**Conewago Creek Initiative  
BMP Team Meeting**

**January 12, 2012**

**303 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg  
Minutes**

**Attending:**

Matt Royer (PSU Extension)   
Kelly O’Neill (CBF)

Nate Straw (PSU Extension)

Mike Hubler (DCCD)

Mike Snyder (NRCS)

Mark Myers (NRCS)

Stephanie Butler (LebCCD)

Ted Tesler (PADEP)

Kevin Lutz (LancCCD)

Jim Baird (AFT)

**Winter Farmers Meeting Feb 3**

Matt Royer presented agenda for winter farmers meeting, to be held at Hoss’s in Etown on Feb 3. A press release will be sent to Lancaster Farming and local news outlets. Date conflicts with PASA conference. Unlikely to be a conflict with Conewago farmers—few PASA members in watershed. Subsurfer will be parked in the parking lot for farmers to check out.

**Manure Management Info Sessions**

Mike Hubler reported that four introductory sessions on the Manure Management Manual will be held in Dauphin County this winter. One is planned for the watershed at the Londonderry Township Building. These will be 1-2 hours intro sessions. Staff will take sign ups for farmers interested in planning workshops (5-6 hours), to be held later this year. We will look to work with Rick Day to do a PAOneStop mapping workshop in advance of the planning workshops for farmers who need to develop their farm maps. Other districts reported they are planning similar workshops in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

**Equine Workshop**

Matt reported that an Extension Equine environmental workshop is also in the planning stages. Gift certificates to a tack shop was suggested as an incentive to get people to come to the workshop.

**Subsurfer**

The Subsurfer should be coming to the Conewago this spring for field trials. ARS looking for 5 farms for side-by-side field trials. Looking for plant response—ideal scenario is no till corn with plans for a fall winter wheat planting. Also, there will be opportunities for other watershed farmers to “kick the tires” (informal half day use). Districts and NRCS will take the lead to find willing farmers.

**Partner Updates**

**NRCS.** CBWI will allocate $500,000 for the Conewago in the coming year, meaning that all Conewago projects should be funded.

**Lancaster CCD.** Several farmers will be applying for funding soon. Technicians are dividing the rest of the conservation planning list and working on developing the last of the plans.

**DEP.** Just completed report on data to EPA. Made good progress last year from federal sources. Last week, Phase II WIP was submitted. Involved in no till surveys and cover crops—these continue to be under reported/are providing reporting challenges.\

**Lebanon CCD.** Continue to work with farmers to implement BMPs. Looking to implement outreach to get conservation plans written.

**CBF.** Shared one page Manure Management Plan fact sheet. Looking for Conewago farm interested in TMDL survey (farm survey to determine what TMDL compliance would look like on a per farm basis). Working with WSI to do this. **Partner Updates**

Mike Snyder-NRCS and FWS working in Lebanon County on a wetlands restoration under WRP.

Matt Royer- Contact with landowner interested in pasture renovation. Will put him in touch with Mike Snyder, NRCS.

Carl Rohr- Talked with FWS Old Hershey Road project will begin when crews are available to begin this fall. Stream restoration funded under 319 grant to watershed group. Permit issued by DEP.