**Conewago Project Advisory Team Meeting**

**December 12, 2011, 9:45 am to 12:15 pm
Room 104, EAB, Penn State Harrisburg**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Matt Royer, PSU
Jeremy Zidek, ZedX
Kathy Brasier, PSU
Kathleen Wood, PSU
Jennifer Fetter, PSU
Stephanie Eisenbise, CBF, TCCCA
Marylou Barton, LCCWC
Mike Langland, USGS
Mike Snyder, NRCS
Mark Dubin, CBP/U Md
Kristen Saacke Blunk, PSU
Diane Espy, PSU
Stephanie Butler, Leb CCD
Julie Noll, DCCD
Mike Hubler, DCCD
Chuck Wertz, Leb CCD
Matt Kofroth, Lanc CCD
John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons
Carl Rohr, DEP
Rugh Henderson, S. Londonderry Twp.
Jim Baird, AFT

1. **Coordinator’s Report**

Matt Royer reported on activity in the watershed this fall. In October, two volunteer riparian buffer plantings took place, one on the Ambrose farm and one at the Hershey Meadows restoration site.

A stormwater workshop was held November 5. Approximately a dozen watershed and other local residents attended. Penn State Landscape Architecture and Engineering students let the workshop and did a fantastic job. They shared their projects as case studies to highlight “green” practices for managing stormwater. Produced an outstanding homeowner’s guide called “Eco-Landscaping for Water Quality.” We can make this available on the Initiative website.

Extension together with the County Conservation Districts and the Initiative sponsored a field day on manure incorporation and cover crops at that Kopp farm on November 9. Over 40 attended. Extension did an excellent job with the presentation. A several-year research project is ongoing at the farm, and this work was highlighted. Nice write up in Lancaster Farming.

Matt and other Initiative partners attended the NFWF Ag Networking Forum November 14-16 in Hershey. Matt presented work we are doing to address stormwater in a rural community. Kristen organized a field trip to the Hershey Meadows site.

We are moving forward with a plan to create a special incentive program with our existing NFWF grant dollars to provide incentives for practices that are high priority and were existing incentives programs are lacking. Practices to be cost shared include residential/commercial stormwater BMPs; equine BMPs; manure and soil tests; crop recordkeeping; and buffer maintenance.

Tetra Tech will be coming to the watershed for three days starting tomorrow—field surveys for their stormwater assessment work. Matt Royer, Mike Hubler, Carl Rohr, Stephanie Eisenbise will accompany as schedules allow.

Looking forward to the winter, would the partners be interested in providing a winter farmers meeting? Would enable us to highlight and promote programs and practices and specifically promote District’s Manure Management workshops.

1. **Chesapeake Commons**

John Dawes presented on Chesapeake Commons, a new data collaboration and sharing tool that is being developed with funding from Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and NFWF. John gave examples of how it is being used by other groups (i.e., StreamWatch, Rivanna Watershed) . You do not need GIS capabilitites to do this.

Mobile data collection app has been developed. Pilot project using this app is ACB’s Project Clean Stream. Allows you to input data on trash cleanups right in the field.

The tool takes datasets that groups can’t see in Arc and puts them in visual format (ex—303(d) list). Pull date from various places, provide overlays and produce a map automatically.

One use of this tool in the Conewago Initiative could be data collection for urban BMPs. You need to determine your attributes (location; impervisous area; area of turf; population density; acreage; cost; reduction efficiency; type/name of BMP)

Information could then be given to ZedX for input into Conewago tool, and also to state for CBP reporting. Need to know that the attributes are for the data collected, and make sure they are synched to ZedX’s and CBP’s needs.

We will look to set up a subsequent meeting with John to explore the attributes and commonalities with CBP and ZedX tools, then look to pilot with the stormwater BMP projects that will start going in the ground as we implement the cost share program.

1. **Landowner Survey Results**

Kathy Brasier, PSU, reported on the landowner survey results. A report was shared with the PAT in advance of the meeting. Kathy can further break down resulted by county. She will also work on a 4-5 page summary report for public dissemination. This will also be mailed to survey respondents who requested results. Kathy briefly reviewed goals and methodology of the surveys. Initiative partners how to use the information to increase education and provide for more precise targeted outreach and messaging. What should go into the summary report? What further analysis should be done? How can these results best be used? What are the Initiative’s objectives? These questions can be discussed at the next Stewardship Development Team meeting.

1. **Partner Updates**

Jeremy Zidek, ZedX. A beta version of the tool is now available for Initiative partners to view. We will look to schedule a beta demonstration of the tool at a future PAT meeting.

Jennifer Fetter, PSU. Stream Teams are quiet heading into winter. Will be looking to work with Matt to follow up with a few interested residents.

Stephanie Eisenbise, CBF, TCCCA. TCCCA worked with a couple of Eagle Scout projects, one to plant around 0.5 acre buffer on Ambrose farm and another to build an observation area at Hershey Meadows.

Jim Baird, AFT. Looking forward to working with Initiative to promote broader adoption with producers. Willing to help organize a winter farmers meeting.

Marylou Barton, LCCWC. LCCWC will be working with Matt and many others on a Little Conestoga targeted watershed initiative with a stormwater focus.

Mike Langland, USGS. Flooding resulted in massive flows and sediment loadings coming down the Conewago.

Mike Snyder, NRCS. Stream bank stabilization implemented this fall. Landowner looking to partner with TCCCA on a spring planting.

Carl Rohr, DEP. Looking to incorporate urban pieces into 319 plan, working with Tetra Tech (field work will begin tomorrow). This will allow us to more comprehensively address the watershed. Many internal changes as DEP undergoes reorganization.

Mark Dubin, CBP/U Md. State basin Phase II WIP drafts are now due; final will be due 3/30/12. PA is expanding its tillage survey.

Diane Espy, WPSU. 2012 will be final production year for video. Will be at a future PAT meeting to film. Open to partner ideas on what else to capture and document.

Stephanie Butler, Leb CCD. Working with a number of landowners and looking to expand the work to other landowners in the watershed.

Mike Hubler, DCCD. Staff beginning 100 farm visits, a number will be in the Conewago watershed. Julie Noll working on planning Manure Management workshop—targeting February for this. The Subsurfer is getting closer. Should be available for spring trials. Ag partners should try to find farmers willing to do trials, and others willing to try it for half a day to “kick the tires.” WPSU has a recruitment video on YouTube. Dollars exist to hire a technician to haul subsurfer around and provide training.

Chuck Wertz, Leb CCD. Two new County Commissioners in Lebanon County. May want to consider meeting with them about the Initiative.

Rugh Henderson, S. Londonderry Twp. We should keep all the Commissioners informed. Flooding creates a teachable moment. Many UNTs have had an interface with residents this fall.

Matt Kofroth, Lanc. CCD. Fall newsletter was dedicated to the Conewago (Matt distributed copies) Went to all farmers and all riparian landowners. Conewago Initiative calendar also will be mailed out to all Lancaster County riparian landowners. LCCD’s new BMP tracking tool is under development and will be beta tested to invitees in January or February.