

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Human Services Development Complex
Minutes from 1-27-11

Present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Froebel-Town of Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bishop-Town of Tyrone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Kelly-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Phillips-Village of Watkins Glen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Schuyler Co. Legislator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |

Call to order – 7:02PM

Welcome

Officers for 2011 – Tim O’Hearn nominated the following:

- President – Ben Dickens
- Vice President – Donna Kelly
- Secretary – Vacant

Motion to accept the slate as nominated – Judy Phillips; Seconded by Dale Walters. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Winkler, Health Officer – Flu is active throughout NYS. It is not as prevalent in the rural communities. Strep throat is on the rise in our area. Phil Barnes spoke about a bed bug issue in an apartment complex in Watkins Glen and who is responsible to oversee or monitor the issue. As the bug does not carry disease and are more of a nuisance, it is not a Public Health issue.

Watershed Protection Law – Tim Hicks, Watershed Director relayed information on the proposed changes in the Watershed Protection Law. Much of the law remains unchanged, but there have been significant alterations, both additions and subtractions. The most significant changes are:

- Updating the language in the local law to reflect technical changes to the State Residential Wastewater Treatment Standards
- Addition of mandatory real property transfer evaluations for both water and wastewater systems
- Elimination of Article 4 – public health nuisance section
- Addition of county requirements for the land application of septage biosolids

Tim Hicks invited the group to attend the Seneca Lake Area Partners (SLAP) meetings to help facilitate the process of protecting the lake. SLAP 5 is hosting a series of meetings within the watershed throughout 2011. Each meeting will have a host county, in which special consideration and discussion will focus on the host community’s strengths, weaknesses, and challenges as they relate to Seneca Lake. You are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings and participate in the discussion. Call Tim at 535-6868 for additional information.

Tim Hicks shared an opportunity to assist low income home owners throughout Schuyler County to repair or replace failed septic systems and/or water wells. The funds can also be used to replace water & sewer laterals where homeowners have public water or sewer. For more information contact Arbor Development at 607-776-7664 or SC Watershed Protection Agency at 607-535-6868.

Sales Tax Update /2011 Budget – Tim O’Hearn shared the perspective that placing a tax cap would not fix the states fiscal problems. This is not a local problem but a state issue. All indications are that the tax cap will pass at the state level.

Voting Machines - Tim O’Hearn met with the Election Commissioners who are getting direction from the state on dispensing of the old machines. They will keep 4 machines for archival purposes. Tim will keep you all up to date once he receives clarification from the state level.

SCOPED Funding – Guidelines were to be put in place to cap funding for Economic Development through SCOPED. Measure’s were put out last meeting. If you feel there are issues to be addressed, reach out to SCOPED or this group.

Energy Task Force – Dennis Fagan stated that the sub group recommends managing your private water supply (see attachment below). Projection is that drilling is not going to affect us directly for several years.

Around the table –

Peggy Tomassi – National County Government Month is April 2011. Should you wish to do something in your local areas, please let Peggy know or if you need her assistance.

Next meeting: April 27th at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

Managing your Private Water Supply Related to Natural Gas Development in Schuyler County

Assessing Risk

One of the most frequent concerns when discussing hydrofracking and natural gas development within Schuyler County is the potential impact to water resources—often directly, “what are the risks to my water supply?” and “what should I do to protect my own water supply?” The answer to the first question is particularly polarizing, often hotly debated, and will certainly not be answered within this document. The answer to the second question is more easily provided—although not without its own costs, caveats and disclaimers. As the owner of a private water supply, you are in charge and responsible to ensure that the water you get from the faucet is suitable to drink—not the town, county, state or the federal government. A considerable amount of legislation and public money has been expended to protect that water from contamination, but in the end, no institution can ensure that the water from your own well is fit to drink.

So, the simple answer to the second question (what should I do to protect my water supply?) is; if you have a private water supply have your water tested for various parameters prior to drilling in your area, continue testing during the development activity to compare and assess potential impact, and then continue testing for several months to years after drilling has ceased. The real difficulty comes in deciding what parameters to test for and when to conduct the testing. It should be noted that under the draft NYS DEC regulations, the drilling company is required to conduct testing, through an independent testing company, for any private supply if you are within 1000 ft (or 2000 ft if no private supplies exist within 1000 ft) of a proposed gas well. This takes place at the company’s expense and at regular intervals thereafter. The required testing parameters are indicated on the table under column 1.

