

# TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Gunzburger Bldg., Coudersport PA

February 10, 2016

## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman, TDWC  
Darrell Davis, Genesee Water  
Alex Veto, PCCD  
Mark Stephens, DEP  
Bev Morris, Coudersport Borough  
Doug Morley, Commissioner  
Melvin Blake, CCMH  
Dave Yoxtheimer, Penn State

Bev Morris, Coudersport Borough  
Paul Heimel, Commissioner  
John Oliver, Austin Borough  
Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Borough  
Tina Bennett, Watrous Water Assn.  
Will Hunt, PCPC  
John Clune, USGS  
Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Borough

### Revised Total Coliform Rule

John reminded the group that the revised Total Coliform Rule goes into effect on April 1, 2016 and that all water systems needed to submit a monitoring plan to DEP for review prior to that date. Mark commented that the new Sanitarian was currently visiting the systems and would offer assistance completing the plans. John also offered help in preparing the plans.

### Changes to PCPC and PCCD Offices

John introduced Will Hunt as the new Director of the Potter County Planning Commission. He will also continue his current position as head of the GIS Department. Will briefly explained several new mapping functions that have been added to the Potter County web site. John also announced that Jason Childs, Watershed Specialist has been promoted to the Director of the Potter County Conservation District office. Darrell Davis gave a brief description of a recent grant awarded to the Genesee Township Water Authority for the construction of a new well and a finished water storage tank.

### Monitoring Equipment Project Update- John Clune

John Clune from the USGS gave a presentation regarding a project to set up a real-time groundwater quality network that would utilize existing public water supply sources. If established, continuous monitoring of conductivity and temperature would be made available to the public and the data would be stored into perpetuity as a permanent history of the water quality. Bev Morris stated that the matter was discussed by the Coudersport Borough Authority and that the members were interested in installing monitoring equipment as another safeguard from contaminants recently released from a gas well operation. USGS will enter negotiations directly with the Borough. There followed a lengthy discussion on the practicality and affordability of installing the USGS monitoring on other water sources in the County. It was agreed that the TDWC will continue to seek funding for all County water systems not included in the USGS network.

John described a recent meeting with JKLM during which we requested that JKLM consider funding the monitoring equipment project as a local environmental project in return for credit against the civil penalty DEP will assess for violations and clean-up of the release from their North Hollow well. JKLM said that they support such projects and that they would present the project to DEP officials negotiating the penalties. The downside is that the penalty assessment could take a year or longer to finalize.

### **DEP Permit Review Process**

John recounted a recent conversation with Marcus Kohl, Director of the Williamsport Regional Office of DEP. Mr. Kohl wanted the members of the TDWC to be reassured that DEP was committed to making the policy changes, state-wide, across all DEP programs, necessary to insure delineated water recharge areas be included as a routine part of all permit reviews. This action likely is a direct result of the meeting last August between representatives of the five Coalitions and Secretary Quigley.

### **Groundwater Mapping Project**

Mark stated that he had not received any updates on the status of this project from either of the professors involved. John added that JKLM has offered to share any of their well data they have acquired during the development of any of their well pads in the County. Both John Clune and Dave Yoxtheimer expressed an interest any may be sources of support as the project continues.

### **Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant**

John announced that a sub-committee consisting of Paul Heimel, Jim Clark, Jason Childs and John had been tasked to complete a grant application to the Healthy Watershed Consortium on behalf of Potter County. The application will request funding for a full time position for a Watershed Coordinator, funding to update all of the existing sourcewater plans and funding to negotiate with local landowners to establish forested riparian buffers along the Susquehanna River drainage basin. Applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Meeting**

Mark stated that a combined meeting with all five of the county SWP groups is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> in Williamsport. Mark will forward the details of the meeting to the members. The next meeting of the TDWC is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45.