**Conewago Creek Initiative
BMP Team Meeting**

**July 18, 2012**

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

**Attending:**

Matt Royer (PSU Extension) Jessica Moldofsky (PSU Extension)

Jayne Ulrich (PSU Extension) Kristen Kyler (PSU Extension)

Mark Myers (NRCS) Kevin Lutz (Lancaster CCD)

Ted Tesler (PA DEP) Kelly O’Neill (CBF)

Susan Marquart (NRCS) Kristen Saacke Blunk (PSU Extension)

Mike Hubler (Dauphin CCD) Jeremy Zidek (ZedX Inc.)

Stephanie Butler (Lebanon CCD) Carl Rohr (PA DEP)

Mike Snyder (USDA)

**Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Meeting- July 9th**

Conewago was on agenda- presented 5 minutes during “lightning round.” Discussed teams, installed practices, conservation plan numbers from districts, and overall project. DEP Secretary Mike Krancer, Governor O’Malley from MD, & Chair Lisa Jackson were present.

**Cover Crops Data**

Dean Hively called in to report on the progress of this data. Satellite remote sensing is used to look at ground cover and how ground cover is distributed. Data spans 2008-present. 2 images per year. Imaging indicated whether green cover is present or not in winter- not health of crops, etc. Should be able to pull data from NRCS for totally number of cover crops enrolled in NRCS program from areas A and B. Remote sensing will then tell acres of significant green biomass (Will not necessarily denote ‘cover crop’). A follow up webinar will be held in early August with Dean Hively, ZedX, Pat Drohan and Tony Buda to look at soil survey datasets. (Email will be sent to invite team). This data could be useful in 319 WIP amendment.

**WIP Amendment**

The Initiative continues to move forward with an amendment to the current Watershed Implementation Plan. A meeting and call was held since last meeting to start writing this. NRCS Tool Kit data was discussed to help with the Amendment. (As well as ZedX’s tool which will help to prioritize decision making in the watershed.) A ranking criteria chart was discussed at the meeting, including 11 categories that could help to rank/prioritize target areas of the watershed. Based on the conversation at the meeting (and any further comments within the next two weeks), a revised chart will be sent out. A path forward with this will be discussed.

**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.