When and how to test

Testing should occur as close as possible to the date the development activity will take place. It appears likely that most hydrofracking activity in NYS will occur east and south of Schuyler, at least during the initial phases. Therefore, while it’s appropriate to routinely test your water for contamination and you are encouraged to do so, if your concern within Schuyler County is hydrofracking, testing your water now is likely not an economical means to protect your water supply (unless you’re interested in establishing a true baseline study; which entails spending thousands of dollars over several seasons). . All analysis should be conducted by an independent, third party NYS approved laboratory (list available at www.wadsworth.org). It is also encouraged to have an unbiased third party, such as the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency or the lab, collect the sample. Preferably, analysis is suggested to take place one to three months prior to development of the gas well. It is recommended to have additional follow up analysis conducted every three months until the drilling activity ceases, at which point it’s suggested to occur yearly thereafter.

What to test

Generally speaking, the greater the number of parameters analyzed, the better position you’re in to adequately assess your health risks. Unfortunately all tests cost money and the more tests you do the more you spend. With this paradox in mind, the Schuyler County Energy Task Force and the Water Quality Coordinating Committee compiled a broad array of parameters for testing prior to drilling (column 2), and then reduced the number of parameters collected for follow up sampling (column 3 if affordable, column 4 at minimum). The parameters suggested are chosen as broad chemical indicators of the most possible water quality risks, while also reflecting analytical costs. However, if the costs are not prohibitive, more parameters are better (columns 1 or even all parameters listed). In the event testing indicates variation within the results, a broader suite of follow up tests is advisable. As a disclaimer, these parameters are offered as general guidance and do not address all potential health risks associated with your water supply. The recommendations do not represent a technical review of current or proposed hydraulic fracturing practices and associated risks, and should be viewed as advisory.

Additional Resources and Contacts

For the purposes of this guidance document, multiple sources were researched. Two documents, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District’s “General Guidance Document on Well Water Monitoring in Advance of High Volume Horizontal Hydrofracking” and Penn State Coop Ext Water Fact Sheet #28 “Gas Well Drilling and Your Private Water Supply”, were particularly useful and are referenced within the table on the opposite page (columns 5 and 6), and should be consulted by anyone considering conducting analysis (both documents are readily available on line). Additional information on water quality testing and water supply concerns can be obtained by contacting the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency at 607-535-6868 or the Hornell District Field Office of the NYS Dept of Health at 607-324-8371.

		Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	
Approx. Cost (not including collection and other fees)	Compound	NYS DEC Mandated test within radius from Draft Regulation	Suggested Baseline Testing	Reduced Follow Up Testing	Minimum Follow Up Testing	Penn State Ext WQ Fact Sheet #28	Otsego SWCD Guidance Doc	Maximum Contaminant Level or guideline recommendation*
\$15-25	Chloride	X	X	X	X	X	X	250 mg/l
\$10-15	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	X	X	X	X	X	X	500 mg/l
\$15-20	Conductivity		X	X	X		X	no designated limit
\$10-20	Chemical Oxygen Demand		X	X	X			no designated limit
\$5-10	pH	X	X	X	X	X	X	no designated limit
\$20-25	Bromide		X	X			X	no designated limit
\$8-15	Total Hardness	X	X	X		X	X	no designated limit
\$40-50	Gross Alpha	X	X	X		X		15 picocuries/liter
Incl. above	Gross Beta	X	X	X				4 mrem/year
\$15-20	Alkalinity	X	X			X	X	no designated limit
\$10-15	Turbidity	X	X					5 NTU
\$15-20	Barium	X	X			X	X	2 mg/l
\$15-20	Iron	X	X				X	0.3 mg/l
\$15-20	Manganese	X	X				X	0.3 mg/l
\$18-25	Arsenic	X	X			X	X	0.01 mg/l
\$18-25	Strontium	X	X					no designated limit
\$125-175	Methane	X	X			X	X	no designated limit
\$40-50	Detergents and surfactants		x			x	x	no designated limit
\$10-20	Coliform bacteria	X				X		Any positive result is unsatisfactory
\$15-20	Lead	X				X	X	0.015 mg/l
\$10-20	Nitrate	X				X		10 mg/l as N
\$10-20	Nitrite	X						1 mg/l as N
\$10-15	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	X				X	X	no designated limit
\$15-20	Carbonates	X						no designated limit
\$15-20	Bicarbonates	X						no designated limit
\$20-30	Sodium	X				X	X	no designated limit
\$25-40	Iron plus manganese	X				X		0.5 mg/l
\$18-25	Sulfate	X				X	X	250 mg/l
\$25-35	Hydrogen sulfide	X					X	no designated limit
\$70-80	Benzene	X						0.005 mg/l
varies	Static water level	X					X	n/a
\$25-35	Total Organic Carbon					X	X	No designated limit
\$135-150	Volatile Organic Compounds (incl BTEX)					X	X	Varies
\$28-35	Oil and Grease					X		Varies
\$60-70	Radon in Water					X		no designated limit
\$150-175	Radium 226 and 228					X	X	5 pCi/L
\$45-55	Total petroleum hydrocarbon						X	no designated limit
\$15-20	Potassium						X	no designated limit
\$1050 – 1450	Approximate Total Cost	\$575 - 700	\$400 - \$450	\$125 - \$150	\$60 - \$75	\$800 - 900	\$775 - 850	*MCL and guidelines taken from US EPA / NYS DOH material

