

TIOGA COUNTY SOURCEWATER PROTECTION COALITION/ TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Mansfield Borough Municipal Building
November 5, 2014

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Triple Divide:

John McLaughlin, Chairman, TDWC
Dale Steadman, Genesee Water
Jim Clark, Penn State Extension
Ben Hoppe, Galeton Water
Doug Estes, CCMH
Adam Causer, PCCD
Darrel Davis, Genesee Water
Steve Haynes, CCMH

TCSWPC:

Carl Cox, Chairman TCSWPC
Jim Weaver, TCPC
Jim Kendrick, Tioga Borough
Barry Cleveland, Mansfield Borough
Erica Tomlinson, TCCD
Dr. Linda Kennedy, Mansfield University

Columbia Montour Source Water Protection Coalition:

Jennifer Whisner, Chairman

North Central Source Water Protection Alliance:

Eric Moore, Chairman
Patrick "Mitch" Hann

DEP:

Marcus Kohl, Regional Director
Mark Stephens, Hydro-geologist

Chairman Carl Cox called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Carl introduced Marcus Kohl, the Regional Director of the DEP Williamsport Region. Mr. Kohl complimented the efforts of all the sourcewater protection groups and stated his continuing offer to support and encourage our activities. He explained his efforts to have a question added to the general information form required for any oil and gas permit reviews by DEP. The question would ask if the proposed project is within any designated sourcewater protection area. He stated that the issue of state wide uniformity in permit reviews is an obstacle because other DEP regions are not as involved with SWP as the Williamsport Region. Mr. Kohl gave a general update on the status of the proposed oil and gas regulations. He said that these regulations have generated more public comments than any other regulation. He is aware that the SWP groups had already submitted comments and encourages us to continue to do so if we have additional concerns as the review process proceeds. Due to the large number of comments on the regulations DEP has decided to re-advertise the proposed rulemaking, thus allowing an additional public comment

period before publishing the rules as final. There followed a general Q&A where Mr. Kohl candidly answered questions from the group.

GIS Mapping Project

Jim Weaver announced that a hand held GPS unit has been purchased and is available for use to begin mapping of system infrastructure. The issue remaining is to find personnel trained in the use of the equipment who could perform the field work. John McLaughlin stated that the PA Rural Water Association currently can provide this service at a cost of \$100.00 per hour. Eric Moore offered to utilize his GIS person to do the field work for an hourly rate less than half the PRWA rate as an option.

Monitoring Equipment Project Update

John McLaughlin provided an update on the grant application. Currently the application is nearly complete and the only significant task remaining is securing the participation of the individual systems in the form of a signed letter of support. John stated that all Potter County systems have received the letter of support; however some of the systems have not yet returned the signed letters. This grant is for the purchase of 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. John Also stated that although the grant proposal is currently for the purchase of 20 conductivity meters, additional units could be included in the application if needed to provide complete coverage for all participating systems. There was some discussion regarding maintenance and calibration of the meters once they are installed.

Next Meeting

Since four of the current county SWP groups were present there was a discussion of having another combined meeting for all of the county groups in Williamsport next February. Jim Weave made the suggestion that this meeting be held next May when the weather should be more conducive to travel. Everyone agreed to the benefits of having an annual combined meeting and that May would be a better time. Mark and Marcus agreed and Mark will select a tentative date. The next TCSWPA will be held in Knoxville on February 4, 2015. The next TDWC meeting will be held February 11,2015 at a location to be determined.

MISC.

Erica Tomlinson gave a brief description of a current project under the WREN grant to produce an educational video on Sourcewater protection. Following a description of the project, Erica requested volunteers to do a 2-3 minute interview to be included in the video. Jennifer Whisner said that she had some experience with videos and offered to assist with producing the video.

Jim Clark announced that Penn State Extension is establishing a program for identifying blue-

green algae in ponds, lakes or other impoundments. Certain species of these algae can bloom releasing a toxin into the water. Several Penn State Extension agents in the State, including Jim, will be equipped with microscopes and trained in the identification of these algae.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15.