**PAT Meeting**

**Minutes**

**October 22, 2014**

Matt Royer, PSU (On Phone) Michele Powl, E-town Water KR Young, EPA

Kristen Kyler, PSU Rugh Henderson, S. Londonderry TWP Mike Langland, USGS

Jennifer Fetter, PSU Stewart Williammee, TCCCA Jenna Mitchell, DCCD

Chuck Wertz, Lebanon CCD

**Cumulative BMP Implementation date for the Conewago Creek watershed**

Matt Royer presented through Adobe Connect a detailed explanation on how data has been collected and utilized to perform model runs on the watershed to determine progress on reaching TMDL goals. NRCS Toolbox, the Conservation Districts, 319 grant projects, and NFWF funded projects were all taken into account as well as some specialized research data. Using this data, the model shows huge reductions in nutrient and sediment loads. The Team determined that a second run of the model should be done using low end assumption data instead of best case which has been utilized so far. A comparison of the two runs will create a range for progress to date.

**Coordinator’s Report**

Monitoring

* The FISH landowner monitoring protocol is being developed into a smartphone and web application to enhance the usability of the outreach tool. A test version should be available in the next few weeks. The training that was scheduled for September 8 was moved to the spring when there will be more time to get a large crowd out. By moving the training, the new app can be incorporated.
* Kristen will be collecting water samples from the Espenshade Farm again this November to test for Fecal Coliform. It has been a year and a half since the buffer was planted so the results may be more positive this year.
* Jenn and Kristen took a group of HACC students to Hershey Meadows on Tuesday, October 21 to demonstrate the FISH protocol. The teacher offered to have her class help with any monitoring or projects in need of extra hands.

Stewardship Development

* One “You are now entering the Conewago Watershed” road sign was installed this fall with another two in the hands of Londonderry Township. They are waiting on clearance from PA One Call but will be installing soon.
* The Fall edition of Conewago Currents was just sent out.

Non-Ag

* The meadows and rain gardens planted through the grant are blooming and doing well. The Colebrook raingarden is in need of weeding and care. Kristen will set up a meeting with Andy Korzon of LandStudies and S. Londonderry Township to have a lesson on weeds and other maintenance needs.

BMP

* Kristen will be setting up a meeting with the BMP Team in the coming months to start planning the Annual Winter Farmer’s Meeting.
* The Farm Bureau led a tour through the watershed in August visiting 2 farms and the Hershey Meadows site.

Other

* Three Greening the Lower Susquehanna Volunteer Corp tree plantings were/are being held this fall. November 8 is the final planting which will be in Lancaster. The GLS tree nursery provided around 1000 trees to 11 different landowners.
* The Little Conestoga Partnership stormwater incentives program that is based on the program established through the Conewago Initiative is doing really well. Several projects are being installed this fall.

**Partner Updates**

Mike Langland, USGS- USGS is continuing to work on the Showcase Watersheds report. Mike should be able to present this at our next meeting.

Rugh Henderson, South Londonderry Township- The Township is focused on the proposed pipeline project and trying to educate residents and Williams on best practices for restoring the rights-of-ways. Matt and Kristen will work on making Williams more aware of the Conewago watershed as a unique area, the work that has been done, and the partnership.

Stewart Williammee, TCCCA- Stewart is the new president of TCCCA. Their next meeting is on 10/29/14. This meeting will be the start of a process to set long and short term goals for the organization. TCCCA was selected by the soon-to-open Moo-Duck Brewery to receive donations from select charity brews. Educational materials will be displayed throughout the brewery over the next couple of months to hopefully garner some interest in TCCCA and to educate visits about the importance of clean water.

Michele Powl, E-Town Water Authority- Michele received approval from her board to hold a rain barrel workshop in 2015. She will be applying for a WREN grant to help offset the costs of rain barrels for participants. She is still in the planning stages and would appreciate ideas from partners if they have them.

Chuck Wertz, Lebanon CCD- One of the GLS volunteer plantings was at the Quittapahilla Wetland Education Center where a buffer was planted along the headwaters of the Quittie. There is some great green infrastructure work occurring on the VA Hospital property. There seems to be a higher use of cover crops and no-till in Lebanon County recently. Chuck has been paying attention to existing pipeline right-of-ways and has not noticed much crop growth difference on these stretches of land which seems like a good sign for the proposed pipeline coming to the watershed.

Matt Royer, PSU- As part of the Center for Nutrient Solutions, a group of stakeholders met in September to create scenarios for the model runs. Matt will look to present these scenarios at a future PAT meeting to gather feedback. The CNS researchers and NFWF representatives were given a tour of the watershed recently and were impressed by the work that has been accomplished. During the tour, an unknown prior resident of the watershed stopped and expressed that he has noticed the changes in the watershed and improvement in the fishing. The Chesapeake Bay Commission is doing a study on the benefits of fencing out livestock and will be using the Espenshade Farm and Hanson Farm as study sites.