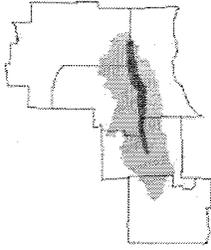
Note—these parameters are offered as general guidance and do not address all potential health risks associated with your water supply. The recommendations do not represent a technical review of current or proposed hydraulic fracturing practices and associated risks, and should be viewed as advisory.

Water Well & Septic Replacement/Repair Grants Available for Schuyler Co.

Schuyler County has been awarded \$170,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to assist low income homeowners throughout Schuyler County repair or replace failed septic systems and/or water wells. The funds can also be used to replace water & sewer laterals where homeowners have public water or sewer. Eligible applicants must have owned and occupied the home for at least 12 months and meet income and certain other guidelines. Land Contracts are not eligible. Arbor Development will be responsible for implementing this program. Persons interested in applying for the program or who would like more information, should contact: Arbor Development at 607-776-7664. Applications are also available at the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency 910 South Decatur Street, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 Phone: (607) 535-6868 Homeowners over the age of 60 can contact their Office for the Aging at 323 Owego St., Unit 7, Montour Falls, NY/ 607-535-7108 for applications and assistance.

Schuyler County HUD Income Limits

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income	\$31,000	\$35,400	\$39,850	\$44,250	\$47,800	\$51,350	\$54,900	\$58,450



SLAP – 5

SENECA LAKE AREA PARTNERS IN FIVE COUNTIES
Chemung Ontario Schuyler Seneca Yates

910 S. Decatur St.
Watkins Glen, NY 14891
607-535-6868

Invitation to Attend
Watershed Management Plan Project Advisory Committee
And the regular SLAP- 5 meeting with a focus on
Schuyler County in the Seneca Lake Watershed

When: Monday, March 7th, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Where: Watkins Glen Community Center
155 S. Clute Park Rd Watkins Glen, NY

Dear Community Leader,

Seneca Lake is a vital resource for the region. From drinking and recreation, to property values and economic development, maintaining the quality of the lake is a fundamental responsibility of everyone living and working within our landscape. To that end, the regional planning boards (Southern Tier Central and Genesee/ Finger Lakes), the Finger Lakes Institute and SLAP 5 are engaging in a watershed planning process over the next two years.

To help facilitate this process of protecting the lake, SLAP 5 is hosting a series of meetings within the watershed throughout 2011. Each meeting will have a host county, in which special consideration and discussion will focus on the host community's strengths, weaknesses and challenges as they relate to Seneca Lake. You are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings and participate in the discussion. The 2011 meeting schedule is:

- March 7th, Host Community; Schuyler County
- May 2nd, Host Community; Seneca County
- July 11th, Host Community; Chemung County
- September 12th, Host Community; Ontario County
- November 7th, Host Community; Yates County

Scheduled from 1 pm to 3 pm, each meeting will consist of the regular Project Advisory Committee meeting for the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan, approximately a thirty minute discussion/presentation by the host community, and will conclude with the regular SLAP 5 meeting. Meeting locations will be determined as the date approaches.

You have received this invitation because you have been identified as a key stakeholder and community leader whose participation will create a better and more complete plan for Seneca Lake. At a minimum, please consider attending the meeting within your host community. Please RSVP your attendance plans to thicks@co.schuyler.ny.us, by calling 607-535-6868, or to the host community's Soil and Water Conservation District.

