**Conewago Monitoring Team Meeting**

**May 12 2011, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Lyet Wing, Masters Center for Science, Elizabethtown College**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Tom Murray, Etown College
Matt Royer, PSU
Jeremy Zidek, ZedX
Mike Yanchek, DCCD
Tony Shaw, DEP
Mike Langland, USGS
Matt Kofroth, Lanc CCD
Stephanie Harmon, Leb CCD
Jineen Boyle, DEP

1. **Costs and Funding for Monitoring Plan**

The top agenda item for this meeting was to discuss costs of implementing the Monitoring Plan finalized last meeting, and discuss where funding exists and how to fill funding gaps. Partners submitted cost estimate to Matt, who compiled them for discussion.

ZedX can provide data collegeion and management for next 3-5 years at no cost. USGS data is in Excel. DCCD has a geodatabase for its data.

Current NFWF has around $30,000 budgeted for monitoring.

DCCD sampling: 319 minigrant is currently helping to fund sampling. 604(b) sampling should carry through 9/30/12, but need to be supplemented.

2012 macros: DEP will sample at two USGS gage stations as in kind match for Bay grant.

With NFWF dollars, should be able to fund monitoring work through life of grant (if no cost one year extension is granted, this would be through May 2013).

1. **Short Term Monitoring**

The team then discussed what could be developed to show short term, early successes of the Initiative’s work. Habitat and water quality changes come first, then the biological community response. What are the parameters we can use with the public to say how things are responding?

Ideas shared include:
Habitat at a short term indicator (especially riparian—changes in vegetation over time)
Physical parameters (temperature, depth, width, banks, sediment (water clarity)
BMP implementation (Number of farmers signing up for programs)
Bacteria (especially where cows were in stream)
Fish
Wildlife (birds)
MWON

Perhaps a “short term montoring” work group could be formed.

Buffer cam—another idea. Or landowner agrees to adopt a buffer and take photos on a regular basis.

Look at some of the macro metrics and see if there are any changes in communities that would tell you something short term.

USGS report: Funding for additional gages not coming through at this time. Two gages will be installed.

Etown College can do one site reliably (Hershey Meadows). Adding habitat assessment would be challenging.