

**STEBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Joint Organizational Meeting**

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

*1:30 p.m.*

*Legislative Chambers*

*Steuben County Office Building*

*Bath, New York*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Patrick F. Donnelly, Chair Joseph J. Hauryski	Mark R. Alger Dave Erwin	Amy Dlugos
<b>HOUSING:</b>	Kathryn Muller Dawn Dowdle	Robert Anderson, Ph.D. Marvin Rethmel	Robert Bates Judy Ceelli
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>	John Tunney Mike Sprague Sal Trentanelli	David Hopkins Arnold Champlain	Joel Ordway Mike Wilson
<b>ROADS &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE:</b>	Karl Anderson Vincent Spagnoletti Jeff Parker	Dan Hamilton Steve Orcutt	David English Elaine Swiler
<b>ADVISORY:</b>	Alexander Wahlig, MD Mary Hickey	Jim Grace Peggy Coleman	Jim Sherron Mark Schlechter
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jack Wheeler	Brenda Mori	
<b>OTHERS:</b>	Mary Perham, <i>The Leader</i>		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Donnelly called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming and for agreeing to serve. It is very important for the County to identify the risks and issues in order to be protected from natural gas drilling. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**II. MISSION STATEMENT**

Chairman Donnelly asked Mrs. Dlugos to review the Mission State. Mrs. Dlugos stated the mission of the Steuben County Natural Gas Task Force is to address natural gas development related impacts on County government operations and make the best use of opportunities and to assist local governments or other agencies with impacts or opportunities when feasible and appropriate.

Mrs. Dlugos commented that a lot of counties, in addition to focusing on county operations, are looking at environmental issues as we are through the Environmental Management Council. We really sat down and thought about the issues and the stakeholders who should be represented. A lot of counties are looking at the same issues we are focusing on as well as some broader issues that the counties and towns do not have much control over.

**III. COMMITTEES**

A. Chairpersons of Sub-Committees – Mr. Alger stated we have identified three sub-committees; Public Safety, Housing and Roads and Infrastructure. The District Attorney, John Tunney has been appointed Chair of the Public

Safety Sub-Committee. This committee will be looking at issues relating to EMS, law enforcement, traffic, etc. Karl Anderson, a municipal attorney, has been appointed Chair of the Roads and Infrastructure Sub-Committee. In particular, their function will be to look at the importance of relaying information to the towns and the difficulties that drilling may present to the towns. They will look at road use agreements and if a municipality does not have zoning laws, look at site plan review laws. Lastly, the Commissioner of Social Services, Kathryn Muller, has been appointed the Chair of the Housing Sub-Committee. We are hoping this group will focus on issues relating to housing, look at the potential increase in occupancy at hotels/motels and the availability of housing for workers and/or local residents. Mr. Alger stated the Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees will be appointed as members to the Steering Committee.

Mr. Donnelly commented that a concern had been raised about having an environmental sub-committee. We have our Environmental Management Council which is made up of very dedicated, educated individuals and we will ask them to review information and pass on their recommendations. They have been actively reviewing and commenting on the draft EIS now under consideration by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

B. Role of Advisory Members – Mr. Alger stated that the Advisory Members represent various groups and each individual brings to the table their expertise. Advisory Members will be called upon for different purposes. We are attempting to identify issues and we will let each committee know which issues we would like them to look at. Some of these issues will warrant involvement from the Advisory Members.

#### **IV. PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS**

A. Press Releases – Mr. Alger stated that individual members are welcome to make public comments on their own; however, official statements and/or policies will be fed through the sub-committees to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will issue press releases.

B. Website – Mrs. Dlugos stated that the website for the Natural Gas Task Force may be found as a link on the Steuben County website at [www.steubencony.org](http://www.steubencony.org). We will post meeting notices, agendas, minutes, etc. on this site. In addition, we also have a distribution list for members of the public who are interested. Mr. Donnelly commented that by virtue of you accepting your appointment, you are already in the email distribution list, as are those individuals who were not appointed. We felt the need to keep the sub-committees at a manageable size.

Mr. Schlechter asked with regard to involvement from the public, will you be disseminating information to the public with regard to what the committees will be looking at? Mr. Alger replied yes. As we go forward, we will circulate information. Mr. Donnelly commented that we would prefer to send out all information via email.

Mr. Hauryski commented that with regard to the sub-committee membership and the Advisory Members, we have a very good cross section of people, and that will benefit us. He commented that he attended a couple of sessions in Pennsylvania and had a firsthand look at the road infrastructure issues. One of the things that he has been thinking about is to not reinvent the wheel as you start holding your first few meetings. He would like the membership to think about all of the various issues that you will be faced with and how that will impact the County and towns. It will be a challenge. Mr. Hauryski stated that he appreciates everyone participating and for devoting your time and effort to this.

Mr. Donnelly stated that now that the Chairpersons have been announced, we will be meeting with them to discuss meeting schedules and then you will receive a notice of your first meeting. Thank you all for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman  
Senior Stenographer  
Steuben County Legislature