Best Regards,

Tim Hicks
Chair, SLAP 5



SCHUYLER COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION AGENCY

910 S. Decatur St
Watkins Glen, NY 14891
Phone: (607) 535-6868
Fax: (607) 535-6867
www.schuylercounty.us/wpa.htm

"Watershed protection for clean water and a healthy environment"

State of Individual Water Supplies and Wastewater Treatment Systems in Schuyler County:

A Report on Water and Septic System Failures and the
Financial Burden on Low to Moderate Income Property Owners

By
Tim Hicks
Watershed Inspector

April 2010

Summary: This report provides analysis by the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency on the rate of water supply and septic system failure rates in Schuyler County, NY. These rates indicate a threat to public and environmental health of the community which, due to financial burden, has a particularly large impact on low to moderate income families. The negative effects of these risks should be minimized and improved over time through the tightening of existing regulations and securing outside financial support for low and moderate income households.

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Introduction

Schuyler County is a small, rural community of approximately 20,000 year round residents with a burgeoning tourism, agricultural, winery and natural resource based economy. Located at the south end of Seneca Lake (the largest of New York's Finger Lakes), the landscape is rolling Appalachian hills, valleys, and streams, and contains three headwater lakes of the Chesapeake Bay. Seasonal population influx greatly increases the strain on the water and wastewater infrastructure, which is largely de-centralized.

The County has four incorporated villages, only two of which have public sewer. Public sewer is available for the Village of Montour Falls and the Village of Watkins Glen. An extension of the Watkins Glen district encompasses a small section of the Town of Reading (hugging the Seneca Lake shoreline approximately one mile heading northwest out of the village) and south west into the Town of Dix another three miles to service Watkins Glen International, a world renowned racing facility. The remaining portion of the county, about 75% of residents or 7359 households, rely on wastewater treatment systems (WTS or septic systems) for disposal and treatment of their residential wastewater.

All four villages have public water available, as well as large areas in the Town of Hector. However, public water is only available to less than half of county residents, leaving about 6323 households with individual water supplies (IWS).

Failing water and wastewater treatment systems have long been public and environmental health problems within Schuyler County. Failing water supplies provide direct routes of contamination exposure, an obvious health risk to the consumer, while failing wastewater systems create public health risks through indirect exposure. These risks are especially relevant for low to moderate income families. Due to limited financial resources and the substantial costs associated with replacement, systems in failure owned by low to moderate income families often remain in failure for prolonged periods of time. These systems often result in fines and violations of the local watershed protection law, consuming local governmental resources as staff work to gain compliance. Most owners would willingly comply if financial resources were within reach.

The goal of this document is three fold:

1. provide a rational determination as to the extent of underperforming or failed individual water supplies and wastewater treatment systems
2. assess the financial costs associated with water and wastewater system replacement, while discussing the increased financial burden for low and moderate income households (those households earning 80% or less of mean household income)
3. calculate full scale construction costs for water and wastewater upgrades to protect public health and water quality, with special attention for low and moderate income households

The purpose of this empirical analytical research is to provide local government officials the information and data necessary to make sound policy decisions and to position the community for outside funding assistance. The information collected and analysis conducted for this report clearly underscores a need for financial assistance for low to moderate income households and suggests

an opportunity for tightening of existing regulations to improve the decentralized water and wastewater infrastructure in Schuyler County over the long term.

Agency Background

The Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency (WPA) is an agency within the Public Health Department (a non-full service health department) and has had regulatory authority over wastewater treatment systems in Schuyler County since 1973. The most recent update to the local watershed protection law in 1994 also included modest regulatory oversight of individual water supplies. The WPA's programs also include WTS evaluations for real property transfers and analytical testing of IWS upon request.

As stated previously, the WPA conducts evaluations of WTS at the time of real property transfers. These evaluations are not mandatory. However, if an evaluation is requested by any involved party (i.e. the buyer, an attorney or a lending institution) it is required by the local law that the WPA conduct the evaluation.

The WPA (through a partnership with Benchmark Analytics, a NYS DOH ELAP certified laboratory) also offers water quality analytical services. The vast majority of water testing within the county utilizes these services. This includes residential, regulated facilities and public water supplies. A recent 2008 performance measure of this Agency determined that of all regulated facilities (public water supplies, ag and market facilities, etc) within the county required to conduct regular water quality analysis, 92% used WPA services. It is estimated that residential sampling occurs at or above this level.

The scope of regulatory and other services provided by the WPA affords this agency the best available information to estimate the number of failed water and wastewater treatment systems in the County.

