

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

MINUTES

August 13, 2014

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman
Chris Mitterer, PCCD
Dale Steadman, Genesee Water
Susan Kefover, Commissioner
Ben Hoppe, Galeton Water
John Emerson
Doug Estes, CCMH
Melvin Blake, CCMH
Fern Burdick, NTCH
Jamie Dippold, Elk County
Kim Bonfardine, Elk Co CD
Adam Causer, PCPD
Betty Jo Hilfiger, Ulysses Boro

Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Jeffrey Chaplin, USGS
Darrel Davis, Genesee Water
Doug Morley, Commissioner
Will Hunt, Potter County GIS
Mark Stevens, DEP
Steven Haynes, CCMH
Lou Karija, Coudersport
Ron Angood, Coudersport Borough
Paul Heibel, Commissioner
William Krog, CBA & CAMA Coudersport
Kirsten Williams, Ulysses Boro
Charles Prentie

PRWA OPERATOR TRAINING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

John explained that a workshop will be held on September 18 on water meter operations and maintenance. The workshop is worth 6 hours of continuing education credit for water operators only. Persons interested in attending the workshop may register on-line at the PRWA website: prwa.com.

UPGRADING WEB SITE

John explained that Jeff Martin from PA Rural Water Association offers assistance (see May 2014 meeting minutes) with setting up Web-Sites for individual systems and groups, and if the members had no objections, he would like to see if they might assist in setting up a new site for the Coalition. Recent changes by the current web-site provider have made editing difficult.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

John wanted to know if there was any interest among the members in entering into formal mutual aid agreements between the Coalition members. A mutual aid agreement would allow operators to assist each other with problems, and assist with better communication. John offered to research this topic and report back during a future TDWC meeting if there is interest amongst the member systems. John requested that the members discuss the matter and get back to him via e-mail if they are interested in pursuing the issue further.

MONITORING EQUIPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Helene Nawrocki from the Potter County Education Council is assisting with writing the grant application. The project is a joint effort between Tioga and Potter Counties. This grant is for the purchase of 20 continuous conductivity monitors, which can be installed at the entrance to a water treatment plant. A permanent record of all monitoring results will be stored by the equipment supplier for an annual fee and the equipment will communicate results directly to the Tioga County 911 Call Center in Wellsboro. Trigger levels will be established for each system and any exceedances will generate an alarm in the Call Center which will in turn generate a warning call to the system operator. Mark Stevens explained that in the event of an incident adversely impacting a water source occurs, the most valuable tool to determine the cause of the degradation would be an unbiased track record of the water quality prior to the incident. Installing this equipment would also demonstrate a system's proactivity when applying for future grants. John explained that there would be a small fee to store the data, and that he would let them know at future date what that cost would be. Mark said that this cost may be able to be absorbed through EMA. In order to complete DCED grant application each participating system will need to submit a letter of support and commitment. The Tioga County EMA office obtained a quote from Telog Instruments, Inc. for 20 conductivity monitoring units. The amount of the quote was \$72,375.00. Kim Bonfardine suggested that the grant proposal include one or two back up units and that some funding be included to cover unexpected maintenance and/or calibration. Mark suggested that a few portable conductivity meters be purchased and made available to the systems to document the accuracy of the permanent units.

GROUNDWATER CHARACTERIZATION GRANT

Jeff Chaplin from USGS did a PowerPoint presentation, explaining what the purpose of the grant, and detailing it would be done if approved. The grant application was completed and will be sponsored by the Potter County Planning Commission. Commissioner Heimel made a point to commend Charlotte Dietrich; Potter County Planner for her efforts to complete and submit the grant application in just over 1 week. The application was submitted to the DCED for the maximum amount of \$250,000. If funded, the USGS will contribute an additional \$75,000- \$100,000 to the project. Jeff further explained the methodology used to select the sample sites and reviewed all of the parameters included in the testing protocol. Approximately 75 private residential well sites will be selected and samples collected. The property owners will be apprised of the sample results. The USGS will provide the sample selection, testing and evaluation of the results, which will become part of a permanent public record. Any personal information regarding the property owners will NOT be included in the public record. William Krog suggested that private wells within the Coudersport Borough be included in the test selection process. After some discussion it was agreed that all areas of Potter County should be considered in the search for landowners willing to participate. We should receive notice of the application review sometime in November. John expressed an opinion that USGS should find a way to provide some additional funding for the purpose of attempting to create a groundwater flow map of the County as a logical extension to the aquifer characterization work begun with this grant. Mark encouraged those present to submit letters to DCED in support of this project.

MISC.

Mark said there were small \$2000 grants available through Wren. Tioga County was awarded some of this money to hire an intern to update existing Sourcewater Protection Plans. It has been almost 15 years since the Potter County SWPs were written and are now in need updating. John asked the group if they thought the TDWC should apply for similar funding, which would be used to hire an intern to complete the updates. No conclusion was reached.

John stated that Marcus Kohl (DEP Director of the Williamsport Region) has taken an interest in all of the county SWP coalitions and is willing to attend our meetings. John suggested that we could join with the Tioga County coalition for a joint meeting in November so he could address both groups at the same time. Mark agreed to discuss the possibility with Mr. Kohl. Accordingly our next meeting would be either on the first or the second Wednesday of November (either Nov. 5 or 13).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45.