

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION
Potter Co. Education Council Bldg., Coudersport PA
November 10, 2015

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman, TDWC
Dale Steadman, Genesee Water
Jim Clark, Penn State Extension
Doug Morley, Commissioner
Chris Mitterer, PCCD
Mark Stephens, DEP
Danielle Roslevich, PRWA
Wayne Gray, Mills
David Hartman, Coudersport
Darrel Davis, Genesee Water
Bev Morris, Coudersport Borough
Ronnie Shenkein, Coudersport

Peter Wulfhorst, Penn State Ext.
Mary Ann Heston, Sabinsville
Henry Berkowitz, Sabinsville
John Oliver, Austin Borough
Paul Heimel, Commissioner
Susan Kefover, Commissioner
Kirsten Williams, Ulysses Borough
Fern Burdick, N. Tier Ch. Home
James Ostrom, Roulette Twp.
Linda Ellowitz, Sabinsville
Laurie Barr, Coudersport
Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Borough

Land Use Planning Options

After calling the meeting to order, the discussion was turned over to Mr. Peter Wulfhorst via a remote teleconference. Mr. Wulfhorst is an educator for the Penn State Extension with extensive experience in local government and land use planning issues. He presented an overview of options both voluntary and regulatory available to local and county level governments for protecting and preserving its resources. Tools in the Pa. Municipalities Planning Code provide the legal authority for local governments to act for the protection of the public health and safety through Comprehensive Plans, Capital Improvement budgeting and basic land use planning. Land use planning options include: Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), Zoning, Overlay Zoning and Official Maps.

(After the meeting, Danielle Roslevich from the Pa. Rural Water Assn. advised that she is preparing a set of documents on this subject and will make them available to our group. These and related documents, including Peter Wulfhorst's PowerPoint slides, will be maintained at the Potter County Planning Department Office.)

(Also after the meeting, Mr. Wulfhorst sent a clarification on the issue of local governments adopting well construction standards as a means of protecting existing wells. He stated that such language could be included in a county or local SALDO. He wants to clarify in that any municipality could enact such a free standing ordinance without any other land use requirements in place.)

Meeting with DEP Secretary John Quigley

Mark Stephens summarized the Aug. 17 meeting in Harrisburg with DEP Secretary John Quigley to acquaint him with sourcewater protection (SWP) activities. The topics discussed were: 1) Inclusion of SWP recharge areas into DEP permit reviews: 2) Establishing better

communications between DEP Emergency Response teams and water suppliers: 3) reinstatement of funding for WREN; and 4) permitting issues between DEP and SRBC. Mark read a copy of a recent e-mail message from DEP/Harrisburg to DEP Williamsport Regional Director Marcus Kohl, outlining the initial steps being implemented to include delineated recharge areas into all DEP permit reviews, statewide, across all programs. John McLaughlin stated that he had been waiting 20 years to hear this announcement. Commissioner Morley stated that this was one of the primary goals set by the TDWC at its inception. Commissioner Heimel, who attended the meeting with Secretary Quigley on behalf of TDWC, said that the Secretary was complimentary of the grassroots SWP activities and appeared to be sincere in his commitment to address DEP's shortcomings.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

John McLaughlin told the group that the RTCR changes will go into effect on April 1, 2016, and that each public water supplier will be required to submit to DEP a new coliform monitoring plan demonstrating how the system will meet the new monitoring requirements. Copies of the most common forms will be sent as an attachment to the mailing of these minutes. John offered to assist water systems with preparation and submission of plans.

Monitoring Equipment Project Update

Mark Stephens cited a new potential source of funding for installation of water source monitoring equipment. He is exploring options for perpetual storage of monitoring data that could eliminate the ongoing costs involved with transfer and storage. TWDC partner systems in Tioga County are pursuing funding for monitoring equipment.

Groundwater Mapping Project

Mark said work is continuing on the project. John added that Potter County has still not heard from DCED on the status of our request for a \$350,000 grant that would be used for thorough analysis of at least 70 private water sources. John suggested the groundwater mapping project already underway could give the Potter County grant application an advantage.

JKLM Chemical Release Update

Mark Stephens announced she had been authorized to respond to some of the questions for DEP compiled by local citizens following the JKLM Energy LLC chemical release during a gas well drilling procedure at a Sweden Township site in September. Due to an extensive discussion with some of the meeting attendees, a number of the questions were not addressed. Paul Heimel announced that the commissioners plan to host a public meeting at which DEP and possibly others can share information and respond to questions and concerns. One attendee suggested that a Pa. Dept. of Health representative also be invited to attend. In terms of the TDWC mission, one outstanding issue left unresolved was when Coudersport Borough and Charles Cole Memorial Hospital would resume use of water source that had been shut off as a precaution while the impact of the spill was investigated.

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15.