**PAT Meeting**

**Minutes**

**July 23, 2014**

Matt Royer, PSU Matt Kofroth, DCCD Dawn Hintz, SRBC

Kristen Kyler, PSU Rugh Henderson, S. Londonderry TWP

Jennifer Fetter, PSU Susan Marquart, NRCS

**Coordinator’s Report**

Monitoring

* The FISH landowner monitoring protocol now includes a wildlife component. A training session was held at Jubilee Heritage Farm with the Nissley family earlier this summer. They are very excited to start monitoring their stream. There is a second training session scheduled for August 20th to train the Quittie Watershed Association how to use the protocol to monitor their stream restoration projects. A third training will be held September 8 at Roger Rohrer’s farm that is targeting CREP participants.
* Monitoring was done at Hershey Meadows on June 2 in collaboration with Juniata College. They will be processing the samples and send us the data once it is compiled.

Stewardship Development

* Three more “You are now entering the Conewago Watershed” road signs have permits and are ready to be installed.
* Penn State Lower Susquehanna Initiative now has a Pinterest page. This can be found at <http://www.pinterest.com/PSULSI/>
* The Conewago Creek Initiative Facebook page now has 103 likes.
* There is a pipeline workshop being presented by Penn State Extension on July 30 from 7-9pm at the Farm and Home Center.
* On May 5th, the annual Earth Day Celebration was held at Aberdeen Mills. About 20 people attended including an enthusiastic group of cup scouts. The day focused on forest management and stewardship and included a volunteer activity of pulling garlic mustard.
* There were about 20 people that attended our rain garden workshop on May 17 at the Londonderry Township building. The workshop included presentations about stormwater, how to design rain gardens, and appropriate plants. Following the presentations, attendees were able to help plant a rain garden at the township building. There is also an educational sign that was installed at this rain garden.
* On Friday, July 25 our interns Katie and Bill gave a short presentation at Mt. Gretna about the initiative, which included a showing of the Conewago Story video.

Non-Ag

* The Old Hershey Road restoration project is now complete. This stream restoration has a phase one project completed in the fall of 2012 and the second phase was just completed this spring. We planted about 200 seedlings here using Greening the LS nursery stock to compliment the stream stabilization structures.
* All Conewago Initiative Stormwater incentives Projects have been installed. The Kern and Lawn Park meadows were planted this spring.
* The stormwater guide website that was funded through the Conewago Initiative and compliments the Little Conestoga Partnership’s Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater is now up and running. It can be found at stormwaterguide.org

BMP

* There is a Farm Bureau tour scheduled for August 20 that highlights good farming practices in the watershed. Matt will find out more details from the Farm Bureau and coordinate with the Conservation Districts to plan a tour.

**Penn State Center for Nutrient Solutions (CNS)**

Matt Royer presented on the Penn State Center for Nutrient Solutions. CNS is an EPA funded research team with the goal of developing a new multidisciplinary approach to nutrient pollution that considers tactics and strategies. These will then be tested in three phases, starting with four pilot watersheds (including the Conewago) and then scaling up to larger watersheds. There will be a meeting September 17-18 with Conewago Stakeholders to further discuss the Conewago tactics and strategies.

**Partner Updates**

Mike Langland, USGS- A draft report of the USGS showcase watershed report will be done by the end of August. He might be able to present it at our next meeting on October 22.

Jenn Fetter, Penn State Extension- The Greening the Lower Susquehanna volunteer corp. is always looking for projects. The Water Blues Green Solutions video will be shown at the Dive Deeper youth water educator summit on September 25, several lower Susquehanna partners will be presenting at the Dive Deeper summit. Youth education is ongoing.

Dawn Hintz, SRBC- The SRBC might be electrofishing near the mouth of the Conewago. They will keep us updated as plans are made.

Rugh Henderson, South Londonderry Township- Rugh suggested that we should organize groups to maintain and improve projects once they are installed. An adopt-a-rain garden idea. As maintenance needs develop this idea will be developed.

Matt Kofroth, Lancaster County Conservation District- Matt has some ideas for volunteer projects and will coordinate with Kristen and Jenn.

Matt Royer, TCCCA- There is a meeting scheduled for August 27. It is important to reinvigorate this group now that the Conewago grant is over. Partners are asked to provide names of people they think might like to get involved.

Matt Royer, PSU- Matt gave an update on the Greening the Lower Susquehanna grant. Of the three community projects, both Grandview Chase and Oakmont have been implemented. Creekside is still in the planning stages. There are three contractors providing buffer maintenance services. The grant can cover $100/year/buffer and so far about 90 acres of buffer have been maintained through this grant.

The Agriculture and Environment Center will have a table at Ag Progress Days to educate people about watersheds and riparian buffers.