Monitoring Team

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Matt Royer

Kristen Kyler

Dan Bogar

Megan Blackmon

Matt Kofroth

Jineen Boyle

Stephanie Harmon

Kristen Saacke Blunk joined by phone

1. Espenshade Monitoring

We are in the process of beginning bacteria monitoring at the Espenshade farm. Currently the cows are allowed access to the stream but later this fall a fencing and riparian buffer project will be implemented keeping the cows out of the stream. We would like to capture the difference in bacteria concentrations from when cows are and are not allowed stream access. There are several different tests that can be run to assess bacteria and these were discussed by the team. E. Coli measurements could be a sign of fecal coliform but could also be from another source. Knowing fecal coliform concentrations might be more valuable to present to the farmer. Kristen will continue conversations with Analytical Laboratory Services in Middletown to decide which route to take and how to get started. Kristen will also be the one collecting samples and delivering them to the lab. Megan has started taking regular flow and load measurements at the Espenshades and E-town College will take a Macroinvertebrate sample in November.

1. Fish Survey-October 21, 2012

A fish survey will be conducted on October 21 at 1:00 and it will be used as a public outreach event. Matt Kofroth will partner with SRBC to run this event. Two sites will be sampled on this day; one near Colebrook in State Game Lands 145 and another near Covered Bridge Rd. The meeting location is the Mill Road Elementary School Parking lot in Elizabethtown. From there we will split participants into groups and head to the designated sampling locations. The location near Colebrook needs to be scouted out ahead of time and Matt, Matt, and Kristen will arrange for this to happen. We will not make it a requirement for people to RSVP but will encourage it so we have a pre-count and know how what supplies to bring.

1. Hoffer Creek Bank Pin Monitoring

Bank pins have been installed along Hoffer Creek to help US FWS understand where the most erosion is occurring. A future stream restoration project will be located at this location once the site is better understood. Kristen will be leading the monitoring for this project with help from Megan. A bank full event has occurred since installation so new measurements need to be taken in the near future. Measurements need to be taken after every bank full event to understand how much erosion occurs with each high flow period.

1. Social Water Tool

Kristen presented information about a tool that has been developed called the Social Water Tool. This allows citizens to text in water height at established public stage stations. This not only provides data on stream conditions but also engages the public in monitoring efforts and makes them more aware of their natural surroundings. The team is interested in pursuing this type of outreach, particularly if it can be tied into the rail-trail system.

V. Landowner Monitoring Protocol

Since the last meeting, Kristen prepared a rough draft of the landowner monitoring data sheet which would be used by landowners who have installed a BMP to monitor stream improvements over time. The team went through the data sheet section by section and made comments on how to make this easier for the landowner to complete. Kristen will make changes to this document and take pictures of good, ok, and bad examples of each type of data being collected.