

Multi-State Marcellus Meeting

Draft Meeting Notes
December 11, 2008

Attending: Walt Whitmer, Andrew McDonald, Trisha Smreca, Jeffrey Jacquet, Rod Howe, Jennifer Williams, Rich Stedman, Tim Kelsey, Kathy Brasier, Charlie Abdalla, Stephan Goetz

Lessons/impressions from the summit

Shallowness of Marcellus in NY alters picture a bit
Workforce and enterprise development are important elements
Important to frame risks and benefits
Will require adaptive decision making
Cumulative impacts will be the key
Can gas companies help fund efforts?
Need for a clearinghouse of information
Data access remains a challenge
Is NSF baseline data support a possibility
Need to provide assessment and summary information
Lots of NE implications
How are different states handling various regs/policies
All this does have the potential to truly be a transformative force for many communities
Need to balance/pay attention to pressing questions as well as long term implications
Lots of need for multi-disciplinary team work
Are there seed grant opportunities here?
Need to draw on wide range of researchers and universities

Critical Research Questions/Issues

How do communities translate income influx into long term viability?
What does all this mean for the future and make-up of agriculture?
What are the impacts on forest owner decisions and the how this may change their resource decisions?
Lots of workforce, population, and demographic issues/questions/changes
How does this affect perceptions of risk and what does previous research have to offer?
Lots of complicated infrastructure questions – what will they cost and who will pay?
How will all this fit into the new administration priorities?
Wastewater issue will be HUGE
Need to leverage/pay attention to hybrid policy needs and disciplines
Lots of socio-economic profile/growth management work to do
Who are the winners and losers – and what policy decisions affect these outcomes?
Need community baseline data
Should seek NSF funding
Liability issues – what are they, how do they affect who? (especially related to water)
What are sludge and waste water components?

What do citizens do with the \$\$

All of this has a sense of urgency and must be proactive if we are to avoid being relegated to post-mortems?

Next Steps/Considerations

Continue the dialogue – and on-going discussions – but need to focus on tangible outcomes

Need another face to face – but budgets are tight

Explore/establish communications/clearinghouse venue/software – Walt will explore.

Continue conference calls

Move toward face to face mini-symposium – March or April – to focus on research questions/priorities

Need to develop answers to key questions

Need to stay focused as well on critical Extension questions

Next call mid-Jan – Walt to send out doodle

Small group (Rod, Tim, Walt, Kathy, others?) to explore symposium idea prior to next call