



Chemung County Water Quality Strategy Committee
March 18, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. Big Flats Community Center

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Roger Burlew; Jennifer Fais; Diane Fiorentino; Richard Gunderman; Reeve Howland; Dick Kankus; Jim Lynch; Matt Mustico; Tom Skebey; Frank Rusby; Gene Stow; Kathy Szerszen; Jennifer Trimmer; Mark Watts; Chad Kehoe.

1. Call to order and Communications – Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Big Flats Community Center.
2. Approval of the February 18, 2009 minutes – On a motion by Tom Skebey, seconded by Dick Kankus, the committee approved the minutes of January 21, 2009. On a motion by Diane Fiorentino, seconded by Dick Gunderman, the committee approved the minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report – Mark reported that the committee had a beginning balance of \$2,177.89 and currently has \$1,929.27 in the bank. See attached report.
4. Closed Loop System Presentation – Jennifer Trimmer from the Chemung County EMC introduced the speaker. Nick is the Chair of the Tioga County Landowners Group and has 38 years in engineering and program management. Nick made the presentation (see attached). The following are notes on the presentation not shown in the slides.

Nick said that residents responded to a resident's survey and their number one concern is to protect their property; #2) water quality; #3) lease price. He said that we should not abuse the fact that we have a lot of water in the southern tier by polluting it as part of the drilling process. He feels that his discussion applies to the Marcellus and the Utica shale drilling processes.

He recommended replacing the open pits with tanks and thus you can eliminate most of the environmental damage. Open pits encourage birds to fly in and get poisoned, pits can also overflow. At the end of the process you need to clean up the open pits. This involves putting holes in the liner and leaving it in place. This creates a very poor growing environment for agricultural on the site. This open pit is used in the drilling process for drilling muds; it is not used for fracking fluids. He said that the closest treatment plant is proposed for Waverly, NY. There were two issues, salt and toxic

fracking fluids. In the closed loop system, you have a testing system on site so that you can identify and treat toxics on site if necessary. There are not many contaminants added to the drilling muds so, when the liquid is removed, you have solids that can be reused. By doing work on site, it reduces the distance you need to take the liquids to a disposal site, by hundreds of miles. The closed loop system speeds up drilling by one-third because it cleans up the mud by screening out the larger chunks that can bind up a drill. He said that wells are between 4 and 5,000 feet deep in Tioga County and that the wells will be gathering gas for between 15 and 30 years. The cost for the closed loop system may be higher in the beginning, but it is more than offset by later savings in clean up. This system is favored by the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

During the Marcellus GEIS scoping series, he and the landowners group recommended that closed containment systems be considered as part of the final processing. This generic name will keep options open as the technology expands. He said that about 5% of the fracking fluid is chemicals and that DEC and SRBC require complete knowledge of the chemicals which would reduce the cost of testing. In the closed loop system, when the fluids come back to the surface, they are tested, adjusted, and reused until the last well is drilled and final water then is disposed in Waverly. He said that all offshore drilling is done by closed loop, so it should be cost-effective to do it in this situation.

He said that the gas companies expect to produce 4 million cubic feet per day in production which is about \$100 million value over the life of the well. The cost of a well is between \$2 and 4 million; and thus, there is a lot of money to be made. The landowners currently receive 12 ½ % in royalties and hope to increase this to 20 – 25%. There are other fracking processes including nitrogen and CO2 fracking. In these cases, the gases are pumped underground, the pressure is monitored and no water is used. It was asked how Mr. Schoonover feels about the use of brine on highways. He felt that this was OK as long as there are no toxics in it. He feels that companies should be the ones that put in portable brine desalinization plants which would produce blocks of salt, instead of putting the cost onto a community to build a tank to hold the brine. Gas companies were pushing the highway departments to put in storage tanks for brine according to Roger Burlew. He does appreciate the use of brine on 41 miles of town road for dust control. DEC is requiring the company to test the brine, make sure the trucks are properly calibrated and pay permits to the highway department. There was a question of whether the treatment plant in Waverly was going to be public or private. It is unknown at this time. There is a permit in the works. It will probably be mainly a desalinization process.

The group thanked Mr. Schoonover for his presentation.

5. Member items & Announcements

Jennifer Fais encouraged people to attend the April 9, 2009 Regional Leadership Conference.

Jennifer Trimber noted their Environmental Stewards Program. They are looking for people 55 years old and older to take part in this series of workshops and projects.

Mark Watts said that the DEC Environmental Award has earned them an intern and they will be using this person to undertake countywide composting and streambank dumping ordinance preparation. They expect the person to begin in mid-May.

Mark also encouraged people to attend the next meeting. It was suggested that the meeting be located at the Green Diamond Tire Company that makes new tires from recycled materials in an environmentally-friendly way.

Diane to arrange the tour for the committee and set this tour up for the April meeting.

The May meeting will happen at the Conservation Cabin at the Fairgrounds.

6. NEXT MEETING - April 15, 2009 to be located at the Green Diamond Tire Company.
7. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Fais

1:40 PM

03/17/09

Accrual Basis

CHEMUNG CO. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Account QuickReport
As of December 31, 2009

Type	Date	Num	Name	Split	Amount	Balance
Checking						2,177.89
Water Quality Committe Fund						2,177.89
Check	2/9/2009	14499	FORESTRY SUPPL...	Water Quality	-248.62	1,929.27
Check	2/24/2009	14521	FORESTRY SUPPL...	.24 · Field Equi...	0.00	1,929.27
Total Water Quality Committe Fund					-248.62	1,929.27
Total Checking					-248.62	1,929.27
TOTAL					-248.62	1,929.27