**Project Advisory Team**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 16, 2012**

Kristen Kyler, Penn State

Jeremy Zidek, ZedX

Curt Dell, USDA, NRCS

Matt Kofroth, Lancaster CCD

Rugh Henderson, South Londonderry TWP

Chuck Wertz, Lebanon CCD

Susan Marquart, NRCS

Mike Hubler, Dauphin CCD

**Webinar**

Making It Local- Conewago Stream Teams Youth Program, Jennifer Fetter

**Kristen’s Report**

Equine Environmental Stewardship Event

Donna Foulk, Penn State Extension, will be running a 2-part workshop for horse owners on environmental stewardship and manure management. The first part will be focused entirely on educating the horse owners about pasture management, weeds, soil fertility, and other best management practices. This will be held on February 9 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Londonderry Township Building. On February 12 an evening session will be held at the same location to provide instruction on writing manure management plans. Residents of the Conewago Watershed who attend both sessions will be reimbursed the fee charged for the classes.

Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists Meeting and Tour

The Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) had one of their meetings in the Conewago Watershed on September 28. Several of the members are involved in research projects in the watershed which helped bring them to this area. Mike and Kristen gave a presentation on the Conewago Initiative during their conference. The following day a morning tour of two local farms was held. Soil pits on the properties gave the soil scientists an opportunity to talk to the farmers about their practices, the influence of BMPs on the soil, and the soil on their crops.

Penn State Student Tour

Environmental Inquiries Minor students from Penn State will be starting a tour of the Chesapeake Bay Region with a stop in the Conewago Watershed in early April. This tour was originally planned for October but got pushed to next semester. Matt and Kristen have arranged for them to see several sites in the watershed that will show the students practices that the Initiative is promoting to help clean up the Conewago and the Bay.

**Showcase Watersheds Report, Susan Marquart**

Susan and Kristen Saacke Blunk proposed to the NFWF Ag Networking Forum that a presentation on the three Showcase Watersheds be made during the event at the end of October. This was approved and a report on the work being done in these watersheds including: partnership activities, innovative research, agricultural assessments and practice implementation, and projects involving urban stormwater, is being created. The report will be finalized and released after the event in order to include lessons learned which will be revealed during a panel presentation from the three watersheds. The report and panel discussion will help to compare and contrast these watersheds and the work that is being completed to better assist other watersheds attempting similar restoration.

Susan also introduced Curtis Dell the new Chesapeake Bay Science Advisor for the NRCS. He is based out of the Penn State University Park Campus and will be conducting a scientific review of practices being used in the Chesapeake Bay. He will be looking for new and innovative practice that might fill areas of need as well as evaluating common practices to determine where they are most effective. He will be focusing on the Showcase Watersheds to model the practices to help determine best locations for Best Management Practices.

**Non-Ag Team**

Please reference the minutes from the September 2012 Non-Ag Team Minutes

**Monitoring Team** (These are updates to the September 2012 Monitoring Team Minutes)

 Espenshade Monitoring

The water at the Espenshade Farm will be sampled for Fecal Coliform upstream, before the cows have access, and downstream, after the cows have access. The sample bottles have been picked up from Analytical Laboratory Services in Middletown and Kristen will take the first samples later this week. Matt Kofroth has learned that the fence and riparian buffer will not be put in until the spring so additional pre-monitoring might be an option.

Hoffer Creek Bank Pin Monitoring

The first measurements have been taken and the data sent to FWS. Changing banks from the bankfull events prevented some measurements from being taken since many pins could not be found in the bank. Would a magnet help locate them in the future? Additionally one site was not found since the flag was removed and GPS coordinates and maps were not updated and present. Future measurements should be easier now that a correct map has been created.

**Environmental Markets Team** (These are updates from the September 2012 Meeting Minutes)

The Ecosystem Services On-Farm Workshop will be held on Monday November 12. The workshop has been downscaled to only involve one farm, the Ivan Hanson Farm.

**Stewardship Development Team**

Please reference the minutes from the September 2012 Non-Ag Team Minutes

**BMP Team**

There are no updates for this team and a meeting was not held in September for this reason.

**Partner Updates**

ZedX, Jeremy

The scenario piece of the Conewago Tool is almost complete. Layers for the subwatersheds and the impaired stream reaches are still needed. A meeting will be held on November 1 with Matt to discuss what still needs to be done. Susan expressed an interest to also be present at this meeting to help facilitate data sharing.

Lancaster CCD, Matt

An E&S report is being created to educate contractors and landowners on changing regulations. This report would be available for use in the Conewago.
The Masonic Village Group is finished collecting bacteria samples in the Conewago and they are waiting for the results to come in from DEP.
A 2-year Equine Calendar is being created by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Ombudsman Program that the Conewago might be able to utilize to help promote the Equine Workshop being held in February.
The 10th Annual Lebanon/Lancaster Watershed Forum will take place on October 27 and has a great line-up of speakers including the Mayor of Tangier Island who is a former waterman. This event will be from 8:00-12, is free and includes a free breakfast.

S. Londonderry TWP, Rugh

The Township is very excited about the Green Masterplan that was created for one of their parks. It has the potential to be a showcase and educational project for the community. There is interest from other municipalities to do similar projects.
The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors will be giving out awards to townships and South Londonderry has applied for an award that would recognize their efforts in communicating with their citizens about the environmental and their natural areas program.

 Lebanon CCD, Chuck

The Conservation District has gone through a period of reorganization but work has been continuing with a 5 person Ag Team. Several farms have been preserved or in the process of becoming preserved, conservation plans are being written and implemented, and there are several more developed locations that are showing an interest in green infrastructure and native plantings.

NRCS, Susan

The expiration of the Farm Bill ended several programs including the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative which had provided $15 million dollars of funding to the Chesapeake Bay Region. A new Farm Bill needs to be approved before NRCS will have a better idea of funding and program availability.

Dauphin CCD, Mike

Several new projects are being completed by the Conservation District, primarily in the Lynch Run watershed. One farm is rebuilding its terraces, a horse farm is in the process of getting a contractor to install several BMPs, and another horse owner is also showing interest. A farm also donated their easement to the Conservation District before the farm was sold. The new owners have also shown interest in implementing additional BMPs.