**Conewago Creek Initiative
BMP Team Meeting**

**April 19, 2012**

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

**Attending:**

Matt Royer (Penn State)

Mike Hubler (DCCD)

Kristen Saacke Blunk (Penn State)

Kelly O’Neill (CBF)

Stephanie Butler (Leb CCD)

Amanda Soltzfus (DCCD)

Kevin Lutz (Lanc CCD)

Jeremy Zidek (ZedX)

Jim Baird (AFT)

**Manure Management Planning Workshops**

Mike Hubler reported on DCCD’s plans for Manure Management Planning workshops. They will be held in late June through July. One will be focused on non-traditional livestock (equine, llamas, etc). Matt Royer will work with Rick Day to schedule a PAOneStop mapping workshop prior to the planning workshops. Stephanie Butler reported on Lebanon CCD. Four workshops have finished up in Lebanon. More may be planned for the fall. Kevin Lutz reported on Lancaster. 3 Plain Sect areas were targeted; attendance was decent. More are planned for the June-July time period.

It was discussed that Dauphin’s non-traditional workshop should be dovetailed with Extension’s equine environmental stewardship course being planned for the summer. Matt, Mike and Julie will conference with Donna Foulk to streamline this and get on the same page.

Summer interns will also help with equine outreach; Matt and interns will meet with CCDs once they are on board.

Group discussed the need to track MMPs developed in the watershed. We can use the ZedX tool to track. Kevin mentioned that the new Lancaster tracking tool allows for MMPs to be input into system.

**Subsurfer**

Test plots currently being laid out. Injection undergoing some technical difficulties with manure build up. Chris Hooper of DCCD is the lead field tech on the project. Beyond these current field trials, fixes will need to be made to the equipment before promoting widely. Some farmers felt that pelletized manure would work well with current prototype.

**Partner Updates**

**ZedX.** Will look to demo tool at PAT meeting and get feedback from workgroups through May.

**CBF.** Kelly provided Farm Bill update. It is moving; Senate vote by Friday, full vote next week expected. Could pass on extension. Could be some changes via Casey marker bill to keep regional initiatives.

**AFT.** Working with 4 Lebanon County farmers on notill practices in BMP Challenge. Interested in pursuing CIG for an “Adapt N” tool developed at Cornell. Tool used same data tools with localized weather data to inform sidedress.

**Penn State.** PAT scheduled for tomorrow, with Dean Hively speaking for the webinar presentation on use of satellite imagery to evaluate cover crop acreage. State Technical Committee update: NRCS looking to recruit non-traditional properties for WHIP; manure to energy continues to be a priority.

**Lancaster CCD.** Conservation plan writing almost complete. One priority project moving toward CREP sign up.

**Lebanon CCD.** Still working with Conewago farmers to implement BMP projects, as well as some farmland preservation. Hess farm honored with PACD Clean Water Farm award and honored at Lebanon Farm to City Banquet. **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.