

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION
Gunzburger Bldg., Coudersport PA
November 09, 2016
MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman, TDWC	Jim Clark, Penn State Extension
Darrell Davis, Genesee Water	Paul Heimel, Commissioner
Mark Stephens, DEP	Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Borough
Doug Morley, Commissioner	Dale Steadman, Genesee Water Auth.
Kirsten Williams, Ulysses Borough Auth.	Paul Heimel, Commissioner
Danielle Roslevich, PRWA	Fern Burdick, NTCH
Sukh Singh, RCAP Solutions	Charlie Tuttle, Potter Co. GIS
James Ostrom, Roulette Twp.	Jason Childs, PCCD
Donald Reed, Genesee Water Auth.	

GIS Mapping Update

John reported that a portion of the private well logs from Coudersport Well Drillers have been converted into electronic format and that the county GIS Department has been able to download this data onto their GIS program. John cited a recent example of how the data was utilized to assist the village of Watrous in locating potential new water sources. Mark stated that he is in possession of these well logs. John added that he would make a contact with Clarion University to look into the possibility of utilizing students to assist with digitizing the remaining records.

Groundwater Mapping Project

John stated that the grant awarded to Potter County by DECD was reviewed and updated by USGS staff, who has determined that this funding (\$220,000) will be insufficient at today's costs, to complete the study. To fully realize the study and additional \$62,000 will be needed. USGS is considering providing an additional \$25,000 to their contribution. Paul asked if there had been any contact with the larger health care provided in the area to solicit contributions. Mark stated his willingness to make the contact with UPMC and John agreed to find a contact there through Cole Hospital staff.

RCAP Solutions

Sukh Singh, Director of Education and Training for RCAP Solutions in State College, did a brief presentation describing a new potential source of funding for GIS related activities. Sukh described the types of activities that may be eligible and stated that any potential grants under this program would require a 25% local match. Additional information regarding this project will be forwarded through the TDWC if and when federal funding for RCAP is secured. Sukh also explained that the system mapping project done in Tioga County and scheduled to be done for four water systems here in Potter County are part of a pilot program enabled by a grant from the federal government along with a 50% match provided by RCAP Solutions.

Anyone wishing to contact Sukh directly may call her at 412-554-2572 or e-mail at: ssingh@rcapsolutions.org.

Demonstration of GIS Well Log Applications

Charlie Tuttle's presentation will be given at the February meeting.

Tioga County Coalition Activities & SWP Plan Updates

Mark provided an update of the recent activities of the Tioga County sourcewater coalition. They have submitted a grant application to DECD for funding the installation of continuous conductivity monitoring equipment similar to ours. If successful they will install monitoring equipment for 9 participating water systems. The TDWC should endeavor to mesh the two systems if possible in the event that they are successful with the grant.

Mark also announced that representatives from the five coalitions will travel to Harrisburg on December 21st to meet with DEP Secretary MacDonald to discuss incorporating approved wellhead protection areas into DEP permit review processes. This meeting will be similar to the one held with then Secretary John Quigley in July 2015. Commissioner Paul Heibel has agreed to represent the TDWC at this meeting. The current Oil and Gas Regulations contain language requiring non-conventional gas well drillers to contact water suppliers if they propose to locate a pad within Zone 2 wellhead protection areas. Mark emphasized the fact that water suppliers with approved wellhead plans will need to stay current with requirements to do annual updates to their plans to insure protection under this statute.

Monitoring Equipment Project Update

A check in the amount of \$100,000 has been received and deposited in the county treasury by JKLM Energy as a portion of the civil penalty assessment from DEP for violations incurred during the release of drilling fluids near Coudersport Borough in October 2015. The funds are earmarked for use by the TDWC to install and operate a system of continuous monitors on all of the community water system sources in Potter County. There followed a long discussion of how the system should work. We have a current proposal to provide for the installation of a system which includes three years of maintenance, however since we do not yet know the details regarding restrictions on how we can dispense the funds, we are unsure if the project will need to be put out for competitive bids or not. John suggested that a sub-committee be formed to oversee the implementation of the project. Bev Morris and Gareth Gockley have agreed to join Mark, John and Will Hunt to form the Committee.

Jim Clark suggested we develop a survey questionnaire to send to each system to confirm their desire to continue to participate, provide a contact and to provide details of their equipment requirements. The group agreed that this approach would be the way to proceed.

Fern asked if there would be any future costs to the systems. This question cannot be answered with any certainty at this time. Once the project has been better defined and cost estimates are available, we will be better able to address this issue. Whatever funds remain after the initial equipment purchases will likely be utilized to cover storage costs.

Next Meeting

John suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for February 8, 2017 to maintain our normal schedule of meeting on the second Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00.