

Triple Divide Watershed Coalition Meeting  
June 14, 2017

**MINUTES**

**Comments from Operators/Municipalities**

--Members discussed the possibility of sharing the services of certified Chief Water Operators among multiple systems.

**Updates from DEP (Mark Stephens)**

--DEP officials have responded favorably to the request from TDWC and other coalitions in the region to incorporate Sourcewater Protection Zone Plans incorporated into the department's permit review process and other maps/records maintained by the department.

--Although many federal funding sources have been proposed for cuts, the State Revolving Fund that supports DEP's assistance to local water systems appears to have strong bipartisan support.

--DEP is seeking a contractor to provide services to local systems similar to the defunct Water Resources Education Network (WREN).

--Mr. Stephens suggested inviting Jeff Chaplin (USGS) and/or DEP Regional Administrator Marcus Kohl (Williamsport office) to speak at the next TDWC meeting.

--Discussion was held on the need to update the Sourcewater Protection Zone Plans in place for all public water systems in Pennsylvania. The Potter County Planning/GIS Department and the Pa. Rural Water Assn. (Danielle Roslevich) could be of assistance.

--The USGS groundwater study in Potter County is underway, with about 45 private wells selected for characterization. Similar projects have been completed or are in the works for several other counties in the region. A state grant is covering the bulk of expenses for a detailed study that will document where much of the county's groundwater comes from, its characteristics, and its movement patterns. The information will be invaluable for public policy-makers, industries, regulatory agencies and many others. This will be a valuable tool for protecting water when sites are chosen for certain types of development. Well data will be assembled and analyzed in a cumulative fashion. Confidential findings from each individual analysis will be provided to each well owner. Groundwater can contain a variety of suspended and dissolved substances such as bacteria, minerals and gases. These substances are often naturally occurring, but can also be influenced by activities occurring on the land surface.

**Updates from Conservation District/Potter Co. Water Quality Work Group**

--Jason Childs reported on habitat improvement, aquatic organism passage/stream connectivity, dirt and gravel road stabilization, and agricultural assistance projects the district is working on this year.

**Training**

--Pa. Rural Water Assn. is offering free weekly courses (12 weeks) in Reading for those seeking to become a certified water operator. Discussion was held about holding training classes in Potter County.

**Public Water Source Monitoring Equipment Update**

--Charlie Tuttle reported that the equipment will be arriving no later than June 19. A Campbell Scientific representative will be available at 9 am Wednesday, June 21, to meet with operators and discuss the equipment. Shinglehouse Borough is the only TDWC affiliate not participating.