Stewardship Development

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2012

10:00 AM

Matt Royer, Penn State

Kristen Kyler, Penn State

Rugh Henderson, South Londonderry Township

**Landowner Survey**

Kathy Brasier, Penn State, has created a draft final report for the Conewago Creek Watershed Landowner Survey. This will be distributed to the team through email for comment and will be posted on the Conewago Initiative website when finalized. A short summary document is needed for this report to be used for wide distribution, including to respondents. The idea of having an after survey was also discussed. A survey completed by the same landowners at the end of the Conewago Initiative grant period would help gage how perceptions have changed through the influence of the Initiative. We will discuss further with Kathy.

**Fish Survey**

A fish survey will be held on Sunday October 21, 2012 at 1:00 PM. The survey will be conducted by Lancaster County Conservation District and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. This event will be a public event and outreach to local residents is beginning. The Tri-County Conewago Creek Association has already been invited through email, and postcards will be sent out to riparian landowners in the watershed. Flyers will also be posted in the area and an article will be in the Fall Conewago Currents Newsletter and given to the local media. We will be meeting and organizing in the Mill Road Elementary School parking lot in Elizabethtown. From there, all volunteers will be split into two groups to carpool to two sampling locations. One will be in the game lands 145 around the town of Colebrook while a second site will be near the mouth by Covered Bridge Rd. Exact locations and parking still needs to be determined.

**Eagle Scout Riparian Buffer Planting**

On Saturday October 27, 2012 a Boy Scout troop will be replanting a section of the riparian buffer on the Wenger property. This is one scout’s Eagle Project. The scout has been growing potted seedlings throughout the summer and will be using those trees to plant the buffer.

**Watershed Signs**

The idea to install signs along major roadways entering the watershed that announce the boundary of the watershed was discussed several meetings ago. Letters have now been sent out to the 9 municipalities that intersect the watershed boundary asking if they would be willing to install these signs and communicate with PennDOT on the installation of signs on state roads. So far South Annville is the only municipality to respond and they are willing to assist.

**Newsletters**

The Fall Edition of the Conewago Currents E-Newsletter will be going out the first week of October to announce some of the upcoming events in October. The idea to send out a printed newsletter to all residents in the watershed was also discussed. This would hopefully reach residents we have not had much contact with and encourage more people to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter. Which edition we send out is still to be determined.

Since each municipality sends out a newsletter and it is well received by its residents, an email was sent to each municipality in the watershed asking for article space in their next newsletter to include an article about the Conewago Initiative and programs offered. This has already been successful and Mount Joy Township will include this in their newsletter being sent out shortly.

**Partner Updates- South Londonderry Township**

South Londonderry Township has enrolled in the Stormwater Incentives Program and LandStudies has completed the Green Masterplan for Colebrook Park. This park borders the rail-to-trail and will be a great location to educate visitors on stormwater and green infrastructure. A native forest demonstration site might be created as well as rain gardens.

The township also needs to appoint a new supervisor.