**Conewago BMP Team Meeting**

**June 27 2011, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
303 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Matt Royer, PSU
Justin Kauffman, PSU
Kristen Saacke Blunk, PSU
Susan Marquart, NRCS
Kevin Lutz, Lanc CCD
Mike Hubler, DCCD
Stephanie Butler, Leb CCD
Leon Ressler, PSU
Jeremy Zidek, ZedX
Paul Craig, PSU

1. **Partner Updates**

Susan Marquart, NRCS. Working on promoting forest workshop in late July. Susan will forward flyer to Matt, who will send it to Roger Groce, Mt. Gretna Newsletter.

Kevin Lutz, Lanc CCD. Have received some response to vouchers program. June 30 is the deadline. 12 vouchers have been sent to date.

Mike Hubler, DCCD. Continue implementing BMP practices in the watershed. Subsurfer update—equipment is back at manufacture for work/upgrades. Wet soil survey with NRCS/Penn State: some preliminary testing was done on Conewago farms. Initial presentation will be in September at State Technical Committee meeting.

Matt Royer, PSU. RC&D is hosting CREP field workshop on 7/26 at Wenger farm. Fall buffer planting at Hershey Meadows will take place, working with Mark Metzler. Volunteer planting day will be offered.

Stephanie Butler, Leb CCD. District working with several cooperators on planning and BMP implementation. Starting to see some new adopters.

Kristen Saacke Blunk, PSU. Rick Day interested in providing PA One Stop workshop in the watershed. Available in August. Several venues might be good—Penn State Harrisburg, Lancaster F&H Center, Lebanon Co. office, Masonic Village.

1. **BMP Tracking**

The team had a discussion of what tools are available to the partnership to track BMPs implemented. NRCS Toolkit is the primary tool. It includes NRCS funded practices and 319 funded practices (under the category of “CTA General”). If the practice is from an old outdated Conservation Plan, then it does not show up on Toolkit. Technicians are putting practices in Toolkit. Lancaster CCD will soon be moving to their own system, working with a Virginia company to build it. NRCS data to ZedX for modeling results.

1. **NFWF Incentives for Adoption**

Matt presented a draft proposal for use of NFWF dollars to inventivize adoption of practices in the watershed. Approximately $108,000 available in the grant. Idea is to provide incentives for priority practices were gaps exist in current incentives programs or where additional incentive is needed to get landowners to adopt. Programs include:

Stormwater assessments and plans; stormwater BMPs (for residential/commercial landowners)
Manure analysis and testing (where needed to develop MMPs)
Crop recordkeeping (Lebanon County Extension program) (where farmers meet established environmental standards)
Riparian buffer maintenance

Team discussed the proposal. One item that should be added is funding for equine BMPs. Many operators not eligible for NRCS funding, and many have water quality concerns. Would get bigger bang for the buck on these kind of practices as opposed to landscaping with homeowners.

Matt will revise based on comments received and present to PAT for comment at the next meeting.