**Conewago Project Advisory Team Meeting**

**July 29, 2011, 9:45 am to 12:15 pm
Londonderry Township Municipal Building**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Matt Royer, PSU
Jeremy Zidek, ZedX
Mark Dubin, CBP/U Md
Justin Kauffman, PSU
Susan Marquart, NRCS
Mike Snyder, NRCS
Kelly O’Neill, CBF
Mark Chegwidden, Leb CCD
Chuck Wertz, Leb CCD
Jeremy Zidek, ZedX

1. **Coordinator’s Report**

Matt provided an update on the workshops recently held in the watershed. RC&D held a CREP field day at the Wenger buffer. Approximately a dozen landowners attended. Learned how to identify invasives and techniques for maintenance. Stream bank stabilization techniques were also discussed, led by Conewago Intern, Justin Kauffman.

Forest Landowner workshop was held July 28 at Governor Dick. Approximately 25 landowners in attendance. Forest walk got rained out, but discussion and presentation were good. The hope is that this will lead to landowners signing up for NRCS cost share for forest stewardship plans and eligible practices.

Penn State Ag and Environment Center is sponsoring a Modeling and Decision Support Tool Forum on August 1 at Penn State Harrisburg. Technical experts will present relevant models and decision support tools available to guide local watershed restoration efforts, and discussion and dialogue will occur with local and state decision makers on the various models and tools capacities.

Mount Gretna Watershed Expo set for the evening of August 4. Speakers will include Dick Brown, S Londonderry EAC, on planting native meadows, and Andy Korzon, LandStudies, on landscaping with native plants. If you need a table for a display, see Matt.

1. **USDA Showcase Report**

Susan Marquart preparing a report on the Showcase Watershed for USDA. Team discussed various aspects of the report and what outcomes should be included. What should be the baseline? October 1, 2009 as baseline starting point to determine practices installed pre- and post-Initiative. District survey data should be reviewed and included. What kind of outcomes from the ag side do we want to report?

1. BMPs implemented
2. Corrseponding nutrient and sediment reductions
3. Case studies
4. Outreach events and workshops held
5. Monitoring plan
6. TCCCA practices
7. Other things going on by the partners (Tetra Tech, Natural Areas program, etc.
8. **NFWF Incentives Program**

Matt presented a plan for using NFWF grant money to incentivize more landowners to install priority practices. Approximately $108,000 is available in the grant for this purpose. Matt presented draft plan to BMP Team for comment and incorporated revisions based on input received at BMP Team meeting last month. Program areas would include:

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

PAT discussed proposal. Stormwater work—would you include lawns? Yes, you would be expected to implement a nutrient management plan for your lawn. Who would do the verifications? CCDs? Master Gardeners? This concept is more of a retrofit, not for new development. Team agreed with approach and priority program areas identified in plan. Matt will move forward with plan, talk to PSU grant manager about the best way to implement it. Perhaps funnel money to CCDs?

1. **Partner Updates**

Kelly O’Neill, CBF. CBF looking to work with three farms in PA who are doing some good things, model practices and see how they stack up to TMDL.

Mark Dubin, CBP/U Md. Work is continuing on developing protocols for non-cost share tracking. Bay Program is offering a Scenario Builder Workshop on August 10 at DEP, Rachel Carson State Office Building.

Mark Chegwidden (Leb CCD). Work continues on BMP implementation with several cooperators. Lancaster County—some vouchers have been used for conservation plans and a few MMPs in the watershed.

Chuck Wertz, Leb CCD. SWAT position available, looking to hire experienced technician. Attended Leaf Pack workshop that Stephanie Harmon helped put on. Went very well. Lebanon County is in the process of forming a watershed alliance to deal with MS4 challenges. Modeled on Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium. Lebanon Daily News published an article on the District’s 100 farm visits.

Jeremy Zidek, ZedX. In full blown data collection mode. Tool will help tell the story and be customized to what the partners needs are.