



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, October 9, 2012**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at the Clearfield County Conservation District, Clearfield, PA. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the recently completed Morgan Run Ross passive treatment system led by Kelly Williams.

Present The meeting was attended by: Amy Wolfe, Joyce McKay, Mick McKay, Ken Undercoffer, Rachel Kester, Kelly Williams, Lyle Miller, Trish Miller, Erin Pierce, Terry O'Connor, Art Rose, Rebecca Holler, Von Holguin, and Becky Dunlap.

Information and Discussion Items

- Item 1: Introductions: All meeting participants introduced themselves and the group they were representing.
- Item 2: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited, facilitated a discussion amongst the members present about the needs of WBSRC member organizations, how the WBSRC can help address those needs, and the future direction of the organization. The greatest needs of the group as identified by the members present are: increased funding, greater manpower, assistance implementing projects, help connecting the community to their projects, and a better way to communicate amongst member groups between meetings (some form of public forum). A survey is to be developed and emailed out to the rest of the membership to get feedback before any action steps are identified.
- Item 3: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, provided a brief update regarding the status of the Baucus Amendment, which had the potential to reduce the annual payout to Pennsylvania from the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund. Amy reported that a continuing resolution was making its way through the House and Senate to fix the language of the Baucus Amendment so that PA and other uncertified states would not lose critical funding for AML reclamation over the life of the current SMCRA legislation.
- Item 4: Rachel Kester updated the group about upcoming grant deadlines. The group is reminded that funding opportunities are posted on the WBSRC website at www.wbsrc.com/amdtech.html. Anyone wishing to submit a grant opportunity for the website should email Rachel Kester (rkester@tu.org).
- Item 5: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, updated the group about the new River Researchers Teen Camp to be held at Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center August 4-8, 2013. The camp will be for teenagers ages 14-17 and will focus on AMD, brook trout, and coldwater conservation. WBSRC members are encouraged to participate in this first ever West Branch youth camp. Volunteers will be needed to assist with classroom and hands-on lessons, fly tying and fishing, planning of a fish fry, and help recruiting students to the program. Contact Rebecca at rholler@tu.org or 570-748-4901 to find out how you or your organization can help bring this unique learning opportunity to local students.
- Item 6: Amy Wolfe told the group about a new initiative through DEP's Bureau of Conservation and Restoration called the Improving Waters Program. She has been in contact with the bureau director, Glenn Ryder, and will keep the group apprised of opportunities that may be presented by this program to document stream recovery throughout the watershed.
- Item 7: "Round-the-table" watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.