

TRIPLE DIVIDE WATERSHED COALITION

Coudersport Borough

February 13, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

John McLaughlin, Chairman	Duane Cizek
Betty Joe Hillfiger, Ulysses Borough Authority	Donald Reed, Genesee Twp. Authority
James Ostrom, Roulette Twp.	Mark Stephens, DEP
Deb Ostrom, PCPC	Betty Hilfiger, Ulysses Borough
Amanda Jones, Bradford Era	Gareth Gockley, Coudersport Authority
William Krog, Coudersport Authority	James Weaver, Tioga Co. P.C.
Matt Genchur, PRWA	Fern Burdick, NTCH
Doug Morley, County Commissioner	David White
Jason Childs PCCD	Mary Ann Heston, PC Waterdogs
Ben Hoppe, Galeton Borough Authority	Jonathan Huff, Roulette Water Authority
Jim Clark, Penn State Extension	Lou Karija, Coudersport Authority
Shawn Metcalf, Shinglehouse Borough	John Erich, DEP

Tioga County Coalition Meeting

Jim Weaver reported on some of the topics discussed at the recent meeting of the Tioga County SWP Coalition. They expressed concerns regarding the ageing of the operators and preserving their knowledge of facility locations. They wish to investigate the usage of GIS technology for mapping distribution systems and other key components, and invited the TDWC to partner with them on this project. Several members offered suggestions on how this could be implemented.

Jim also revealed plans to have a combined meeting with the Triple Divide and the Lycoming County Coalitions featuring representatives of the SRBC. When these plans are finalized, John will forward the information to the TDWC membership.

John suggested that the Tioga and Potter coalitions work together to provide two water operator training courses in 2013. Matt from PRWA provided suggestions and assistance in setting up these courses. After some discussion, it was agreed that a course on vulnerability assessments and emergency response planning would be appropriate to best equip the systems to deal with potential impacts from natural gas development. The DEP mandated course on water and wastewater plant security would be a good choice. PWRA will provide a current listing of all of the scheduled class dates for this course to John.

Jim Clark announced that he has scheduled a meeting on April 2, 2013 for water suppliers in Elk, Forest, McKean and Jefferson Counties to discuss the formation of source water protection coalitions in these areas.

Harrisburg Activities

Due to time constraints, discussion of the legislative activities currently proceeding in Harrisburg was tabled.

Next Meeting

John suggested that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, May 8 in Austin, The meeting will include a tour of the new filtration plant serving the Borough.

Source Water Protection Map

John displayed a prototype source water protection map to the members. The map shows all of the drainage areas which flow into the delineated recharge areas. The final version of the maps will include municipal boundaries. Several corrections will have to be made to the contact information before being finalized. John asked that the Tioga coalition include funding for printing of these maps in the event that they decide to apply for a WREN grant this year. Jim Weaver agreed and said that they may seek a grant to cover the costs of the GIS mapping discussed earlier and they could include this cost as an addition to any proposal they submit. If funded a copy of the maps would be given to each municipality to increase awareness of the recharge areas.

Orphan Well Update

Shawn Metcalf and Mark Stephens gave a report on the status for an orphan well Shawn found within their recharge area. The existence of the well was reported to DEP and created a flurry of activity within DEP, but resulted in the well being added to the list of wells to be plugged utilizing State funding. DEP conducted an investigation of the well, but could not make a clear determination of ownership. The project has received an increased priority due to its location within a recharge area. Jim Clark suggested that pictures of the well remediation process be taken and that a power point presentation be made for training purposes. Updates on the progress of this will be given at future meetings. Mark stated that this situation reinforces the need for operators to conduct routine inspections of the recharge areas.

Triple Divide Website

John announced that all of the system tabs on the website are inhabited. Deb Ostrom prepared and passed out copies of directions to each system detailing instructions on how to edit the tabs to install Consumer Confidence Reports or public notices. He recommended that any CCRs be converted into pdf. format before installing them on the website so that the data cannot be altered. Deb Plummer, the consultant hired to develop the website, will install the spreadsheet containing detailed system information onto the password protected page on the site. Also she was asked to provide a blog or similar page which member systems can utilize to request help, equipment, parts, etc. John also invited any Tioga systems to add their information onto the TDWC site.

Emergency Response- Planning for Marcellus Activities

John introduced John Erich, the Emergency Response Team Coordinator for the Northcentral DEP Region. Mr. Erich led a lengthy discussion beginning with comments regarding ERPs. He recommended that a vulnerability assessment be done on each system as a prerequisite so that ERPs can be better tailored to address impacts on the most vulnerable portions of a system. He strongly recommended that after the ERPs are completed that the other agencies referenced in the plan be given a copy. These organizations can plan to better respond if they know that they are a part of your plan. In addition to organizations such as local fire departments, first responders, etc. John recommended including whatever haz-mat clean up companies that may be working in the area.

When asked about the impacts from gas drilling activities, Mr. Eric had the following comments:

- The most common problems associated with construction of the fixed sites have been erosion and sedimentation during construction of the pads and access roads.
- Especially the larger companies have learned from their problems and have adjusted their design and operation at well sites to minimize the impacts of accidental spills or releases from their operations.
- With a few exceptions, the construction of collector pipelines from the wells have not caused much negative impacts on streams with turbidity or increased run-off.
- By far the highest numbers of emergency calls involve vehicle accidents or roll-overs involving the release of frac water and fuel from the vehicles. Even when frac water has been released into a stream, the relatively low volume carried (usually 5,000 gal.) is quickly diluted in the stream and has not been shown to have any adverse impacts on the stream environment.

There followed a general Q&A which focused on the potential impacts of the proposed frac water treatment plant in Ulysses Twp. Concerns were expressed including radiological exposures and increased truck traffic. During this discussion, mention was made of the PAWARN system. The group expressed an interest in hearing more about this organization. John McLaughlin agreed to make a contact with this group and request that they attend the May meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.