

AD HOC NATURAL GAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2010

The Ad Hoc Natural Gas Education Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Thursday, October 7, 2010 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: G. LaBare (Chair), J. Marinich, S. Herz, R. Williams, C. Burger

Members Absent: None

Others Present: J. Sluzar, Law; M. Gerchman, Budget; C. McElwee, Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District; M. Lovegreen, Bradford County Conservation District; K. Glouber, L. Roberts, Resident; D. Reynolds, S. Buchta, C. Marion, E. Denk, C. Hall, Legislature

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:10 PM.

Mr. McElwee from the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District explained that New York's Conservation Districts are referred to as "gateways" to natural resource management in local communities sharing boundaries with New York Counties and providing links between land owners, local government and a host of conservation service providers. There are 58 Districts in New York that are responsible for educating the public on the benefits of conservation practices. The Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District is part of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition which is comprised of 16 Districts from New York and 3 from Pennsylvania. He provided the committee with "Soil and Water Conservation Districts Role in Natural Gas Development in NYS", "New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Guidelines for Construction and Restoration at Natural Gas Well Drilling Sites in Agricultural Areas" and "USGS Water Resources and Natural Gas Production from the Marcellus Shale" (On file with the minutes)

Mr. Lovegreen, Manager of the Bradford County Conservation District explained a little about what Bradford County Pennsylvania is experiencing with the natural gas drilling boon in the Marcellus Shale. "Play" is how it is referred to and accurately describes the process of signing leases, companies trading leases, leases being consolidated, pipeline infrastructure being set, and wells being drilled.

The Bradford County Conservation District provides pre-authority water withdrawal technical assistance including application assistance, permit processing and site visit and assistance and confirmation of information, and post-authority withdrawal technical assistance including permit information, landowner assistance and municipal assistance.

Some areas of concern for local governments are roads and bridges, water, infrastructure, housing needs, schools, cultural change, economic development and environmental impacts. They have seen the amounts of rent triple making it hard for some to find affordable housing. There has been an influx of uninsured workers associated with the gas drilling process visiting hospital emergency rooms for various services. There has been a tremendous increase in truck traffic with some roads seeing over 300 trucks per day. Large staging areas are being set up for storage of material involved in the process. Broome County has the opportunity to look at its rail road access and brownfield areas for such staging areas. There has been an increase in reservoir permits where pipelines are being laid, above ground and underground, to transport water to drilling locations instead of it being trucked in. There has also been an increase in quarry permits. The larger companies are around for years, with subcontractors, sometimes 20-30 per job, each there only to complete their specialty.

Mr. Lovegreen has found the industry cooperative to work with and a good job is being done with

reclamation of the land. He feels there should have been more education on a process that can be overwhelming and where planning is key.

Suggestions for speakers at the next meeting included the PSC, Agricultural and Markets, geologists, attorneys, BC Emergency Services, and BC Health Department. The next meeting was not set but will be after the County's budget process.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.