**Conewago Creek Initiative
BMP Team Meeting**

**May 29, 2012**

**303 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg**

 **Minutes**

**Attending**

Matt Royer, Penn State

Jessica Moldofsky, Penn State

Kristen Kyler, Penn State

Stephanie Butler, Lebanon CCD

Mark Myers, NRCS

Mike Snyder, NRCS

Susan Marquart, NRCS

Carl Rohr, DEP

Kelly O’Neill, CBF

**PA One Stop Workshop**

Matt Royer discussed the upcoming PA One Stop workshop that will occur on June 21st. This workshop will pre-date the Manure Management workshops and serve to aid landowners in creating their farm map. Each participant will leave the workshop with a farm map. The workshop will be held from 5:30 – 8:30 pm in 15C Olmstead Building (a computer lab) at the Penn State Harrisburg campus. Pre-registration is required. There will be a limit of 25 participants, and the workshop will be taught by Bob Neiderer and Rick Day. (There is potential for a repeat workshop in the fall if interest exceeds available enrollment.) A flyer will be distributed to farm owners in the workshop as well as emailed to the BMP team for additional distribution.

**Manure Management Workshops (Dauphin County Conservation District)**

Matt Royer discussed the Manure Management Workshops that will be occurring this summer, offered by the DCCC. The workshops are open to anyone in the watershed (not limited to Dauphin county). Pre-registration is required. The dates include:

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Gratz Community Building

July 9 & 16 (Please attend both sessions)

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*Tailored to Horse/Small Farm/Specialty Animals:*

July 14 & 21 (Please attend both sessions)

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1451 Peters Mountain Road

Dauphin, PA

**Equine Environmental Stewardship Workshop**

Matt Royer and Intern Jessica discussed the upcoming Equine Environmental Stewardship Workshops. We are working with Donna Foulk of Northampton County Extension. This workshop will be a four-part series that will be directed at equine owners in the watershed, from small farms to larger equine operations. The course will prepare owners to develop their own Manure Management Plan, however an actually plan will not be written during these nights. (An optional 5th night might be added, in order to create plans, based on interest.) The $45 cost of the workshop will be reimbursed to all landowners in the Conewago watershed upon completion of the workshop. The workshop will be held at the Londonderry Township Municipal Building (7835 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown). The dates are July 19, July 26, August 2 and August 9. 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM. Attendance to all four sessions is highly suggested.

**WIP Amendment**

Matt Royer discussed the current process of amending the Watershed Implementation Plan. Currently there are 129 projects identified in the Restoration Plan, broken down by subwatershed. These sites are all ag-based. The amendment is being written to include upland ag and urban areas. This past December, Tetra Tech visited sites and created a priority map to show non-ag land needing improvement. They identified BMPs on high priority areas and stream restoration was also evaluated in urban areas. Matt noted that the grant probably will not extend another year; therefore the grant money should be used by April 30, 2013. The focus for priority sites will be on those already equipped with conservation plans. The Tool Kit database will be utilized to analyze conservation plans to see which plans have and have yet to be implemented or completed. Confidentiality will be discussed to determine if a dot and a number to identify locations on a map will suffice. A follow up call is being scheduled via doodle poll.

**Partner Updates**

Labanon CCD:

Stephanie Butler reported that they are continuing to work with landowners on BMPs in the county.

Lancaster:

Continuing to work with farmers on E&S plans, Manure Management Plans, and BMP implementation.

DEP:

DEP worked with Matt Royer and Conewago interns on Friday to conduct riparian buffer maintenance at the Al Wenger buffer. Carl Rohr discussed the Ag E&S module and how it incorporates RSLE.

CBF:

The Buffer Bonus program has been successful in Lancaster, with some handholding.