**Conewago Creek Initiative**

**Monitoring Team Meeting**

**June 7, 2012**

**303 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg**

**Minutes**

**Attending**

Kristen Saacke Blunk, Penn State

Jessica Moldofsky, Penn State

Kristen Kyler, Penn State

Jayne Ulrich, Penn State

Matt Kofroth, LCCD

Susan Marquart, NRCS

Mike Langland, USGS

Dan Bogar, DEP

**Bacteria sampling**

Matt Kofroth discussed the Citizen Monitoring Program (comprised of 4-5 interested residents of the Masonic Village) where volunteers collect samples from Conoy Creek. Sampling efforts focus on impairments to recreational use by evaluating the amount of coliform bacteria in the water. The Lancaster County Conservation District is interested in sampling the Conewago Creek using a similar monitoring program. 1 to 3 sampling sites will be evaluated over a 2-month period throughout the watershed, 5 sampling periods per month. Possible sampling locations include Hershey Meadows, Rt. 230, Prospect Rd and Aberdeen Mills. Samples are then deliveredto a certified DEP lab for assessment. Because the DEP lab may not be easily accessible to everyone involved, it was suggested that the Elizabethtown Waste Water Treatment Plant be used to assist in the sampling process for convenience of volunteers.

**Fish Survey**

Matt Kofroth discussed a possible fish survey in the upcoming fall at 3 to 4 locations within the watershed. Data from the 1972 Elizabethtown fish survey (pre Hurricane Agnes) will be a valuable tool for compare this data. The survey will also have a level of community outreach associated. There is interest in what species are prevalent in the creeks. A discussion was held regarding the American Eel.

**Macroinvertebrate survey**

Dan Bogar discussed macroinvertabrate surveys. The most recent surveys were conducted in 2009 and 2010. Macroinvertebrate sampling will be pushed to spring 2013 instead of fall 2012 due to excess flooding. Two gage stations are expected to be sampled in August or September. Surveying is to follow WQN protocol. DEP will conduct this sampling as part of their grant match. Information prior to 2009 might be comparable to information from 2013 by IBI score, but we need to find out if the data previous to the 2009 survey follows ICE protocol and if it is in the DEP database.

**High-Flow Synoptic Sampling**

Mike Langland discussed High-Flow Synoptic Sampling, which was completed on May 15, 2012 at 14 sites. Sampling measurements included nutrient, sediment, flow, pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Mike included a map of sampling sites, data collected, and a comprehensive graphical display. Sampling will ultimately relate measurements and land use, and identify high concentration areas during storm events. There is also potential for community awareness in the form of a pamphlet.

**Short Term monitoring**

Although no immediate conclusion was reached concerning the Conewago Landowner-Based Monitoring Approach, a few suggestions were mentioned. These suggestions include removal of sediment deposition as an element of the monitoring plan and the addition of, or mention of, embedment, riparian zones, bank pins, secchi disks and transparency tubes. After all partners have a chance to further review the draft, discussion will continue during the next meeting.

**Partner updates**

DEP - 1,600 square miles of streams asked to be evaluated for EV above the Lehigh River.

USGS - There is an extensive study underway by USGS- Difficult Run (spelling??)