



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:32 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clearfield County Conservation District.

Present The meeting was attended by: Carl Undercofler, Rebecca Holler, Tom Clark, Dawn Hintz, Jack Straley, Rob Thomas, Buddy Thomas, Roger Thomas, Kelly Williams, Terry O'Connor, Brad Billotte, Joe Hoy, Art Rose, Bob Dietrich, Ken Undercoffer, Bob Hedin, Shawn Rummel, and Rachel Kester.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting were distributed and reviewed. No changes were noted.

Item 3: The speakers for the evening were Tom Clark and Dawn Hintz of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. They gave a presentation to the group about their recently released Mine Drainage Data Portal and Water Quality Data Portal. These online databases can be accessed online at <http://gis.srbc.net/>. Anyone with questions or data to add to the Mine Drainage Data Portal should contact Tom Clark at tclark@srbc.net.

Item 4: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, reminded the group to register for the 7th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium that will be held April 10-11, 2014 and the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College. There is a reduced rate for watershed volunteers. Those who volunteer to help at the event can receive a free registration. If you have questions or would like to help, 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.

Orange Rock Award nominations are due March 17. If you want to nominate a volunteer, professional, or watershed group to win this year's award, please send their name and a short blurb about why they deserve the award to info@wbsrc.org.

There will be an event held on May 9 to celebrate 15 years of restoration in the Kettle Creek watershed. WBSRC members are invited to attend but are asked to contact Amy at awolfe@tu.org to let her know if they wish to attend.

Item 5: Rachel Kester and Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, provided an update on governmental issues that Amy has been working on:

- HB1576 containing proposed changes to the way Pennsylvania lists threatened and endangered species as well as the process for assessing and listing wild trout streams may potentially go up for a vote on March 12. WBSRC members are urged to contact their legislators to voice their opinions before the bill is voted on in the House.

- SB411 containing proposed changes that would reduce liability for gas companies and others using AMD for fracking and other purposes may come up for a vote again soon as well. The bill has a lot of opposition despite its potential to aid in AMD cleanup and reduce water withdrawal pressure on “pristine” waterways. Amy urges everyone to contact their legislators to voice their opinions on this bill as well.

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 June 10, 2014 in Clinton County.