



**West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
Meeting Report
Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:33 pm by Rachel Kester. The meeting was held at the Clinton County Conservation District office.

Present The meeting was attended by: Terry O'Connor, Mick McKay, Joyce McKay, Art Rose, Ken Undercoffer, Rachel Kester, Kelly Williams, Amy Wolfe, Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, and Mary Ann Bower.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the June 13, 2017 meeting were distributed and reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

Item 3: Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, provided an AMD funding and policy update. She spoke about the federal RECLAIM Act of 2017 which was introduced by Representative Hal Rogers and would expedite expenditure of \$2 billion dollars of AML funds over a 5-year period to coal states with remaining AML problem areas. Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia would benefit from this bill. At the time of the meeting it had passed committee and was still awaiting a full house vote.

Amy updated the group about the Community Reclamation Partnership Act (Good Sam) that was introduced in June by Darren Lahood of Illinois. It was voted out of committee on June 27th, but that version still did not contain language to "grandfather" in existing passive treatment systems. This could be an issue for the over 250 passive treatment systems already in existence in Pennsylvania.

Amy also updated the group on the Taxpayer Budget that is making its way through the PA House of Representatives. This budget looks to transfer funding, including the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener), from special accounts to the General Fund to close state budget shortfalls. Many questions remain as to what this could mean for the future of environmental projects in Pennsylvania. Grants that were awarded in 2015-2016 could be at stake, with unspent funds that have already been awarded on the chopping block. Anyone with questions is encouraged to reach out to Amy Wolfe at awolfe@tu.org for more information at any time.

Item 4: Rachel Kester, Trout Unlimited provided the group with information regarding upcoming grant opportunities: AMD Technical Assistance Grants are always available and can be found along with other grant opportunities at <http://www.wbsrc.org/tag.html>.

Item 5: There was then a group discussion about the future of the WBSRC. It was decided that the group continues to be of value to the member organizations and so Trout Unlimited will continue to facilitate the website, Facebook page, and quarterly meetings. However, due to lack of funding, the symposium will be discontinued at this time.

Item 6: Watershed updates were provided by those present on behalf of the organization(s) that they represent.

The next meeting/holiday party will be held on December 12, 2017 at the Clearfield County Conservation District.