

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Gunzburger Bldg. Coudersport
May 14, 2014
MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Jim Clark, Penn State Ext.
Fern Burdick, Northern Tier Children's Home	Paul Heimel, Commissioner
Adrianna Romachan	Eric Robl, Gibson-Thomas Engineering
Doug Morley, County Commissioner	John Emerson, Gibson-Thomas Engineering
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
Fern Burdick, N. Tier Ch. Home	Darrell Davis, Genesee Twp. Authority
Dale Steadman, Genesee Twp. Authority	Wayne Johnson, Driftwood Borough
Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Borough	Mark Stephens, DEP
Robert Veilleux, Potter Co, Ed. Council	Scott Zubek, Tioga Co. GIS Dept.
Jeff Martin, PRWA	

Introductions

PRWA Operator Training 2014

John announced that an operator training class has been scheduled for July 22 in the Gunzburger Bldg. The class is advertised on the PRWA website and will provide 4 contact hours credit for both water and sewer operators. The subject will be GIS.

PRWA CCR Publishing Website

Jeff Martin from PRWA did a presentation on the new website available for free for water suppliers to publish their annual consumer confidence reports as well as other notices and information. The sites can also be set up for electronic bill payments. Jeff demonstrated how to set up a website using Ulysses Borough as an example. The existing information the member systems have on the Triple Divide website can be easily copied and pasted onto the PRWA sponsored site. John Recommended that systems copy the information from the Triple Divide site to the PRWA site to provide easier, direct access to editing. Jeff provided a summary sheet describing how to access the site and options available for the systems. The web address is: <http://goh2o.net>. Anyone with questions is invited to contact Jeff directly at (800) 653-7792.

Continuous Monitoring Equipment Grant Project

Bob Veilleux began the discussion with a description of several potential sources of funding for the project. The two most likely sources are both administered by DCED. The Equipment grant requires a 50% match while the Small System grant requires a 15% match. Bob distributed copies of a brochure describing the Small System Grant program. Mark Stephens showed the specific equipment along with prices. The estimated equipment cost is \$1,500.00

per system. There will also be a monthly charge from Verizon to act as storage for the data. Before the grant can be finalized, each system wishing to participate will be asked to sign a resolution agreeing to participate. This is a requirement of the funding agency. There was a lengthy discussion from all parties, but the consensus was to proceed with preparation of the grant. Representatives from Potter and Tioga Counties agreed to set up a meeting with Bob Veilleux to work on the application.

Groundwater Study

Mark and Jim Weaver described a groundwater monitoring project being established in Lycoming County. The project will be headed by the USGS with additional funding from several major medical organizations in the area. The project involves conducting detailed comprehensive sampling and analysis of selected private water supplies in an attempt to establish and monitor the overall water quality of the fresh water aquifers commonly being tapped for private water supplies in the region. There are many benefits from this data including the possible preservation of the best aquifers for use as public water sources in the future. Tioga County is also pursuing a similar but slightly less comprehensive study proposed by Mansfield University. According to Mark and Jim, the USGS is interested in setting up a similar study in Potter County. After considerable discussion the Commissioners agreed to participate in a meeting with USGS and Mark to further discuss the matter.

Formation of County-Wide Authority

Commissioner Kefover introduced John Emerson and Eric Robl from Gibson-Thomas Engineering. John provided an informal presentation describing the successful efforts in Indiana County in establishing a single multi-municipality water and sewer authority. The primary benefit is a significant cost savings to the consumers by spreading costs over a much larger customer base, streamlining administrative functions, group purchasing of equipment and services, and rapid sharing of equipment and manpower in emergencies. Mr. Emerson fielded several questions after which the consensus of the group was to seek more information. Mr. Emerson stated that he would be willing to return and do a more formal presentation either to the TDWC or any municipalities. The Chairman of the Indiana County Authority has also offered to attend a meeting to explain the process in more detail. Anyone with questions may contact John Emerson at: johne@gibson-thomas.com.

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 did a short presentation on the capabilities of ArcView and applications available for our water systems. Scott showed the map of the Duncan Township system and explained the different options of the mapping software. Jim Weaver stated that he has not heard anything on the status of the grant proposal yet; however he has submitted an application for a WREN Opportunity grant to cover the purchase of a field unit capable of collecting and labelling data points to support the mapping program.

Keynote Speaker

John announced that Commissioner Paul Heimel has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the upcoming WREN conference to be held in June at Dickenson College in Carlisle, PA.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for August 13, 2014, with the location to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30.