



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

Opening This meeting of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition was called to order at 6:40 pm by Amy Wolfe. The meeting was held at Pavilion 5, Curwensville Lake, Curwensville, PA. The meeting was preceded by a picnic

Present The meeting was attended by: Amy Wolfe, Rachel Kester, Rebecca Holler, Shawn Rummel, Art Rose, Delores Simpson, Garry Harmon, Terry O'Connor, Jack Straley, Mary Straley, Buddy Thomas, Roger Thomas, Eli Long, Bob Hedin, George Watzlaf, Carl Undercofler, Joyce Undercofler, Kelly Williams, and Ann Donovan.

Information and Discussion Items

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

Item 2: The minutes of the June 11th, 2013 meeting were distributed. No changes were needed.

Item 3: The speaker for the evening, Hildred Rowles, was unable to attend the meeting.

Item 4: Rebecca Holler, Trout Unlimited, gave the group an update on the River Researchers Teen Camp which was held at Mahaffey Camp on August 4-8th. She informed the group that six students from throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland attended the camp. Students ranged in age from 15-17. They learned about coldwater ecology, AMD, its impacts and treatment, and also had fun fishing. All of the campers had a great time and also learned many new things. Some campers even said they will be looking into fisheries biology or ecology as a career. Trout Unlimited plans to hold this camp again on an annual basis as funding allows.

Item 5: Rachel Kester and Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, spoke about the upcoming 7th West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium. The symposium will be held on April 10-11, 2014 at the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College. The symposium will focus on celebrating 10 years of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative. Amy will be reaching out to WBSRC member groups as she works to develop a report documenting the success of the initiative over the last 10 years that will be released at the symposium. A call for presenters and student posters will be distributed soon. If you have any recommendations for presentations (topics or speakers) or would like to help with symposium planning, please email Rachel at rkester@tu.org.

Item 6: Amy Wolfe updated the group about governmental issues that she has been working on.

- Amy met with Senator Kasunic's office. This meeting was in regards to a bill that would encourage gas companies to use AMD water for hydrofracking instead of clean water from a stream. This would limit the amount of clean water that is removed from our streams, while improving impaired streams. Trout Unlimited has worked with the Senator's office to be sure that these companies would still be responsible for any contaminants added to the water in the hydrofracking process.
- Amy also told the group about a meeting she had with Congressman Glenn Thompson. The focus of this meeting was to discuss Good Samaritan protection for groups completing AMD restoration. Congressman Thompson expressed interest in working on a bill that would provide Federal Good Samaritan protections for groups working to improve our streams.

Item 7: Rachel Kester 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 should email Rachel at (rkester@tu.org). Amy also noted that 30 AMD proposals were submitted statewide to the new Act 13 grant program. Funding decisions are to be announced sometime in November.

Item 8: "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 December 10th, 2013 near Lock Haven. The exact location of the meeting will be announced closer to the meeting time.