

RECORD OF MEETING

Subject:	Pike County Marcellus Shale Task Force
Date:	January 26, 2011, Wednesday
Time:	10:30am to 12:00pm
Location:	Commissioners Meeting Room, County Administration Bldg, 506 Broad Street, Milford
Attendees:	See sign-in sheet
Next Meeting:	Wednesday, April 27, 2011 (10:30am) Commissioners Meeting Room, Milford

Welcome – Commissioner Chairman Richard Caridi, Harry Forbes and Karl A. Wagner, Jr.

The Commissioners welcomed Task Force members, municipal representatives, media and interested citizens. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to those who have agreed to serve on the Task Force.

Why Form a Task Force – The Commissioners reviewed briefly the justification and need for forming a Task Force at this juncture citing numerous examples in other counties where Task Force organization has played a key role in opening lines of communication and cooperation to address issues related to Marcellus Shale Activities. It is hoped that through this cooperation and communication that Pike County can minimize negative impacts and help ensure that positive impacts are fully realized.

Structure of the Task Force – Sally Corrigan, Director of Pike County Planning, reviewed the October 1, 2010 document provided with the meeting notice. This document provided an overview of the Marcellus Shale Task Force (MSTF) and its structure. Corrigan reviewed the list of members on the Task Force and then gave a brief description of the several Task Force Committees. It was noted that the composition of the Planning and Government Committee includes appointed representatives from each of the thirteen (13) municipalities in the county. The Elected Chairman of the Planning and Government Committee will sit as a member of the Task Force bringing the municipal governing board concerns forward. The Roads Committee for the Marcellus Shale Task Force will be the existing Pike County Road Task Force. The Public Safety Committee for the MSTF will be the existing Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The other Committees include Economic Development, Education, Environment. Those in attendance were asked to indicate on the sign-in sheet on which Committee/s they would like to participate.

Charge of the Committee – The Commissioners again referenced the importance of being prepared for the activities which will eventually come to Pike County. Pike County has not yet seen the marcellus activity of other areas of the state, so the County is in a good place to begin work with the Task Force. The Commissioners see the Task Force as a critical framework for communication, education, cooperation, planning and coordination.

Current Issues Update –

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Draft Marcellus Shale Regulations – The DRBC has released its draft regulations concerning Marcellus Shale activity in the Delaware River Basin. The comment period is currently open and will end on March 16. Those wishing to comment need to pay close attention to the commenting rules and format listed on the DRBC website. A public hearing on the Draft regulations will be held on February 22 starting at 1:00pm at Honesdale High School.

Exploration of Other Geologic Layers – While the focus right now in PA is on developing Marcellus Shale, companies are starting exploration of several other layers. Exploratory wells have been drilled into the Utica and Upper Devonian layers. The Utica underlies the Marcellus and covers a much larger area. The Upper Devonian layer sits above the Marcellus Shale. Development of these other layers is in its infancy. Steve Vitale, Engineer and MSTF Member, at this point described the term “overcooked.”

Tennessee Gas Pipeline – Pipeline expansion is the first issue for Pike County involving Marcellus Shale activity and development. Tennessee Gas is currently proposing to loop the pipeline around Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area lands instead of expanding the existing right-of-way. The pipeline expansion is needed to get more gas to the markets to the east.

Discussion – At this point the Commissioners opened the meeting for discussion. Several points follow: Will there be public official disclosure as to whether officials or those sitting on the Task Force have a current gas lease or are receiving any lease royalties or income from the gas companies. There are documents for Disclosure and/or Conflict of Interest statements from other counties that could be used as a model. These will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

MSTF members and citizens should be aware of the source of any educational materials and information on the subject to watch for potential biases. As an example, some material is distributed by concerned citizens groups, some by the gas companies, others by colleges and universities, etc.

Baseline testing of water sources, particularly public and municipal water supplies, for documentation of current water quality should be addressed. Is this part of the drilling company responsibility under the permit? Can municipalities address this and begin baseline tracking? Water testing should include which chemicals?

There was a question on how many leases there currently are in Pike County. How many acres of land and which gas companies are involved currently.

Meeting Handouts

Pike County Marcellus Shale Task Force Need, Mission, Goals, Committee make-up and Members (Oct 1,2010)
Map of PA showing Task Force formation in other counties
PSU Synopsis of Leadership and Committee makeup of Task Forces for six counties across the northern Tier
Map of Delaware River Basin and underlying Marcellus Shale Play
Announcement of DRBC Public Hearings on Draft Marcellus Shale Regulations out for comment
No. of DEP Gas Permits Issued and wells drilled state-wide in 2010; location of production data on DEP website
Map of Pike County showing approx. acreage and location of existing recorded leases as of October 2010

Pike County Information - Sally Corrigan stated the county is trying to keep all current pertinent information on the county website. Go to: <http://www.pikepa.org/marcellus.html>

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 27, 2011 (10:30am) Commissioners Mtg Room, 506 Broad Street, Milford.

Adjournment of MSTF meeting.

MSTF Planning and Government Committee Meeting – A brief meeting of the members of the Planning and Government Committee was held in order to set a Committee meeting date and time and to identify an interim Chairman for the Committee. The first meeting of the P/G Committee will be February 24 at 4:00pm location TBA. Interim Chair identified was Michael Zibrin, Blooming Grove Twp. representative.