**PAT Meeting**

**Minutes**

**March 20, 2013**

Matt Royer

Kristen Kyler

Dawn Hintz

Mike Hubler

Jenn Fetter

Susan Marquart

Matt Kofroth

Mike Langland

Jeremy Zidek

Chuck Wertz

Jineen Boyle

Carl Rohr

**Coordinator’s Report**

Volunteer Events

As part of the Greening the Lower Susquehanna grant, several volunteer projects have been coordinated for this spring. This grant is applicable to all three counties in their entirety. Currently, most of the scheduled projects are located in the Conewago Watershed however if there are projects in need of volunteers elsewhere, please let Matt know so those can be included in the schedule. The registration for these events is being handled by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation through their website.

The Conewago as a Feature Story

The Conewago Initiative will be featured in EPA’s new Nutrient TMDL Development Protocol as a successful implementation story. NRCS toolkit and several 319 projects that are not included in toolkit will be run through DEP’s model to provide a TMDL reduction number for this article.

NFWF Showcase Watersheds Webinar

The panel discussion of the Showcase Watersheds that was originally scheduled during the NFWF Ag Networking Forum was converted to a webinar presentation. This webinar was held on March 18, 2013. It went really well and gave some good insight into the work being done in all three watersheds. This webinar was recorded if someone is interested in viewing it.

**Work Team Updates** (Please refer to the February 2013 work team minutes for full updates. The below information is only the newest information)

BMP Team- The Winter Farmers Meeting was held on **February 22** at the Hoss’s in Elizabethtown. There were presentations on soil health and no-till, riparian buffers, environmental compliance, and updates on the Initiative. The highlight of the meeting was two local producers sharing their personal experiences using no-till. They had some great information to share that backed up the information presented more formally by Joe Kraft during the soil health presentation.

The idea of verifying BMPs installed on Conewago Farms is still being discussed. Conducting an in depth BMP verification would give us a better idea of the types and quantity of BMPs installed in the watershed and the effect they are having on improving water quality. But it would be an expensive and time consuming process. There are still questions that need to be answered before the conversation can continue. Contact with Dana York will be made to answer some of these questions based on her experience in Howard County Maryland. Once these questions are answered, the BMP Team will continue to work on this project.

Environmental Markets- There was not an Environmental Markets February meeting.

Non-Ag Team- Andy is continuing to make site visits based on the influx of landowners interested in Green Masterplans. Through a Non-Ag conference call, two projects have been approved for funding and an additional two Green Masterplans have been approved and sent to the landowners.

Monitoring Team- The Bacteria sampling at the Espenshade farm is complete for pre-project installation sampling. Kristen is working on calculating the geometric mean of the results. Once the stream bank fencing and riparian buffer is planted, additional post-project installation sampling will be conducted.

Stewardship Development- The “You are now entering the Conewago Watershed” signs are complete. All municipalities had agreed to work with us on installing these signs. South Londonderry Township has begun the process and is asking permission of PennDot to erect the signs in their township. The Turnpike Commission is not allowing us to erect the signs in their right of way.

**Partner Updates**

Mike Langland, USGS- USGS has been working in the other two showcase watersheds on advanced sediment analyses and is planning on starting that research in the Conewago this spring. It may be postponed depending on the federal budget situation. This research would look to determine where and how sediment is moving throughout the watershed. It would use bank pins, floodplain sediment traps, geomorphic surveys, and age dating through isotope analysis.

Susan Marquart, NRCS- The continuing resolution ends next week. There is some Chesapeake Bay money that NRCS is accepting applications for. Most things are still “up in the air.”

Jeremy Zidek, ZedX- ZedX has all the layers needed to keep making updates and improvements in the Conewago tool for prioritization. Matt and Kristen will schedule a meeting with Jeremy to review the most recent changes and see if it is ready for a demo.

Carl Rohr, DEP- The 319 NPS Program will take a hit from the federal budget cuts but it shouldn’t affect BMP Implementation project funding. The annual S. 319 NPS Program’s meeting for WIP grantees will be held on April 2nd in State College. The Conewago Creek watershed implementation success will be featured.

Jenn Fetter, PSU- The Watershed Decisions learning tool is now for sale and doing well. This tool is appropriate for older youth as well as adults and helps explain how streams are impacted by landuse. She is also going to start working with Londonderry Township, and Londonderry Elementary to plan an educational event for the students.

Mike Hubler, Dauphin CCD- 3 Chesapeake Bay Special Project grants have been awarded to Dauphin County Conservation District (1 for conservation plans, 1 for BMP installation, and 1 for Manure Management Plan Workshops). A new contract has been signed to do several projects at a farm in the watershed.

Matt Kofroth, Lancaster CCD- They have completed the survey work for two projects going in this spring.

Chuck Wertz, Lebanon CCD- Several Manure Management Plan Writing workshops have/will be held this spring. Conewago farm visits are planned and will be happening this spring. They are still down an ag staff member.

Jineen Boyle, DEP- This year there will be a summer submission of applications for 2013 Growing Greener grants. 2 CEI grants have been awarded to Dauphin County Conservation District that are for projects in the Conewago.