**BMP Team Meeting**

**Minutes**

**February 12, 2013 10:00 AM**

Matt Royer

Kristen Kyler

Mike Hubler

Carl Rohr

Kevin Lutz

Mark Myers

Susan Marquart

K.R. Young

**I. BMP Verification**

We continued to discuss if and how the Initiative should verify ag BMPs based on the presentation given by Dana York at the last PAT meeting. The information would be helpful in showing the progress that has been made in nutrient and sediment reductions since the start of the Initiative. It would help to verify that the partnership effort does work to get results in a small watershed. The verification process could also collect nutrient trading data which could be of benefit to the farmer. However, partners do not feel that farmers in the Conewago Watershed are particularly interested in nutrient trading. Participating in an extensive verification process, like the one developed by Dana York in Maryland, would help establish the current level of progress but since it is not likely that the watershed has reached its TMDL goals, the results would not be of final results. Another round of data collection would be needed in the future once the TMDL is thought to be reached.

 There are still several big questions that need answered before a decision can be made. These include:

 -Is EPA going to except the data collected for use in the Bay Model?

 - Will this project be funded?

 - How much time would the Districts and other partners need to invest in this project?

 - Who would manage the hiring and training of data collectors?

 - How long does the whole process take?

 - When would be the best time to do this? Now or in a few years?

Susan and Matt will follow up with Dana to answer some of these questions.

II. Farmers Meeting

The agenda and the current list of attendees were shared with partners. The list of attending farmers was fairly small at the time of the meeting and partners were asked to continue promoting the event.

III. Equine Environmental Stewardship Workshop

This workshop was postponed from Saturday February 9 to Saturday February 16 due to Blizzard Nemo. It will also be reduced down to a 1 day event instead of split between a day and an evening. Attendees should be able to leave with a complete or almost complete Manure Management Plan.

IV. Partner Updates

 Lancaster CCD- Lancaster CCD will be running a Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop on March 7 from 9 am to 2 pm at the West Donegal Township Building. Postcards have been sent to Conewago Watershed residents about this event.

 DEP- Using NRCS 2012 data, Carl will look into running the TMDL model for the Conewago Watershed to see what progress has been made since the WIP was created.