**Monitoring Team Meeting Minutes**

**February 28, 2013 10:00 am**

Matt Royer

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K.R. Young

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Dan Bogar

**I. Updates on monitoring activities**

**Bacteria Sampling**

* Kristen is halfway through the second round of pre-sampling at the Espenshade farm.
* The bacteria samples from the Conewago Creek that were taken by the Senior Environmental Corp of Masonic Village this past summer are being processed by DEP.

**Macroinvertebrates**

The 12 sites listed in the monitoring plan, with a few adjustments, will be sampled this spring for macroinvertebrates. This will be a joint effort between Dauphin CCD and DEP. The best time to sample will be mid-April. Matt Royer will check with Elizabethtown College to see if they are continuing to take macroinvertebrate samples at Hershey Meadows.

**Hoffer Creek**

The recent measurements of the Hoffer Creek bank pins have showed that significant erosion has occurred over the winter most likely due to freeze-thaw effects. The next set of measurements will re-measure the full bank profile at each of the 20 sites to better capture all the changes that have occurred.

**II. F.I.S.H Training Sessions**

Now that the F.I.S.H protocol is finished and the app created on Chesapeake Commons, the next step is to train a couple of landowners on how to use the app and test it. One landowner has already agreed to participate and it should not be hard to get another 1 or 2 participants. The training session will serve as the first monitoring date at the site. Sometime in May will be the best time for conducting these training/monitoring sessions with willing landowners. Further planning can be done at the next meeting.

**III. Rail Trail Signs**

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for the Rail Trail signs. The rail-trail associations need a pretty concrete sign idea before they will decide to allow us to move forward. The following is a list of ideas that were discussed and agreed upon as good ideas. Kristen will be working to join all of the ideas together into two signs. One sign will be located at the Route 230 Trail Head and the second sign will be posted at the Colebrook Trail head. Another additional sign location may be at the Prospect Rd trail head explaining the USGS Gage Station. It will need to be determined whether or not USGS would us to draw attention to the gaga station. It would also be nice to have a sign “You are Now Entering the Conewago Watershed,” where the rail trail enters the watershed east of Mt. Gretna.

* Historical information should also be included in order to attract the interest of a more diverse population. Reach out to local historical societies to accomplish this.
* Since the signs will be placed at the trail heads they should be large so they attract attention and the larger they are, the more information can be shared. One idea would be to have more of a sign structure, kiosk, so that at least some of the information shared could be updated on occasion.
* Incorporate a geocache with the signs to draw interest and trail users.
* Lots of small blurbs of information and large, interesting headings. Keep text to a minimum.
* The sign can reference areas of interest along the trail; potentially by a number system. Smaller, simple identification signs could then be placed at those areas of interest. This could go along with an itunes walking tour or a printed guide.
* Temporary signs could be used during popular weekends to draw attention to a point of interest or to explain a concept.
* The Route 230 sign should focus on: the history of Aberdeen Mills, the Hershey Meadows and Old Hershey Road projects, water quality, and the concept of a watershed including a You Are Here map.
* The Colebrook Sign should focus on: rain gardens (to connect with the one being installed at Colebrook Park), Lake Duffy and its iron furnace history, wetlands, and reiterate the watershed concept and include a You Are Here map.
* Including a link to the Initiative’s website

**IV. Other thoughts and ideas**

* We should continue to include articles in municipal newsletters focusing on positive monitoring results. This same information should also be shared on the Facebook page. Dauphin CCD’s website contains all of the monitoring data that they have collected in the Conewago.
* Check with the rail-trail to see if we can post printed monitoring results on the billboards.