**Conewago Environmental Markets Team Meeting**

**April 26, 2011, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Kristen Saacke Blunk, PSU
Dan Dostie, USDA NRCS
Robb Meinen, PSU
Jim Baird, AFT
Shelly Dehoff, PA Ag Ombudsman
Susan Marquart, USDA NRCS
Karl Brown, SCC
Matt Royer, PSU
Mike Hubler, DCCD

Agenda item for this meeting was discussion of PEACCE and whether the tool could be revised and piloted in Conewago as a third party certification process. Partners discussed need for certainty to make farmers interested in participating.

Robb Meinen provided history of PEACCE and how it operated. Bell & Evans became very interested and made it a requirement for their farmers. This drove a lot of the program for a while. When funding ended, Robb continued to do the assessments.

Certification process:
(1) Robb offers Environmental Awareness Course
(2) must have a Conservation Plan
(3) must have Nutrient Management Plan (or MMP)
(4) Environmental Assessment (third party). Producer must volunteer the confidential assessment report to PSU/District when Certification Review is undertaken.
(5) Certification Review undertaken and producer is certified under PEACCE

Nutrient trading—third party assessors need to be educated on this to make recommendations to farmers regarding potential qualification for trading program.

Could we incentivize this program by moving trading proposals to top of the queue for nutrient trading certification?

There must be some driver for this program. Ex: in Virginia, legislation on certainty could be a driver.

Need to update PEACCE to meet current 102/MMM standards.

We could pilot with a handful of programs in the watershed.

Next steps:
Reconvene PEACCE Board to discuss reinvigorating PEACCE.
Revise environmental compliance standards to reflect changes in regulations
Begin to develop pilot program.