



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:31 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Conservation District – Environmental Learning Center, Mill Hall, PA.

Present The meeting was attended by: Rachel Kester, Art Rose, Bill Beacom, Terry O'Connor, Mick McKay, Joyce McKay, Ken Undercoffer, Luke Jensen, and Toby Boyer.

Information and Discussion Items

- Item 1: Introductions: Those present introduced themselves and stated the group(s) they represent.
- Item 2: The minutes of the December 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. The next round of Growing Greener hasn't opened yet, but conversations with DEP staff indicate that they will be soliciting grants "soon". The PA AML Campaign has been planning in-district meetings with US congressional offices regarding reauthorization of SMCRA Title IV AML funds, which are set to expire in September 2021. Anyone who is interested in attending these meetings can reach out to Rachel. There hasn't been much movement on Community Reclaimers (Good Sam) or RECLAIM legislation, but TU and partners are keeping an eye out for any development. The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently reauthorized in February. The public comment period for proposed changes to the Clean Water Act "Clean Water Rule" passed in 2015 is open until April 15, 2019.
- Item 4: Luke Jensen, DEP-BAMR provided an update about the Cresson Treatment Plant on the headwaters of Clearfield Creek. The plant has begun treating water in the last couple of weeks but is not yet at full capacity. They will bring all three mine discharges online once the bugs have been worked out of the system, and it should be fully operational by the time we visit in June. DEP has deployed sondes at several locations that will monitor water quality. DEP, SRBC, TU and the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association will set up a meeting to develop a long-term monitoring plan to document recovery of Clearfield Creek. A visit to the treatment facility has been scheduled for 3:00 PM on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.
- Item 5: Watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting will be held on June 11, 2019 in Cresson.