

# TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Coudersport Borough  
July 11, 2012

## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Matt Murisiak, Western Pa Conservancy	Deb Ostrom, PCPC
Ashlynn Beaker, PCCD	Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Authority
Ron Angood, Coudersport	Coleen Frank, PCCD
Tina Bennett, Watrous Water	Mark Stephens, DEP
Doug Morley, County Commissioner	John VanZant, DEP
Jason Childs PCCD	Susan Kefover, County Commissioner
Ben Hoppe, Galetton Borough Authority	Jonathan Huff, Roulette Water Authority
Jim Clark, Penn State Extension	Betty Joe Hillfiger, Ulysses Borough Authority
Lou Karija, Coudersport Authority	

### FINAL REPORT WREN GRANT

Colleen explained that the Final Report was due by Friday 13, 2012 and that she has been completed and forward to WREN. The \$8,000 has been spent including \$500 to the Conservation District for administrative fees to cover the 180 hours invested by the Conservation District staff to administer the grant, prepare the reports and to attend two WREN conferences. Deb Plummer, of DP Designs, has been paid in advance to construct and maintain the Triple Divide web site for a period of one year. She is also responsible for purchasing a felt board and providing educational materials for the coalition to use for future educational activities.

### QUESTIONNAIRE FUTURE SWP ACTIVITIES

**Potter County Fair** – Coleen offered to share the use of the Districts Display area, all thought it was a good idea. Volunteers will be needed to operate the flow model, and to answer questions. A display board has been purchased and Jim Clark suggested that it reflect the brochure. A display will also be set up at the McKean county fair. John and Mark will set up a schedule for the fairs.

Mark Stephens and John McLaughlin worked on the 26 page questionnaire for the WREN Grant. The questionnaire was attached to the final report and has been forwarded to the League of Women Voters.

This questionnaire documents al of the SWP activities undertaken by the Coalition during the past year.

### NEW EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Mark explained that Tioga County Emergency Services has created an automatic call system

should an incident occur within the watershed of any of the County's water supply sources. When activated, the Tioga County system will automatically notify all water suppliers downhill from the incident by phone. This system is scheduled to go live soon, and will be the first in the state. The creation of this warning system is a major accomplishment and a major step forward in enhancing our abilities to protect our water supply recharge areas. The Coalition wishes to extend its thanks to Mark and the folks at the Tioga County EMA office for all their work for making this system a reality.

Mark said that Jim Clark has created a spreadsheet containing public water supply contact information for all community systems in a five county area. The Counties included on the list are Potter, McKean, Cameron, Elk, and Jefferson. This list has been forwarded to all Coalition members. Jim suggested that this list be added to each system's Emergency Response plan. Jim explained that this list could expand to become a data base, if the suppliers determine other information would be appropriate to include. This list will also be used by Tioga County EMA for their emergency call network.

### **NEEDS SURVEY UPDATE**

Jim explained that the survey was almost complete, that he was still waiting to hear from Charles Cole and Austin, and a few more pieces of information from Coudersport. Once completed, this spreadsheet will be placed on the Triple Divide web site so that it is available to any of the member systems. This tab will be password protected and will not be available to the general public.

He explained that he did a power point presentation for Galeton, Oswayo Valley and Coudersport Schools under the recent WREN grant. Jim also worked on another grant that was to fund a local Water Operators Course for all the member systems with PA Rural Water Association. The grant also was requesting funding for the purchase of continuous monitoring equipment for each of the Coalitions 19 water sources. Although the original grant proposal was rejected by the funding agency, efforts to secure funding for these projects will continue with the assistance of the Potter County Education Council.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting will be September 12, 2012, location to be determined.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mark explained that it may be beneficial to join together with other coalitions in different counties. He also stated that he is exploring funding to have a joint meeting with all of the existing Source Water Protection groups by 2013.

John – informed the committee that the League of Women Voters wrote an Article on the Tioga County Coalition in their July newsletter.

Doug – informed the group that a picnic was being held for all watershed groups on Friday July 13, in Genesee. He encouraged everyone to go, and explained they were going to try and do it on an annual basis.

Jim Clark – informed the group that Potter County has a separate water committee that meets regularly to discuss all water issues.

Matt Marusiak – explained that he was still working on conservation easements. Mark suggested that he send data on source water easements for inclusion on the web site. Matt agreed to provide this.

Paul Heimel explained that we had the backing of two senators and Congressman Thompson, who consider us models for the state. Paul asked the group what type help we need from the politicians.

Mark said we need continuous monitoring equipment and a central data base for storing all water testing results.

### **WEB SITE UPDATE**

Although Deb Plummer was unable to attend the meeting, she did prepare a sample system information tab using the Coudersport Borough Authority. John asked for comments or additions. The only suggestion was to add a 24/7 contact number. Each system is asked to send the information they wish to have included on their tab to John as soon as possible. John will forward the information to Deb Plummer for inclusion on the Triple Divide web site. John stated that before any system information goes live on the web site, each system will be given the opportunity to review and edit the information.

Mark suggested that each system be given permission to change or add to their tab at any time. This would allow each system to place public notices, CCRs, conservation notices, etc. without delay.

The Coudersport example contained the following information: Contact: name- address, phone and fax numbers, office hours; Personnel- authority/council officers, certified operators, manager and system spokesperson; Billing- rates, billing periods, where bills can be paid; New connections- fees procedures; Post scheduled interruptions; Nonscheduled interruptions; Post official notices; post CCRs.

### **TOUR OF COUDERSPORT PLANT**

Gareth Gockley and Lou Karija led the group on an informal tour of the two water treatment plants serving Coudersport Borough.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned following the water plant tour at approximately 12:00.