

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

**Friday, August 6, 2010**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Steuben County Office Building  
Legislative Committee Conference Room  
Bath, New York**

**MINUTES**

**Committee:** Patrick F. Donnelly, Chair  
Mark R. Alger  
Joseph J. Hauryski  
David Erwin  
John Tunney, Public Safety Chair  
Karl Anderson, Roads & Infrastructure Chair

**Advisory Members:** James Sherron  
Al Wahlig  
Jennifer Fais  
Peggy Coleman

**Sub-Committee Members:** Sal Trentanelli, Public Safety  
Lee Hersh, Environmental Management Council  
Marv Rethmel, Housing  
Elaine Swiler, Roads & Infrastructure

**Staff:** Jack Wheeler  
Brenda Mori

**Other:** Edward Young  
Mary Perham, *The Leader*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Donnelly at 1:30 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS MADE BY MR. ERWIN. SECONDED BY MR. TUNNEY. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES.**

**III. GENERAL BUSINESS**

A. Meeting with Chairpersons of Sub-Committees – Mr. Donnelly stated once you get the meeting schedule established, the Steering Committee would like to meet with the Chairs to discuss topics.

B. Topics – Mr. Alger distributed a topic list of issues that might need to be addressed by each of the committees. He noted there are probably other topics you'd like to include that we haven't thought of. He reviewed the topics suggested to be covered by the Public Safety Committee. Some of the issues they will need to deal with include increased crime and traffic accidents, need for additional law enforcement patrols, and increased caseload for the courts, district attorney and public defender.

Mr. Alger stated the Infrastructure and Landfill Committee has many issues to review. Mainly a road use agreement for all municipalities. It is an operational and legal issue from the standpoint of drafting it. We would like to distribute those and have the towns review them so they can get them into place. Also, the issue of site plan review or zoning depending on the municipality they are dealing with. We hope to be able to develop a good model for the towns to look at. Landfill deals with potential waste from increased activity, plus the accepting of tailings from drilling itself. One of the areas that were identified by the folks in Pennsylvania as a real problem is material availability. There is very likely to be a big demand for gravel, stone and materials like that for the development of the sites and access roads to the wells. Discussion followed.

Mr. Alger stated the Housing Committee is a little different in that it is an indirect impact. The expectation is you will see a much tighter rental market and many of the units will see increased rent, which will make existing residents have a hard

time obtaining housing. In Pennsylvania they develop groups of camping trailers where the gas company actually provides water and sewer. Issues related to these areas are ones the towns need to take into consideration. One issue related to all of these areas is availability of manpower. The workforce becomes an issue as the gas industry may be negotiating away your skilled workforce, which will hurt other businesses.

Mr. Donnelly states he thinks commercial properties will have issues as far as availability. Mr. Alger stated you might see many suppliers of the industry pop up throughout the County.

Mr. Hauryski stated the companies need space for storing pipes and tanks, and that was a major problem for them in Pennsylvania; finding space for a staging area. Mr. Alger stated that is a local zoning issue as well. The staging areas don't seem very organized and from a management standpoint, the towns may want to be able to control that as far as appearance and maintenance. Related to that is the potential volume of trucks and where they go when they aren't in use. People need to be thinking about that as well.

Mr. Tunney stated clearly some people have experience seeing these areas first hand and the impact that this will have. I don't have that experience. Is there a package of basic information that we can obtain from which we can work from so that we have some sense of what to expect? Mr. Alger stated there is nothing like an afternoon drive in the Pennsylvania area to see the impact. Mr. Donnelly suggested including Steering and Sub-Committee members on the tour the Clerk of the Legislature is trying to arrange for the Legislators. Discussion followed.

Mr. Tunney stated I think it would be helpful if there were some basic information about the scope of these projects, i.e. number of people, anticipated number of wells, locations, length of time, etc. Mr. Alger stated the scope initially is going to spread from the border, northward. However, nobody will tell us the extent of their interest in the County.

