**Monitoring Team**

**Minutes**

**December 5, 2012**

Matt Royer, PSU

Kristen Kyler, PSU

Jineen Boyle, DEP

Dan Bogar, DEP

Megan Blackmon, Dauphin CCD

**Fish Survey Report**

A report has been created that summarizes the results of the 2012 fish surveys and compares them with historical surveys. The team scrolled briefly through this document and discussed the results. It was discussed that a section needs to be added explaining the tolerance levels and how they are determined. This report will be finalized and posted to the website.

**Landowner Monitoring Assessment Tool**

This document was updated from the last meeting and now includes pictures to represent the different levels of criteria. Additional changes were made during this meeting and will be finalized. Matt and Kristen will set up a meeting to talk with Chesapeake Commons about designing the online/app form.

A summary of the most recent changes:

* + WE NEED A FUN/CATCHY TITLE FOR THIS TOOL!!!
  + Pictures decided on-a picture of a lawn mowed right up to the edge of the stream needs to be taken to replace one of the current images.
  + A line for describing the installed practice has been added to the introduction section.
  + The flow section has been eliminated but the landowner is asked in the intro section to describe whether the flow is normal or not.
  + A Macroinvertebrate chart still needs to be decided upon. A color, simple, picture chart is preferred as is one that breaks the bugs into tolerance levels.

The goal is to pilot this tool in Spring 2013 with a few landowners who will be installing buffers or stream restoration projects.

**Sampling Updates**

The first round of 5 samples has been taken from the Espenshade farm. The results still need to be tabulated but the trend does seem to show that downstream has higher bacteria counts then upstream. An additional round of sampling will occur in early spring before the fence and buffer are installed.

Megan also shared the results from the first nutrient sampling that was done on this property in September. The results are pretty ordinary for the Conewago Watershed. The results from the November sampling have not been returned from the lab yet.

**Citizen Monitoring**

The idea of establishing citizen monitoring stations as a method of engaging local residents in monitoring activities was discussed. There were many thoughts about what to ask the public to report about including: stream stage, stream turbidity, wildlife, and a newly planted tree’s height. There is potential to ask a single question that can be answered through text message or the creation of a smart phone app that can ask multiple questions and where the questions can be changed over time. The overall consensus was that the question asked needs to be interesting and engaging. One pilot station will hopefully be established along the rail-trail that runs through the watershed. This station would have an informational sign about what and how we are asking the public to answer the chosen question(s). The sign would also have some information about the Initiative and would provide a website and a QR Code for smart phone scanning. This idea is in the early stages of planning but hopefully it can be fully developed by spring 2013. Matt and Kristen will set up a meeting with Chesapeake Commons to discuss the technology that will be needed for this project in order to establish some guidelines for development.