

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

ROULETTE FIRE HALL
JANUARY 11, 2012

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Louis Karija, Coudersport Borough	Deb Ostrom, PCPC
William Krog, Coudersport Authority	Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Authority
Jason Childs, PCCD	Lorrie Barr, Resident
Coleen Frank, PCCD	Fern Burdick, Northern Tier Children's Home
Mark Stevens, DEP	Matt Genchur, Rural Water
Less Rolfe, Resident	Kurt Logue, Austin Borough
John VanZant, DEP	KR Young, EPA
Julie Kollar, League of Women Voters	Joe Cimino, Galeton Borough Authority
Susan Kefover, County Commissioner	Ben Hoppe, Galeton Borough Authority
Jonathan Huff, Roulette Water Authority	Jim Clark, Penn State Extension
Paul Heimel, County Commissioner	Betty Joe Hilfiger, Ulysses Borough Authority

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Jim Clark explained that Penn State Extension had a webinar concerning the Triple Divide. There was a lot of interest and questions. He explained that the webinar was still available on line for review at www.extension.psu.edu/water.

Julie Kollar (WREN) explained an article that is being written by Ellen Kelly about the Triple Divide Watershed Coalition, and that some members may be contacted to provide information. Julie said that the article will attempt to show what the Coalition has learned, and what are some of the issues encountered to date, so they can assist other groups seeking to form similar coalitions. The Triple Divide was mentioned in the WREN Newsletter, if you would like to receive copies of the newsletters, the address is [HTTP://wren.pa.lwv.org](http://wren.pa.lwv.org). Julie also said that the Pennsylvania State Boroughs Magazine showed interest in doing a similar article.

John McLaughlin explained that he, Charlotte (PCPC) and Commissioner Paul Heimel were interviewed for a documentary being done on the impacts of Marcellus gas drilling operations in Potter County. He wasn't sure when the finished program would be available. The company doing the documentary is called The Public Herald.

GOVERNORS EXCELLANCE AWARD

John also informed that group that Charlotte suggested that the TDWC be nominated for a Governor's Excellence Award. Paul Heimel, Jim Clark and Bob Villeaiux worked on the application and it was submitted for review.

REVIEW DEVELOPMENT WITHIN DELINEATED RECHARGE AREAS

Jim Clark explained that the Water Quality Steering Committee was looking into grant opportunities to improve water quality monitoring and public education. A grant application was submitted to DEP to pay for speakers for the Potter County Gas Task Force, which normally has 70 to 80 people in attendance.

Stream monitoring test kits were purchased under another grant and there are five kits available. Colleen Frank (PCCD) explained that in order to receive a kit that volunteers would have to complete an orientation class. The next training class will be held on April 7.

There are applications available from Jim Clark for private well testing. Kelly Williams from the Clearfield County Conservation District is testing 100 wells in each of six counties of the North Central Region including Potter County. Any residential water source including springs is eligible for this free testing.

John McLaughlin handed out a list of potential sources of contamination and wanted to know how the Coalition wanted the Planning Commission to handle Land Developments that proposed to build in or adjacent to a recharge area. The coalition members were asked if they agreed with using the list, if they had any suggestions for additions or deletions to the list, or if they have any suggestions. Charlotte commented that if any future development is in or adjacent to a recharge area, the impacted water supplier should review and comment before the project was acted upon by the Potter County Planning Commission. The effected water supplier should also have the right to request additional geologic studies of the potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on their water sources.

Julie Kollar suggested that, at the developer's expense, all future maps or drawings submitted to the Potter County Planning Commission for review under the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance within or adjacent to a delineated recharge area include any well or spring sources as well as the existing delineated recharge area boundaries as existing features. After some discussion, Jonathan Huff from Roulette Twp. made a motion to accept this suggestion, Ben Hoppe, from Galetton Borough seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried. John said a draft policy would be written by the Planning Commission and made available for review by the Coalition members at the next meeting.