Mr. Erwin stated Jack Benjamin of Three Rivers Development quoted some figures that were relevant to what they are looking at, based upon what they are seeing in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Coleman stated we're feeling the impact now and they aren't drilling here yet. From that, you can ascertain that even if they are drilling in only the southern part of the County, the rest of the County will be impacted.

Mr. Young stated I deal with the gas well industry on a daily basis. The initial impact will be in Binghamton, and spread rapidly into Chemung, Steuben and then the rest of the State within a five year period. Everybody gets hung up on the Marcellus shale, but the Utica shale is even deeper and covers more area. Last year in Steuben County alone, the gas companies purchased gas mineral rights worth \$30 million. Look at your Trenton/Black River storage facilities. The infrastructure is there already so they will begin there and branch out. They will build the transport infrastructure first before they dig the wells. They will plug off the storage facilities and you'll see them come up to the Utica formation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Alger stated these are just starting points for thought. Mr. Hauryski stated it is a good list; very comprehensive. Mr. Alger stated Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Dlugos worked on it together.

C. Timeline – Mr. Alger stated the State Senate extended the moratorium on drilling until May 2011. Practically, how that impacts potential development in New York is unknown. There is some expectation that between now and next year DEC will finalize their regulations so May isn't that out of line. The DEC Commissioner has to sign off on the final environmental impact statement. Once it is issued, that's when we would expect someone to challenge their findings so it will be dragged out. Discussion followed.

D. Meeting with Secretarial Staff – Mrs. Mori reported that she's contacted the Department Heads who have offered to allow one of their employees to provide secretarial services to the sub-committees and all but one has provided her with names of the secretaries and their back-up. She will be setting up a meeting with the Sub-Committee Chairs and the secretaries to review the flow of information and what is necessary for inclusion in the minutes.

E. Advisory Members

1. **Report** – Mr. Alger stated if they wish to, he would like each of the Advisory Members to give the Steering Committee a report on their perspective of the potential gas development. For example, the issues they see

and anything they think we are missing on the suggested topics or issues we haven't considered. We may want to have a public hearing to allow the general public to speak, so we can take testimony and written statements. Mr. Donnelly stated we could possibly schedule it from 5 pm to 8 pm some evening.

Mr. Young stated I've been involved in a number of these meetings and if you open it to the public, you will fill this building. The organizations will come in with 100 to 200 people and they will take over the meeting. My suggestion is if you open it up to the public, only accept written comments. At least there is a time control there. Discussion followed.

F. Next Meeting – Mr. Donnelly offered Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. for the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

G. Other – Ms. Fais stated the Appalachian Regional Commission has determined that the Marcellus Shale is an important issue. As such, they are offering funding with a 50/50 match to assist the Counties in their review of the issues. The regional planning board is asking each of the County task forces how their funding can help them in the review of issues. She noted that she believes personnel time can be applied towards the match as in-kind services.

Mr. Young stated something he has seen in Pennsylvania is the tech schools starting educational programs to train students for jobs associated with the gas well drilling. Many of the area high school graduates are entering these programs. The gas industry doesn't have many people skilled in this type of work. This is not a short term project so now would be the perfect time to bring Corning Community College and BOCES in to help with the training. If we could guide them into some of these types of jobs, it would be to our benefit. Ms. Fais stated that conversation has already started with Corning Community College.

Ms. Swiler stated she attended a session in Owego and they mentioned at the session that they are starting to train students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She noted it is potential income for them and it will encourage them to stay in the area. They also were trying to use Corning Community College. Mr. Young stated if you approach the gas companies, they would probably help contribute to the cost of the training. They can be a good neighbor if you work with them. He believes they have the opportunity to pull it together to benefit the area.

Mr. Donnelly asked the sub-committee chairs to get a draft meeting schedule together.

Mr. Erwin recommended adding Russ Miller of Corning Natural Gas as an Advisory Member. Mr. Donnelly stated he didn't see a problem with that. Ms. Fais noted that he works in Caton with the Marcellus Shale compressors station.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. ERWIN. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda K. Mori, Clerk  
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR  
Friday, August 20, 2010  
1:30 p.m.  
Legislative Committee Conference Room**