

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Jason Childs, PCCD	Deb Ostrom, PCPC
Dale Steadman, Genesee Water Auth.	Darrel Davis, Genesee Water Auth.
Susan Kefover, Commissioner	Doug Morley, Commissioner
Ben Hoppe, Galetton Water Auth.	Erica Tomlinson, Tioga CD
John Van Zandt, DEP	Mark Stevens, DEP
Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Boro	Don Muir, PA Rural Water
Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Borough	Lou Karija, Coudersport Borough
Jonathan Huff, Roulette Twp. Auth.	Ron Angood, Coudersport Borough
Tina Bennett, Watrous Water Assoc.	Paul Heimel, Commissioner

Tioga County Coalition

John explained that he attended the Tioga County Source Water Protection Coalition meeting last week. He said they had a good turn out and meeting was well organized. Eric Tomlinson of the Tioga County Conservation District and a member of the Tioga County SWP Coalition reported that she used a portion of a WREN Grant to create county wide maps of the delineated recharge areas. Copies of the 3x3 ft. maps were laminated and distributed to each municipality and water supplier in Tioga County. Smaller versions of the maps were distributed to the various county Emergency Service Departments. One of the 3X3 maps was displayed for review by the members. John suggested that the Triple Divide Coalition pursue grant money produce similar maps for Potter County. Mark Stevens said the Tioga County GIS Department delivered a presentation showing the map and how it was developed at a GIS convention in Clearfield County. There was some discussion with Mark and Don Muir from Pa Rural Water Association regarding this presentation at the upcoming Pa Rural Water Convention to be held next April in State College. The Triple Divide Coalition will lend support to Tioga County to meet this goal.

Upper Allegheny Watershed Letter of Endorsement

John explained that the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association intends to apply for a grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership to complete a Conservation Plan for the Upper Allegheny River. The Association has requested a letter of support from the Triple Divide Watershed Coalition. John read a draft letter and everyone agreed that the letter should be sent.

Web Site

John explained that he and Deb Ostrom met with Deb Plummer to receive training on how to edit and maintain the Triple Divide web-site (tripledividewatershed.com). He explained that each member system would receive an invitation by email asking that they join a web-site called Weebly. He asked that they look for the email and accept the invitation. This will enable them to access their individual system tab to edit and maintain the site. He explained

that in the near future he would set up a meeting and show them how to do it. The spreadsheet that Jim Clark developed will also be loaded onto the web site in the near future. This page will contain classified information so it will be password protected. Each system will be given the password. Any updates or changes to this spreadsheet will have to be made by Deb Ostrom only. Jonathan Huff suggested that water systems outside the Triple Divide Coalition be invited to be included in the spreadsheet in order to expand the reach of the mutual aid concept. There were no objections. John also explained that Deb Plummer was moving out of the area, but that she will continue to provide technical support for the site.

Future Meeting Schedule

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings, on the second Wednesday of the month in February, May, August, and November.

Act 13

Most of the Act 13 money has been dispersed, and already spent. The money would most likely be used for roads and bridges. Paul passed out his newsletter that showed the amounts the municipalities received. Of the systems present at this meeting only Watrous Water Association intends to utilize Act 13 revenues for a water system improvement project. Mark Stevens distributed handouts, showing some of the revisions to the oil and gas regulations. Isolation distances and times of travel from water supplies have been expanded. Many other changes have taken place making the regulations significantly more stringent for the drillers. Mark explained that if there are abandoned wells in an area where drillers propose to locate a well, they tend to avoid that site due to the additional cost they will incur to plug the abandoned wells as required under the revised regulations.

Cooperative Purchasing

There was some discussion of cooperative purchasing of treatment chemicals and or laboratory services. John stated that the primary obstacle to pursuing this is obtaining 100% agreement amongst the member systems. Ben Hoppe volunteered to attend each member's meeting to discuss the idea. Mark Stephens also stated that he would bring up the matter during his annual visits to the systems. Mutual Aid agreements between the Triple Divide and the member systems may be an appropriate means to achieve this goal.

Goals for 2013

1. Pursue a funding source to print recharge area maps for all Potter County municipalities and emergency service groups.
2. To continue efforts to set up and maintain the Triple Divide Coalition web site.
3. To include any systems wishing to participate in the water supplier spreadsheet.
4. Assist the other SWP groups in the area; in particular to assist the Tioga County Coalition with their efforts to conduct a 911 workshop at the Pa Rural Water Association annual conference.
5. To present a drinking water training session for students of the Austin Area School District.
6. To provide two water operator training courses through the Pa. Rural Water Association in conjunction with the Tioga County SWP Coalition.

7. Explore the possibilities for joint purchasing of treatment chemicals and lab testing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40.