

**TCCOG Gas Drilling Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
October 21, 2010

**Attending:** Ed Marx, Helen Slottje, Art Pearce, David Slottje, Kathy Halton, Ric Dietrich, Richard Driscoll, Jason Leifer, Craig Schutt, Don Barber, Joe Wilson, Darby Kiley, Herb Engman, Martha Robertson.

**PUBLIC SAFETY - Ric Dietrich**

Movement on safety and emergency preparedness is difficult. In a recent county-wide meeting of county employees and municipal officials, there was consensus that there are many areas of concern to address, but how to move forward and who will take the lead is still unclear. Some responsibilities for emergencies are at the county level and some at the municipal level, but how these entities will interact is unknown. Each municipality should have their own emergency preparedness plan.

**Who will coordinate preparedness?**

To date, the answer to this is unknown. There is logic in coordinating this work at the county level since all municipalities will need to be closely coordinated and cooperate in the event of a large emergency. In order for the county employees to coordinate, they will need to be directed to do so at the county level.

Preparedness needs to be coordinated at 3 levels:

- Law enforcement – state police, sheriff, and village police depts.
- Fire departments – training for on the scene
- Municipal governments- what is the role of supervisors, clerks, county.

In Ohio, the state fire marshal made presentations to the towns on emergency preparedness and in southern counties of NY, the counties are providing training.

**Questions that need to be addressed**

- Who will take the lead on this topic?
- Who are the contact people for key personnel within: Highway, municipalities, first responders, gas company personnel?
- Are all municipal emergency management plans up to date? Do they take gas drilling into account?
- Is there redundancy in key personnel?
- How will key personnel communicate?
- Are there shared service agreements with adjoining municipalities for emergency services?
- What are the standard operating procedures for your municipality in the event of an emergency such as a gas explosion, evacuation, etc.
- Is there a memorandum of understanding with service providers?
- Town Clerks are the designated Public Information Officer. Have they been trained to efficiently respond to gas drilling emergencies?

- Do all emergency first responders have a working knowledge of current HASMAT training related to gas drilling?
- Chain of command is critical in the event of a gas drilling emergency. Do all personnel involved (first responders, clerks, supervisors, fire, sheriff, state police, etc) understand their role in the chain of command? Is there an outline of the chain of command?
- What is covered at the county level and what at the level of smaller municipalities?
- Are we missing areas of preparedness?

**Action items:**

The task force agrees that a formal request should be made to the County asking them to take the lead in coordinating emergency efforts across the county and the municipalities within.

**TOUR OF PA GAS DRILLING REGION**

Several members of the TF are interested in a tour of Bradford County, PA where drilling is well underway. Talisman has closed its tours for this year, but the group agreed meeting with others in the area would be useful.

**Suggested contacts:**

Mark Smith – Bradford County Commissioner leads a task force on gas drilling for the County. [smithm@mail.bradfordco.org](mailto:smithm@mail.bradfordco.org)

Carolyn Knapp, and Carol ? – Landowners with land leases [knappfm@epix.net](mailto:knappfm@epix.net), [arnoldfarms@epix.net](mailto:arnoldfarms@epix.net).

Joyce Stone- from Dimock –(I didn't catch why she's recommended)

**Also ask:**

Craig Schutt – for his counterpart in the Bradford area

Rod Howe – CaRDI – has toured the area and may have ideas.

Kate Borgella – Tompkins County Planning – has toured and has contacts.

Those interested in the tour: Don Barber, Ric Dietrich, Richard Driscoll, Jason Leifer, Herb Engman, Kathy Halton, Craig Schutt, Liz Thomas, Brett Chedzoy.

**Action item:** Make contact with the suggested people above. Find a date where most are free.

**ROAD PROTECTION – Don Barber**

This issue is still caught between conflicting state laws, but road construction laws are available on the web [http://www.tompkins-co.org/tccog/Gas\\_Drilling/Sample%20Legislation/Index\\_SampleLegislation.html](http://www.tompkins-co.org/tccog/Gas_Drilling/Sample%20Legislation/Index_SampleLegislation.html). Danby Newfield, and Dryden have contracted with Delta Engineers to do road evaluation. Caroline and Ulysses are putting that work out to bid.

