voluntary AMD cleanup across the state. The group continues to work with the EPA to address this issue and plans to meet with opposition groups sometime in the near future.
- The study that Art Rose did on “failed” passive treatment systems for the Title IV AMD Set-Aside committee is complete and will be used to update the current draft guidelines for use of set-aside funds.

Item 6: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, updated the group about upcoming grant deadlines. The group is reminded that funding opportunities are posted on the WBSRC website at <http://www.wbsrc.com/amdtech.html>. Anyone wishing to submit a grant opportunity for the website or needing assistance finding or applying for grant funding should email Rachel at (rkester@tu.org).

Item 7: “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 11th, 2013 at the Clearfield County Conservation District.