**BMP Team**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 14, 2012**

Matt Royer

Kristen Kyler

Ted Tessler

Mike Hubler

Susan Marquart

Kevin Lutz

Mark Myers

**Equine Stewardship Event**

Penn State Extension is leading an Equine Environmental Stewardship workshop in February. This is a two part workshop with the first part being held on Saturday, February 9 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM and the second part being held on Tuesday February 12 from 7-9:30 PM. The workshops will be held at the Londonderry Township Building (783 S. Geyers Church Rd, Middletown). The first day will be spent discussing topics such as: forage biology and management, rotational grazing, sacrifice lots, weed identification, toxic weeds, soil health, and manure storage. The evening workshop will then be geared toward helping the attendees write manure management plans for their farms. There is a $45 fee for the workshops but horse owners living in the Conewago Watershed will be reimbursed this fee if they attend both parts. The Northampton Extension Office is handling registration.

Brochures were handed out to meeting participants for distribution as well as to area tack shops. A press release will be sent to local newspapers including Lancaster Farming. There was a discussion about outreaching to horse owners and how to encourage participation in these types of workshops.

**Winter Farmer’s Meeting**

The Winter Farmer’s Meeting held last year was successful and the Initiative will hold another one this year. The team decided to keep the location at Hoss’s in Elizabethtown and the date of February 8th was chosen. This is a Friday, which seemed to work last year.

Topics to be presented on during the meeting:

* DEP, EPA regulations-basic compliance, manure and E&S Plans
* Soil Health- No-Till with a focus on use in wet clay soils. We would like some local farmers to give testament about their use of no-till
* Riparian Buffers- need a new twist on them

Having new farm equipment on site would draw folks in. An early seeder was the only idea at the meeting.

**Methods for identifying voluntary practices**

As we are looking to use the ZedX tool to calculate our current load reductions, it would be nice to capture BMPs that were voluntarily implemented without cost share and are therefore not on record. The team is unsure how to collect this data without travelling individually to every farm and inventorying practices. Susan is going to look into a consultant being used in Maryland to track BMPs.

**Partner Updates**

Ted (DEP)- Several Work Team are meeting to “spruce up the validity of the Bay Model.” A report on the efficiencies of stormwater retrofits will be coming out shortly. Work is being done to better classify poultry manure. They are also in the process of collecting data for the Bay Progress Report.

Kevin (Lancaster CCD)- There will be a manure management workshop held this winter although a date has not yet been selected. A survey to collect data on BMPs is being conducted including in the Conewago Watershed.

Mike (Dauphin CCD)- 3 farms are under contract to begin installation of BMPs in the spring. 1 horse farm is currently in construction of BMPs. There is still 319 money left for projects, including for stream restoration, in the Conewago. This money could also be used to provide soil tests to participants of manure workshops.

Susan (NRCS)- A farm bill has not been passed yet but programs that were included in the continuing resolution are still available until March 31. Equip is included in the continuing resolution but CRP is not.