

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Gunzburger Bldg. Coudersport
February 12, 2014

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Charlotte Dietrich, PCPC
Fern Burdick, Northern Tier Children's Home	Paul Heimel, Commissioner
Fred Fowler, Austin Borough	Jason Childs, Potter Co. Conservation Dist.
Doug Morley, County Commissioner	Chris Mitterer, PCCD
Susan Kefover, County Commissioner	Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planning
Betty Joe Hilfiger, Ulysses Borough Authority	Kirsten Williams, Ulysses Borough
Lou Karija, Coudersport Borough	Gareth Gockley, Coudersport borough

Introductions

Fred Fowler introduced himself to the group as a representative of the Austin Borough Council.

PRWA Operator Training 2014

John will try to schedule one operator training class in Potter County and one in Tioga County for this year.

Report on Combined Coalition Meeting in Williamsport

Jim Weaver said that it was an excellent meeting with 55 people in attendance. It enabled people to get a better handle on source water. The Coalitions hope to make a difference with new Gas & Oil Regulations by submitting comments to the Environmental Quality Board. John explained that the chairs from the 5 Coalitions were in attendance. Each chairperson gave a brief description of the activities of each group. Marcus Kohl, DEP Regional Director spoke to the group and answered numerous questions. Mr. Kohl stated his support regarding the inclusion of delineated recharge areas in the routine permit review processes conducted by DEP staff. Jim Clark has written a nice article describing the meeting. A copy of the article is attached to these minutes.

GIS Mapping Project Update

Scott Zubek from Wellsboro has completed mapping of the Antrim water system distribution system as a pilot for the geo-mapping project. Scott will bring a copy of this map to the next meeting as a demonstration for the other systems. The Potter and Tioga County Coalitions are trying to get funding for the purchase of a GPS unit and to cover the cost of hiring a technician to collect the field data.

New Municipal Support System

The North Central Regional Planning Commission based in Ridgway is offering an Asset Management System that would allow municipalities to digitize and map vital parts of their infrastructure including water and wastewater systems. NCRPC would lend GPS equipment and also train municipal staff on its use for mapping. Additional information on this program will be presented at a future TDWC meeting.

Meeting with Penn E&R

The energy company came to Coudersport to introduce themselves to key county officials, and to explain their plans for exploratory gas drilling in Potter County. They purchased two well sites, one in Sweden Twp. and the other in Hector Twp. Their intention is to drill wells at both locations to explore the shale gas layers below the Marcellus. They expressed an interest learning the locations of our water supply recharge areas. John gave them one of the county recharge area maps developed last year. In addition, the drillers asked for a copy of the shape files containing the detailed delineations. John consulted with Mark Stephens regarding this request and Mark agreed that the files would be shared upon request. Penn E&R staff also expressed interest in providing some funding for our monitoring equipment project. John promised to keep them informed as the project proceeds.

Consumer Confidence Reports

John reported that he has to date not been able to restore the home page of the TDWC website. Since it appears that this site will not be able to support the addition of CCRs, John contacted Pa Rural Water Association for information regarding how to utilize their website for publishing CCRs. PRWA is currently revamping their website to better accommodate publishing CCRs. John was told that the changes to the site should be completed in the next 30-60 days. As soon as the changes are complete, John will obtain directions on how to place CCRs on the site. The directions will be forwarded to all of the TDWC member systems.

Operator Cross-training

Fred Fowler from Austin Borough expressed interest in establishing a program for cross training of local water and sewer operators to provide mutual back up in case of unforeseen emergencies. This subject was discussed during the initial meetings of the TDWC, but has not come up recently. This subject will be regularly revisited at future meetings.

Discussion of Proposed O&G Regulations

John stated that the public comment period for the new changes to DEP's Oil and Gas Regulations is now open. John has submitted a comment letter to the Environmental Quality Board on behalf of the TDWC supporting the inclusion of water supply recharge areas in the review process for gas permit applications. Paul gave a summary of his efforts to solicit the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pa. to the same point. Paul also passed out copies of the letter supporting SWP recently submitted to DEP by the Commissioners as well as copies of the most recent Shale Gas Newsletter. Charlotte explained that the letters were sent to request that it be required that water operators be notified when drilling related

activities are proposed in or adjacent to a recharge area. There was discussion as to how to make it easier for drillers to identify who to notify.

John again strongly urged everyone to send letters supporting these changes to the EQB. Such a letter will be sent to everyone on the TDWC mailing list along with a copy of these minutes.

Chris Mitterer stated that he had a concern about wastewater injection wells. Specifically there is a well proposed near Ridgeway Borough in close proximity to their water supply. Jim Weaver showed a copy of the PA Wilds supplement for Gas & Oil Best practices. The documents are available at the Pa Wilds website: pawilds.org. Jim also asked for submissions for his before and after section relating to local oil and gas impacts with a one page brief description. Jim can provide copies of the form template upon request.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2014, with the location to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30.