

TCCOG Gas Drilling Task Force
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2010

Planner

- Although the Park Foundation generously contributed \$50,000 to hire a planner to assist Tompkins County municipalities to understand and prepare for the impacts of horizontal hydrofracturing, approximately \$22,000 more will be needed to cover the entire cost of this new position. The Task Force discussed where the funds would come from, whether from the County, from TCCOG, or a split between the two.
- Any Task Force member in favor of accepting the Park funds to hire a planner were asked to **attend the County Legislature's Tuesday, July 20 meeting at 5:30 to express their support.**
- **Jason asked the County to provide a job description** in order for Town Boards to begin discussion of the topic and consideration of appropriating funds.
- Various municipalities have already spent considerable funds beyond their 2010 budget for gas drilling related work particularly surrounding road protection.
- A member suggested that gas companies be approached to help pay for the added costs of preparing for the gas drilling industry. However, at this time, we do not know which companies plan to drill in our area and we must be prepared in advance of their entry, therefore this funding idea was dismissed.

Web pages - Liz

- Liz built some new web pages to house information on gas drilling for the TCCOG website. She and Michelle are working to put the pages on line.
- **Ric, Martha, and Marie agreed to review the pages once they are up.**
- **Municipalities are asked to send Liz and/or Michelle any resolutions or motions addressing drilling issues that have been passed.** These will be added to the web for others to use as templates for their own legislation.

Emergency Response - Ric

- Ric brought Beth Harrington (TC Assistant EMS Director) to speak to the Task Force about emergency preparedness. Beth referred to the work of the Lycoming County Task Force which outlines steps needed to be prepared for emergencies. Topics cover spills, public health issues, law enforcement, impacts on hospitals and general emergency response. She suggests Tompkins County use Lycoming's information as a starting point.
- Beth also suggested the TCCOG Task Force look at the Lycoming County Task Force subcommittees and the areas they cover.
<http://www.lyco.org/Portals/1/tf%20cmtes.pdf>. We may want to interact with a Task Force in an area where gas drilling is already active. Contact information for the Lycoming Task Force is at <http://www.lyco.org/Portals/1/members.cgetf.pdf>.

- Tom Parsons (Deputy Chief of Ithaca City Fire Department) travelled to Lycoming County, PA to meet with and learn from emergency management personnel in an area where gas drilling activity is high.
- **Liz asks Ric and Beth if they can provide a synopsis of what municipalities should be aware of in relation to emergency management**, what is in place at the County level and what municipalities within the County need to do to be prepared. Richard asks if there is a list of companies that have been more of a problem.

State and Federal Policy – Martha

- The group meets via email. They are currently focused on pushing the State Senate to put a bill on the floor calling for a moratorium. It's important to keep calling Senator Sampson's office, even if people have already made calls since Sampson's office is tallying interest in the topic.
- Martha is helping to organize a rally prior to the EPA hearings on August 12 and would like as big a presence as possible. The hearing is to gather comment on the scope of the study the EPA will launch on the environmental effects of horizontal hydrofracturing. **Martha and Helen are holding a meeting on July 26 to organize comments for the August 12 hearing and organize the rally.**
- If space is no longer available at the Binghamton EPA hearing, people can submit their comments in writing. **Helen/Martha will provide information on how to do this and more about the rally.**

Assessment – Carol

- Carol referred to an article about the effect gas drilling is having on land value and assessment. See at <http://www.ithaca.com/main.asp?SectionID=16&subsectionID=56&articleID=12050>.
- She also spoke with Jay Franklin who is aware of the problem and is researching leases on properties using the TC Gas Map data that has been collected by volunteers (<http://tcgasmapp.org/>).
- A suggestion is made to contact realtors to see what problems they may have encountered and how prices are being affected.
- Although Jay spoke with TCCOG in the past about gas drilling, now there may be new information and the **Task Force would like to hear from Jay again** to have an update on how he feels assessments will be affected.
- **Carol will summarize what she has so far for the web.**
- Kathy mentions the Task Force should look into land speculation using examples from PA properties being purchased for mineral rights.

Water –Sharon

- See notes from the water committee below.

Roads

- Don Barber sent in a reminder that an in-depth meeting about road protection will be held on Friday, June 23 at 10:30 Old Jail Conference room to review and discuss Road Preservation Local laws
Presenters: Lynne Irwin- Cornell Local Roads, Todd Mathes - (Whitemann, Osterman, and Hanna), and Lori Mithen Association of Towns
- Danby has passed a road excavation ordinance as has Dryden.

Agenda items for August

Committee updates

Water committee?

Jay Franklin on assessments?

Susan Christopherson? (might be better in September prior to her briefing in Albany)

More on emergency response?

Jay Franklin?

Stormwater regulations?

Minutes

June 14, 2010

Tompkins County Gas Drilling Task Force

Water Subcommittee

Attendees: Sharon Anderson, Linda Adams, Liz Cameron, Craig Schutt, David Slottje, Helen Slottje

1. Origin of task force and water subcommittee; Introductions
 - a. The task force is an official subcommittee of TCCOG
 - b. The task force hopes to provide a central place for information about issues affecting municipalities relating to gas drilling impacts
2. Review of topical chart prepared by Sharon Anderson and suggestions for additions, deletions, and other changes
 - a. Linda Adams suggested that landowners are an important third party (to the state and regulators) and that the water subcommittee could help develop answers to what could go into a lease that would be protective of water.
 - b. Liz Cameron suggested locating information on parameters for testing wells and involving water supply operators
 - c. There was a discussion about whether the USGS aquifer map is available electronically or just in paper format. Concluded that at least portions were electronic and that the electronic version should be included in this group's web resources.
 - d. Helen asked about geology information – do we know where fractures are? Is USGS working on this? What do we know about salt mines?

Concluded that the website should have an overlay showing the various layers.

- e. Sharon said that it would be helpful to have good information about the exemptions to environmental laws that industry has.
- f. There was a discussion about the role of the water division at DEC, and whether they would be able gain the upper hand or any control at all in the permitting and regulation of gas wells.
- g. There was a discussion about water impacts – 1) chemicals -spills on site getting into water and fluids left underground, 2) water withdrawals, 3) waste water disposal Craig Schutt noted that additional safety devices are being used by Chesapeake in Bradford County, Pennsylvania.
- h. Linda Adams discussed her research on downhole separation technology (DOE report available at www.osti.gov/bridge/) , propane fracing (www.ntm.nickles.com/issues/printer.aspx?aid=1000225211) solid propellant fracing, the gas gun (used in a Bradford sandstone injection well in Cattaraugus County in Nov. 2006; www.thegasgun.com), the Norway offshore list (Sept 2009 www.offshore-mag.com) , the acronym PLONR (poses little or no risk), the Unconventional Gas Convention in Fort Worth in October www.unconventionalgas.com, TRIAD, a recipe for a green frac recipe, the fact that there is already arsenic and bacterial contamination in the water in Caroline, the Groton water well fire (and probably a few other things I missed).

3. Next Steps

- a. Sharon will reconfigure the spreadsheet to reflect comments and assign jobs
- b. Craig Schutt will contact Bill Kappel
- c. Helen and David will work on exemptions enjoyed by natural gas industry to water protection laws
- d. The group will start building information, can use the CCE page internally to put together pages, sources and links before “going live”
- e. Next meeting Thursday July 8 at 4:30