**Action items:**

- If Darby's time allows, she will investigate road use agreements currently on the books, starting with Sullivan County.
- Post any available law to the TCCOG website.- Liz, Darby, Michelle

### **LAND USE – Art Pearce and Richard Driscoll**

The committee put work on designating Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) on the back burner based on word that they are not strong enough to direct placement of drilling activities. (Subsequent discussions in this meeting indicate that CEAs are considered when placing gas pipelines).

This committee is focused currently on noise and light ordinances and industrial use permitting.

Action item:

Next meeting: **November 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00** – Scott Heyman room, Old Jail.

### **REGIONAL MEETING OF TASK FORCES-Darby Kiley**

- Nine NY counties were represented at the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at PRI. All are seeing similar issues. There is concern over watersheds and baseline water monitoring. Tests are expensive—in the range of \$700 per test.
- Results of a recent survey were presented. This cooperative effort between Cornell (Rich Stedman) and Penn State questioned nearly 6000 residents from NY and PA on their attitudes toward drilling. Responses from NY and PA were quite different. Darby can provide more information.
- CaRDI and PRI are working together to provide information

Action item:

Provide web location for where CaRDI information is housed.

### **MAPPING –Don Barber**

Don is moving ahead with the idea of building maps to help municipalities visualize the impact a fully drilled area would have on the landscape. A variety of maps could show:

- Landscape at full build out or partial build out.
- 40 acre vs 640 acre layout
- Impact over time
- Pad size in comparison to landscape
- Gas lines, steep slopes, erodible soils, creeks

Cornell students and Karen Edelstein have agreed to help with the GIS mapping. More are welcome.

Action item:

This group is meeting on **November 3, 1:30** (not sure where, but ask Don if you want to join sunnybrk@gmail.com)

### **NEW LEGISLATION**

This will be on the TCCOG site soon...

- Danby - resolution on leasing of State Forest Land
- County – resolution banning gas leasing of county lands
- There's more that Kathy sent me...

**Action item:**

Post new legislation to the TCCOG gas drilling site – Liz, Darby, Michelle

**AN ACRONYM FOR THE GROUP-** Liz Thomas

This will primarily be for internal use, but the title Tompkins County Council of Governments Task Force on Gas Drilling is simply too long for documents such as these minutes. It will still be necessary in some cases to use the longer title.

Those in attendance voted on a shorter acronym:

**TANG – for Tompkins Addresses Natural Gas.**

**ROLE OF THE NEW COORDINATOR**

Ed Marx is working with the new coordinator for gas drilling, Darby Kiley. She is settling in to the County Planning offices and will present a work plan outline at the next TANG (see, it's come in handy already) meeting. The rough outline describing the breakdown of her work when she was interviewing was 1/3 with individual municipalities, 1/3 research, 1/3 task force.

**MARCELLUS SUMMIT IN PA –Helen and David Slottje**

Helen and David spent several days in PA at the summit sponsored in part by the oil and gas industry. Highlights:

- Bridges may be as important, or more, than roads since replacement costs are so high.
- The high school dropout rate is increasing in drilling areas. Jobs that pay higher than average wages are the suspected reason.
- Increasing rents are driving out teachers and other professionals who can no longer afford the high rents.
- The housing shortage is severe and hitting low income groups heavily.
- Fluid migration – researchers are trying to establish how gas is migrating into water sources.
- Gathering pipelines – interstate commerce rules don't govern pipelines but FERC?? (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission??) does take Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) into consideration when deciding pipeline routes.

**AIR QUALITY – Joe Wilson**

Joe is working on air quality issues. If anyone has documentation or leads for him, please pass them along: [wilson.joe79@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.joe79@gmail.com). If anyone wants to help with this issue, drop Joe a line.

**EVENTS**

**Nov 1, 7:00-9pm: Lessons from Pennsylvania** – How gas drilling impacts the outdoors. Intended for hikers, hunters, boaters or anyone who spends time in forestland. Lansing Middle School.

**November 3, 1:30 - Mapping** (see above) – Contact Don for location [sunnybrk@gmail.com](mailto:sunnybrk@gmail.com)

**November 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 – Land Use committee** - Scott Heyman room, Old Jail.

**November 18 3:00-5:00** – Next TANG meeting – Note **different location**: Town of Ithaca Town Hall (in the old post office). Tioga Room – **Tony Ingraffea** will speak to TANG. Since there will be no meeting in December, I hope this meeting can go until 5:00.

**December** – there will be no meeting of TANG in December.