

Work Session Summary

March 25, 2011

Attendance: Edward Coar (Chairman), Commissioner Brian Smith, Chris Barrett, Donna Labar, Bob Muller, Michele Stahl, Pete Hooker, Dave Messersmith, Jennifer Porter, Sgt. Sean Georgia, Robert Suhosky

Introductions – Sergeant Sean Georgia, Pennsylvania State Police - Honesdale Station Commander was welcomed and introduced to the Task Force. He will serve on the Public Safety Sub-Committee.

Future Public Meeting – Dave Messersmith of the Outreach Sub-Committee reported that potential speakers have been lined up and contacted. The next public meeting will likely be scheduled for late spring or early summer. Also, Mr. Messersmith indicated that there is a new publication from the Penn State Extension coming out. The forthcoming publication consists of a survey of local businesses in Bradford and Washington Counties detailing how shale development has affected their business. It is anticipated that the publication will be available at the time of the next Task Force work session.

Websites – Donna Labar was commended for updates to the Chamber of Commerce website. The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) website still needs to be updated. The process to update that site with information pertaining to the natural gas industry is nearly complete, as reported by Commissioner Brian Smith and Pete Hooker of the Wayne County EMA. It was mentioned that the member organization websites should be continually updated as the need arises. Edward Coar also noted that model zoning ordinances are being posted on the Planning Sub-Committee website.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Draft Regulations – The written comment deadline period has been extended to April 15, 2011. It was reported by Carol Collier, Executive Director of the DRBC, that September of this year is the earliest DRBC Commissioners would vote on the proposed regulations.

Bradford County Visit – Chairman Edward Coar and Commissioner Brian Smith toured Bradford County with Bradford County Commissioner Doug McLinko. Mr. Coar showed slides of pictures taken on their tour. They encountered a new hotel that was being constructed and, reportedly, is already booked in advance for three years. One of the sites they visited was the newly constructed housing facility for the Chesapeake / NOMAC workers located in Athens, PA. It was observed that it is a secure gated facility with on-site dining and recreational services. The facility has taken some of the pressure off of the need for housing in the area. Mr. Coar also showed pictures taken last September of a railroad line near Mehoopany / Wyalusing that was active with material moving related to the gas industry. Mr. Coar next showed a reconstructed township road near Troy. Commissioner Smith indicated that a tremendous amount of stone was being used to maintain the roads and the local quarries were very busy trying to fulfill that need. He noted the gas companies are working right through the winter and the roads are constantly being maintained and repaired as needed. Mr. Coar also showed several pictures of different water collection and distribution facilities from the Northern Tier. The sites depicted allowed for truck transport of water. Commissioner Smith noted that water is also being pumped via over land pipe networks. Pictures of several drilling sites at various stages of completion were also shown to the Task Force.

Work Session Summary

Sub-Committee Reports:

Workforce – Jennifer Porter reported that the sub-committee will meet every other month starting April 15th. Even though the actual drilling is in somewhat of a holding pattern, they are still moving forward with workforce development. A representative from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) will be speaking at the April sub-committee meeting. The representative will shed some light on their workforce needs and the types of potential job openings, as well as the level of training and/or certification desired. The goal is to provide an educational forum to provide those assisting job seekers with the most current and accurate information. Local colleges can also call in to participate in the sub-committee meetings. They are also continually working to keep the information on the Workforce Wayne website up to date.

Public Safety – Pete Hooker reported that the next sub-committee meeting will take place in April. They are looking at bringing in Wild Well Control, Inc. in late May or early June to do some training sessions with the Fire Chiefs first and then subsequently the actual fire fighters later in the summer. The EMS Captains, Pennsylvania State Police and hospital emergency room staff will also be involved in these training sessions. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force has purchased the Cooper Notification System, which is basically a reverse 911 system. This will provide both audio and text alerts for emergency situations for those who sign up for it. The alerts can be distributed to both home phones and cellular phones. This system, which shall be implemented in the near future, will provide alerts for many different types of incidents, not just those related to the natural gas industry. As mentioned previously, the EMA website is being updated with natural gas industry related information and those updates will be available in the near future.

Planning – Edward Coar reported that Ron Lewis, former Lebanon Township Supervisor, was added to the Planning Sub-Committee. As noted previously, Mr. Coar reported that one model zoning ordinance is posted on the Planning Sub-Committee webpage. In addition, a second model ordinance is in the process of being added. Those ordinances can be accessed by clicking on the green ‘Natural Gas’ banner on the Planning Department page of the Wayne County website at www.co.wayne.pa.us.

Outreach – Dave Messersmith reported that the Outreach Sub-Committee will meet again in late April. The sub-committee will continue work on the development of the next Task Force public meeting that was referenced earlier in this summary. Mr. Messersmith passed out copies of a new Penn State Extension publication titled ‘*State Tax Implications of Marcellus Shale: What the Pennsylvania Data Say in 2010*’. Copies of this publication are currently available online on the Penn State Extension website at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ua468.pdf>.

Work Session Summary

Environment – Bob Muller passed out copies of a publication titled ‘*The Marcellus Shale: Resources for Stakeholders in the Upper Delaware Watershed Region*’. The publication was produced by a sub-committee of the Common Waters Partnership of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Mr. Muller indicated that practices among the drilling companies have changed somewhat from the time that development of this publication commenced. He mentioned that increased knowledge of the drilling process and economics have addressed some of the concerns prior to the release of this publication. It was also indicated that much of the information presented originated from a publication of the United States Department of the Interior on gas well development and associated best practices. The Environment Sub-Committee will be evaluating the content of the publication. Mr. Muller also mentioned that Pike County has recently formed a Marcellus Shale Task Force.

Economic Development – Donna Labar reported that the sub-committee will meet again next month. Mrs. Labar indicated that TGP is expected to be in the area by April 1st to commence work on the pipeline upgrade; the term of the project is anticipated to be about seven (7) months. At the time being the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) are working on to update their websites with natural gas related information.