**Conewago Creek Initiative
Environmental Markets 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)

Amanda Soltzfus (DCCD)
Jim Baird (AFT)

**Action Plan for Environmental Market Team**

Kristen Saacke Blunk and Matt Royer presented an action plan for moving forward on deliverables related to Environmental Markets. The following items were proposed and then discussed during the meeting:

1. Development of fact sheets to provide a “primer” on ecosystems services, payment for ecosystem services, and trading.
2. On farm charrettes in the Conewago, bringing experts in ecosystem services to meet with farmers and assess, identify, and quantify ecosystem services they provide.
3. A template for landowners to assess ecosystem services their own lands provide
4. Nutrient trading assessments of Conewago farms.

**Ecosystems Services Fact Sheets**

Kristen shared some draft fact sheets with the group and received feedback. Thinking about the audience, if the target audience is landowners, something more interactive needs to accompany fact sheets to get them to read/view this information. The group discussed a video product. Matt offered that the summer interns could take this on as one of their summer projects. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. A voiceover powerpoint might also be another tool that could be developed.

**On Farm Charrettes**

Group discussed concept of on farm charrette. Penn State Extension would facilitate—Kristen would look to reach out to and identify various Penn State experts in different areas of ecosystem services. Can also reach out to other key experts (CBF on riparian buffers). Also good to have someone who can speak to environmental market opportunities (Peter Hughes, Red Barn). Need to discuss the services the farm provides and what their value is. Farmer is aware of some of this; some of it is enlightenment. Consider reviewing landserver.org tool and see if this can be of any value in the workshop. Target late fall for these workshops.

As a product outcome of the workshops—we will take the info and develop a written guide and template for landowners to assess ecosystem services on their farms. Need to review landserver.org and other tools to make sure we are not reinventing the wheel here.

**Nutrient Trading Assessments**

The concept of doing some third party farm assessments to evaluate farm eligibility for nutrient trading program was discussed. Kind of like the PEACCE assessment idea that the team has discussed at previous meetings. This will meet deliverable of the grant (support landowners in taking advantage of environmental market opportunities). Matt will talk to Peter Hughes of Red Barn to see what their interest might be in doing these assessments.**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.