**Conewago Project Advisory Team Meeting**

**April 20, 2012 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Penn State Harrisburg
Room 203, Educational Activities Building
777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057**

**Minutes**

**Attending:**

Kristen Saacke Blunk (PSU)
Dean Hively (USGS)
Kusuma Prabhakara (U Md)
Jeremy Zidek (ZedX)
Mark Dubin (U Md, CBP)
Jennifer Fetter (PSU)

Susan Marquart (NRCS)
Chuck Wertz (Leb CCD)
Rugh Henderson (S Lond Twp)
Mike Hubler (DCCD)
John Dawes (Chesapeake Commons)

1. **“From the Conewago” Webinar Presentation (12:00 to 12:50)**

Adaptive Management of Winter Cover Crops Using Remote Sensing Data

*Dean Hively, USGS*

1. **PAT Business Meeting (1:00 to 3:00)**

	1. **Coordinator’s Update**

Matt Royer reported on upcoming Earth Day event on Saturday at Aberdeen Mills. Nate Straw will be ending his internship this spring; will attend Penn State Harrisburg in the fall. Three new summer interns will be joining the team in May. The Initiative Non Ag team has begun promoting the new stormwater incentives program. This will be promoted at the Earth Day event as well. Finally, discussions have begun with DEP about an amendment to the Conewago WIP (319 Plan) to incorporate new data gathered as a result of the Initiative (including Tetra Tech stormwater assessment data). The ZedX decision support tool will provide technical assistance to accomplish this amendment.

* 1. **Work Team Updates**

**BMP Team.** Discussed CCD Manure Management Planning workshops planned for late June-July. PAOneStop workshop also being planned for Penn State Harrisburg in June. Equine workshop will be held in the summer at Londonderry Twp Building. Discussed the need to track MMPs and get data to ZedX tool. Discussed new incentives program—dollars are now ready to be spent.

**Non Ag Team.** Reported on progress of stormwater incentives program. LandStudies selected as assessment and planning TSP. Team is still reviewing submissions to RFQ to select list of pre-qualified TSP for design and build services. 2 (maybe 3) landowners from student project interested in implementing at least 1 BMP on their properties. We will do targeted outreach for the program (sending postcards) and try to get a mix of demonstration projects throughout the watershed.

**Monitoring Team.** The team met and agreed to postpone macro surveys until 2013 because of potential habitat impacts from September 2011 floods. Fish survey will be conducted this year—still looking for support for Matt Kofroth. USGS has additional subwatershed high flow monitoring underway. Team also agreed to work with USFWS to do stream bank erosion monitoring on Hoffer Cree to establish Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) to inform future restoration project.

**Stewardship Development Team.** The team met to review outreach strategy to date and take about potential outreach events for 2012. Discussed summer intern roles. They will be new “boots on the ground” for community outreach. Open to innovative new ideas from interns.

**Environmental Markets Team.** The team met yesterday and reviewed the sope of work and discussed proposed plan for meeting deliverables. Products will include (1) ecosystem services fact sheets and video products; (2) work with 2 farmers on an “ecosystem service” charrette; (3) template for identifying and quantifying ecosystem services; (4) assessments of nutrient trading opportunities on several Conewago farms.

* 1. **Partner Updates**

ZedX (Jeremy Zidek). Working on organizing tool to present to PAT at a later date. Will look to meet with BMP and Monitoring Teams to get their thoughts on what should go into tool.

Penn State Extension (Jennifer Fetter). Penn State Extension interns recruited over 50 volunteers to help plant trees as part of an NRCS WHIP project on the Hertzler farm on Saturday. On May 12, Jenn is leading a youth MMP field day in Huntingdon County. September 27 she will be holding a youth watershed educational summit, highlighting Stream Teams and innovations in youth watershed education.

Chesapeake Bay Program (Mark Dubin). Heavy in WIP review mode. Results of reviews in June. Also very busy with data verification issues. Each state is developing a plan on how to track and verify. Plans need to be reviewed by a scientific panel. This will ensure better tracking of BMPs.

Lebanon CCD (Chuck Wertz). Two farmers involved in subsurfer trial. Working hard in the face of cut backs to staff. Recently preserved the first Plain Sect farm in the watershed. DCNR fall sustainable landscapes tour will include a stop to a farm in the watershed.

S Lond. Twp (Rugh Henderson). Landowner recently installed native meadow in Falcon Ridge subdivision. Will help lead effort to install watershed signs at watershed boundaries.

NRCS (Susan Marquart). Working with planning committee to have Conewago on the agenda for this year’s Executive Council meeting.