Household Demographic Estimate

Schuyler County has no empirical data of households with private water and septic. In order to provide estimates on the total number of households served by WTS and IWS, calculations were based on 2000 US Census Data and NYS Department of Health data on populations served by public water supplies. Classifications on the economic status of households included in the 2000 US Census SOCDs have been used to calculate the number of low to moderate income households using WTS and IWS. Based upon this source data, the following table indicates the total number of systems and household economic status within Schuyler County:

	Individual Water Supply	Wastewater Treatment System
Low to Moderate Households	3802	4140
All Other Households	2527	3219
Total Households	6323	7359

Failure Rate Estimate

In January of 2008, a database was employed to manage all of the work order requests made for WPA services. Included in the database are all WTS property transfer evaluations conducted, complete replacement septic permits issued, and the results for all of the water samples collected and analyzed by the WPA.

Wastewater Treatment Systems

All properties with a WTS real property transfer evaluation conducted during 2008 and 2009 were included in the scope of this report. During these two years, the WPA conducted 163 evaluations. Of these, a total of 13 required a complete new replacement system. Therefore, the failure rate during the study period was determined using the following formula, the number of failures divided by the number of inspections or:

$$13 \text{ failures} / 163 \text{ total inspections} = 0.08 \text{ or } 8\%$$

While the dataset for this study can be considered random, a potentially significant limitation of this analysis is the skewed nature of the data set. For instance, a property owner could sell a dwelling for cash with no assessment of the WTS. During this time period, the Office of Real Property recorded ownership transfer of a total of 362 properties which were not on public sewer. This indicates that only 46% of the WTS were evaluated at the time of property transfer. Also, the failure rate numbers do not include the number of WTS considered by this Agency to fail an evaluation due to an under-sized or structurally unsound septic tank. If either or both of these qualifications were included in the analysis, the failure rate would certainly grow much higher. Therefore, while a more rigorous method may yield more accurate results, this method of analysis was determined to be the most effective considering current resources, offering a conservative but defensible estimate.

Assuming the failure rate of 8% holds true for all households, the number of wastewater treatment systems in failure is described below;

All Failures=

$$8\% \text{ failure rate} \times 7,359 \text{ households} = 589 \text{ total WTS in failure}$$

Low to Moderate Failures=

$$8\% \text{ failure rate} \times 4140 \text{ low / moderate households} = 331 \text{ WTS in failure}$$

All Other Failures=

$$8\% \text{ failure rate} \times 3219 \text{ other households} = 258 \text{ WTS in failure}$$

Individual Water Supplies

For the IWS analysis, a tabulation of all bacteriological testing for residential properties within the two year study period was conducted using the work order database. Bacteriological testing is the minimum standard established by the US EPA and most utilized in determining potability of water supplies. The total number of IWS's tested within the two year study period was 568. Of those tested, a total of 194 tested positive for coliform bacteria and therefore did not meet the EPA's

potability standards. The failure rate of IWS in the County was determined using the following formula, number of positive tests divided by the number of tests or:

$$194 \text{ positive tests} / 568 \text{ total tests} = 0.34 \text{ or } 34\%.$$

Assuming the failure rate of 34% holds true for all households, the number of individual water supplies in failure is:

All Failures=

$$34\% \text{ failure rate} \times 6323 \text{ households} = 2150 \text{ total IWS in failure}$$

Low to Moderate Failures=

$$34\% \text{ failure rate} \times 3802 \text{ households} = 1293 \text{ total IWS in failure}$$

All Other Failures=

$$34\% \text{ failure rate} \times 2527 \text{ households} = 859 \text{ total IWS in failure}$$

Financial Costs

The cost associated with the replacement of a failed wastewater treatment system or installing a new water well is variable depending on site conditions, soil type and contractor. In an effort to determine total costs and relative impacts on low to moderate income households, this study solicited estimates from three excavation contractors and three certified well drillers in Schuyler County. Actual costs associated for a specific property will vary from these listed average costs.

Wastewater Treatment Systems

Wastewater treatment systems are widely variable due to soil type. Ranges for a typical three bedroom easily span \$5,000 to \$12,000, depending on the design of the system as either conventional or alternative, with some outliers over \$20,000. Alternative designs, such as a sandfilter or raised fill system tend to fill out the higher end of the range while conventional systems are significantly cheaper. The distribution of alternative to conventional systems in Schuyler County in 2008 and 2009 was 88 alternative systems and 82 conventional systems.