WREN GRANT RESULTS

John explained that the results of the baseline source water testing were not required to be included in the 2011 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). After some discussion the members agreed that the sample results should be made available to their customers for general information and to possibly promote interest in source water protection. Lorrie Barr suggested that FRAC TRACKER may want the results; they have a very advanced system that can set up a data base, with mapping etc.

Mark explained that all sample results is sent to the central files, which are readily available to everyone. John and Jim Clark agreed to create a table for the Authorities to include in the 2011 CCR.

Jim Clark said that the school program is yet to be completed. The Coudersport and Galeton programs are ready; they just have to arrange the date. Port Allegany and Bradford school districts may be added.

It was suggested that Charles Cole and the Northern Tier Children's Home should be addressed in the areas where some of the children live so they can understand where water comes from. Jim did a pilot presentation for the Gas Task Force, where it was well received. Jim may take the program to other communities in McKean County.

Jim passed out copies of the draft brochure, and asked for suggestions. Julie explained that a graphic artist should be hired to make them look professional. Wren can help with that if it is needed. John requested that the systems review the brochure and submit any comments or suggested changes to Jim Clark in the next week so that the brochures can be finalized and printed before the school programs begin.

COMMENTS FROM WREN

Julie said the Triple Divide Coalition deserved recognition for what is being done, and for the time and commitment they have applied to this effort. She explained that this did not begin with the gas drilling, it began back in 1995. Potter County is unique in the state, and this has been an ongoing process. There are many risk factors involved here and Potter County is putting in place a plan to prevent problems and protect future generations. Potter County has had a fifteen year investment and she would like to take this spirit and give it to every county in Pennsylvania. Wren will continue to support these proactive measures.

COMMENTS FROM PRWA

Matt Genchur from Rural Water said that he is willing to help out in any way he can, John said they would need assistance with operator training.

COMMENTS FROM EPA

K.R. Young stated that in 1996 the Source Water Act was amended, it was designed to evaluate and study the source water, but no plan was necessary. The state had assumed oversight of the source water protection program. K.R. also stated that EPA can enforce compliance but aren't very good at compliance assistance. He said he would like to replicate this effort elsewhere.

K.R. explained that EPA can enforce regulations on "Underground Ejection Control" and "Pretreatment Wastewater" should we have any problems in those areas we can call him. These two programs are not regulated by the state.

NEEDS SURVEY

Jim Clark said that he and Trixie Blass from the Galeton Authority put together the needs survey. Copies of the spreadsheet were distributed to the members for comment. The spreadsheet contains sections for input of contact information, operator certifications, system demographics, treatments utilized, laboratory services, treatment chemicals, and equipment availability. Once completed by the Authorities Jim will construct a data base that will be a valuable tool for all of the systems to pool

resources and possibly engage in some bulk purchasing. The plan will be to set up this data base on a password protected web site so that it can be accessed anytime by any of the member systems.

John McLaughlin explained that he and Mark Stevens met with Glenn Dunn from Emergency Services to discuss a GIS Data Base that can be used with the 911 system, flagging source water protection areas. When implemented, the water systems will be notified of any spills or other releases of potential contaminants within their delineated recharge area. This flag will also trigger a heightened response from DEP or cleanup crews.

MISSION STATEMENT

A mission statement is needed to help the group stay focused on their main objectives. Mark Stevens will send several samples. These will be forwarded to the members for review and comment prior to the next scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNED

Prior to adjournment it was agreed to schedule the next regular meeting for Wednesday, March 13, 2012. The meeting will be held in the Gunsberger Building in Coudersport beginning at 9:00am.

Ben Hoppe and Jonathan Huff have agreed to represent the TDWC at the next meeting of the North Central Source Water Protection Alliance in Williamsport on February 23. The meeting will include a tour of the Terra-Aqua frac water treatment facility conducted by Larsen Design Group. Ben and Jon will give a report on this trip during the March meeting.

The Triple Divide Water Coalition adjourned at 11:00 am.