**Conewago Creek Initiative
Non Ag Team
Stormwater Incentives Program Kick Off Meeting**

**June 21, 2012**

**303 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg**

 **Minutes**

**Attending**

Matt Royer, Penn State

Jessica Moldofsky, Penn State

Kristen Kyler, Penn State

Jayne Ulrich, Penn State

Mike Hubler, DCCD

Russ Dudley, Tetra Tech

Suzanna Farby, Viridian Landscape Studio

Kara Kalupson, LancCCD

Marc Henderson, Meliora Env. Design

Justin Kauffman, ARRC

Len Bradley, RGS Associates

Kelly Gutshall, Landstudies

Andrew Korzon, Landstudies

Harry Campbell, CBF

**Review of the Program**

Matt Royer opened the meeting up with a presentation, where he discussed the vision of the Conewago Creek Watershed. A second presentation was then shown which gave an overview of the Stormwater Incentives Program and the Program Guidance. This presentation helped guide the discussion. The Stormwater Incentives program will provide interested landowners with technical assistance and financial cost share to plan, design, and implement stormwater BMPs. The overall objective of the program aims to improve water quality, increase native plant diversity and habitat, promote stewardship and showcase each site as an educational tool for the community. Tetra Tech has assessed many non-Ag lands within the watershed and have prioritized certain sites for potential BMP retrofit opportunities, as well as for urban stream restoration opportunities. The program will help fund BMP implementation at sites assessed by Tetra Tech, sites that were assessed by Penn State Students, as well as sites that will be assessed by LandStudies this summer.

**Potential Barriers**

The group at the meeting discussed potential problems or barriers to success. Things to think about include:

* Permitting fees have the potential to exhaust all funding before the actual project would be able to hit the ground and could those fees be waived for small-scale restoration projects? The intent is that all projects will be small and not require any permits, hopefully.
* How many of the municipalities within the watershed are MS4s?
* A few people mentioned the fact that the agreement needs to be structured for all firms.
* This project is very time limited and there are concerns about getting everything accomplished by the April 30, 2013 deadline for funding.
* Matt Royer will need to talk to NFWF about the grant period and ask if there is potential for an extension to allow for a spring construction period. A readjustment of funds might be possible to fund more, or bigger BMPs if the pilot is successful.
* TSPs asked about marketing their work in relation to the program. The Initiative is limited by funds so that question would be answered with time and with amount of participation. If we get a lot of interest there will be no need to further advertise.

**Next Steps:**

* Firms were given copies of the Program Guidance and the Landowner Application and asked to review them. They are to give comments and suggestions to the Initiative by June 28th (one week). The documents will then be updated and given to the DCCD board to review and sign at their next board meeting, July 5th.
* Agreements will be signed as soon as possible with LandStudies so they can move ahead with landowner site visits and have all Green Masterplans completed by August at the latest.
* The Tetra Tech and Student Sites can move into the design phase as soon as all documents are finalized and signed.