

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Galeton Borough
May 9, 2012

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Matt Murisiak, Western Pa Conservancy	Deb Ostrom, PCPC
Ashlynn Beaker, PCCD	Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Authority
Dale Steadman, Genesee Water Authority	Coleen Frank, PCCD
Fern Burdick, Northern Tier Children's Home	Mark Stevens, DEP
Doug Morley, County Commissioner	John VanZant, DEP
Joe Cimino, Galeton Borough Authority	Susan Kefover, County Commissioner
Ben Hoppe, Galeton Borough Authority	Jonathan Huff, Roulette Water Authority
Jim Clark, Penn State Extension	Betty Joe Hilfiger, Ulysses Borough Authority
Deb Plummer, DP Graphic Designs	

GOVERNORS EXCELLANCE AWARD

The Chairman explained that a 5 member delegation was formed to accept the award. The award ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda on the evening of April 17th. Each Authority member and each of the partner organizations were presented with a framed copy of the award. The chairman again thanked everyone for their participation and continued support of the Coalition's activities. The award as well as a citation from Senator Scarnotti will be placed on display in the Gunsberger building.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania included a feature article on the Triple Divide in their April newsletter. Printed copies of the article were passes out to the members present. The article can be viewed at: <http://palwv.org/wren/WRENE-News.html>.

MEETING WITH SENATOR CASEY

At Senator Casey's request Paul Heimel met with the Senator's staffers in Washington DC. The Senator had heard about the Triple Divide and he wanted more details. The Senator asked what he could do to help. One of his staffers, Barbara Klieforth said she was currently engaged in an effort to have the Senate reauthorize legislation pertaining to safe drinking water in rural communities. If the measure passes Congress, the Coalition could qualify for federal assistance in obtaining continuous monitoring equipment for all public water sources in Potter County. This equipment would perform continuous analyses for conductivity and would log the data. She also said if we opt for this funding, and should need letters of support that we should contact Senator Casey, Senator Toomey, and Representative Thompson, all of whom are supportive.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman introduced Bob Volkmar who is a member of Trout Unlimited, the Potter County Water Dogs, and instructor for stream monitoring. Mr. Volkmar stated that we currently have 30 volunteers monitoring the streams, at 67 sites, but there are still areas in the southern portion of the County where additional volunteer monitors are needed. Jim Clark stated that Potter County has the most volunteer water monitors in the state, and that everyone should take the time to thank them. Ben Hoppe asked for a list of volunteers, so that the Galeton Water Authority could send them a thank you. Mr. Volkmar said that if anyone was interested in becoming a volunteer monitor they could contact him, Volunteers are provided with test kits from a grant, but that before handing them out, the person must receive the waterdog training.

NEEDS SURVEY REPORT – JIM CIARK

Jim said that there wasn't anything new to report at this time. He urged the members who have not yet completed the inventory to do so, particularly since the Triple Divide web site has now been activated.

WREN GRANT UPDATE

The Galeton and Coudersport school programs have been completed; Oswayo Valley is scheduled for 5-11-12. Ulysses and Austin will be completed by the end of the school year. 1,000 copies of the informational brochure were printed and were made available to the members. An additional 500 copies have been ordered and will be available for future educational activities. It was agreed that the remaining grant funds would be used for development of an educational display, printing of recharge area maps for emergency response vehicles, and for the development and maintenance of the Triple Divide web site.

MEETING DATE

Next meeting date will be July 11, 2012 in the Gunsberger Building, Coudersport. A tour of the Coudersport water treatment facilities will follow the meeting.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Matt Murisiak a Land Protection Specialist from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy explained what the conservancy did, and answered questions from the group. The Conservancy may be able to help contact landowners inside of the recharge areas to discuss easements. He explained that the Conservancy also had \$1 million dollars set aside for land purchase loans at 0% interest. Matt is willing to meet with other groups interested in conserving our public water supply sources, and also to continue to provide assistance to the Coalition members. The Chairman requested that each system take this information back to their respective Boards or Authorities and to be prepared to discuss the acquisition of easements in more detail at the July Coalition meeting.

TRIPLE DIVIDE WEB SITE

The Chairman introduced Deb Plummer, Deb created the brochures that were passed out, and she is willing to do the Triple Divide Web Site, for a small fee. She said she needs information from each of the Authorities, and they should send the information to her web site dplummer54@gmail.com.

The Group agreed that after expenses they should use the remainder of the money from the Wren Grant for the Web site. Each member system will have a tab on the web site. This tab can be used for providing public notices, meeting schedules, flushing schedules, conservation advisories or any other information the system deems appropriate.

TOUR OF GALETON WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Joe Cimino, explained that in 1984 Galeton had two reservoirs and a chlorinator, in 1987 DEP survey found the water to be contaminated, so the borough built a filtration plant, with chlorination, pH adjustment and a four bed slow sand filter. The Borough owns approximately 300 acres in the watershed. Last year sedimentation from a Marcellus gas well access road muddied the source water from the right branch of the Wetmore Run. The gas company agreed to re-sand the filter beds, and clean the transmission piping. Currently the plant operation is back to normal. The gas company has agreed to fund the installation of an off-stream infiltration gallery as an additional protection for the water sources. The tour was very interesting and allowed other operators to see how the Galeton system was operated. Thanks again to Ben Hoppe and Joe Cimino for hosting the meeting and conducting the water plant tour.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45.