Cost estimates for a replacement wastewater treatment system used this weighted measure of 51% being an alternative system. Therefore

$$[(\text{avg. cost alternative system} = \$11,000 \times 51) \times (\text{avg. cost conventional system} = \$6000 \times 49)] \\ /100 = \$8550$$

This value is the average anticipated construction cost, but does not include engineering, permitting and site evaluation work, costing an additional \$500. Adding an 8% contingency of \$700, the **total average replacement cost for a WTS is \$9,750.**

Based on this cost, the calculated failure rate and the household demographic data listed previously the following table provides the total financial scope of replacing all WTS in failure in Schuyler County:

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS			
	Replacement Cost	# Estimated in Failure	Total Cost to Replace
Low to Moderate Income Households	\$9,750	331	\$3,227,250
All other Households	\$9,750	258	\$2,515,500
Full Cost to Replace all Failed WTS			\$5,742,750

Individual Water Supplies

Cost estimates for replacing individual water supplies generally has a less variable range, with most falling in the \$4,000 to \$8,000 range. Based upon the three certified well driller response's, the total average replacement cost for an IWS is \$7,000.

Based on this cost, the calculated failure rate and the household demographic data listed previously the following table provides the total financial scope of replacing all IWS in failure in Schuyler County:

INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLIES			
	Replacement Cost	# Estimated in Failure	Total Cost to Replace
Low to Moderate Income Households	\$7,000	1293	\$9,051,000
All other Households	\$7,000	857	\$5,999,000
Full Cost to Replace all Failed IWS			\$15,050,000

Conclusion and Recommendations

The unforeseen costs of water and wastewater treatment system replacement associated with homeownership can often devastate a family financially. A family of four of modest income can spend 22% of their annual salary on a replacement septic system. A replacement water supply will consume over 16% of their annual salary. These numbers are often simply out of reach for many households in the County.

The total estimated costs associated with replacing all estimated WTS in failure is \$5.7 million, and the replacement costs for IWS is nearly triple that amount at just over \$15 million, bringing the total scope of the problem to nearly \$21 million in Schuyler County. Long-term efforts need to be made to manage and minimize these public health threats.

A more regular well and septic inspection program, such as a mandatory evaluation at the time of property transfer, could reduce the associated risks by identifying and correcting failed systems. However, financial assistance particularly for low to moderate income households, must be sought and secured for a comprehensive long term management program to be successful.

COUNTY SHARE SALES TAX

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2010 BUDGET	% TO LAST YEAR	% TO BUDGET
JANUARY	306,671.96	291,222.43	293,547.35	294,645.97	317,043.34			
	71,997.62	75,965.23	72,233.99	92,090.27	86,043.61			
TOTAL JANUARY	378,669.58	367,187.66	365,781.34	386,736.24	403,086.95	399,468.23	104.23%	100.91%
FEBRUARY	240,362.72	232,240.00	245,059.16	242,230.29	259,658.39			
	67,405.51	56,595.90	69,792.69	48,977.30	69,311.18			
TOTAL FEBRUARY	307,768.23	288,835.90	314,851.85	291,207.59	328,969.57	314,912.77	112.97%	104.46%
MARCH	245,087.12	227,077.34	254,850.10	240,506.07	241,794.37			
	349,892.19	310,895.54	286,560.98	570,552.34	79,908.07			
TOTAL MARCH	594,979.31	537,972.88	541,411.08	811,058.41	321,702.44	673,606.79	39.66%	47.76%
TOTAL 1ST QTR	1,281,417.12	1,193,996.44	1,222,044.27	1,489,002.24	1,053,758.96	1,387,987.68	70.77%	75.92%
APRIL	306,720.73	289,586.48	303,102.31	303,247.24	336,752.26			
	80,664.43	73,400.72	92,117.68	82,406.22	78,949.27			
TOTAL APRIL	387,385.16	362,987.20	395,219.99	385,653.46	415,701.53	424,273.59	107.79%	97.98%
MAY	302,761.51	293,846.60	320,099.20	309,579.98	330,013.67			
	72,207.07	65,092.36	66,886.44	59,576.69	66,779.23			
TOTAL MAY	374,968.58	358,938.96	386,985.64	369,156.67	396,792.90	433,138.87	107.49%	91.61%
JUNE	227,250.00	229,500.00	231,750.00	229,500.00	231,750.00			
	246,468.35	239,766.01	226,721.53	225,767.74	285,159.22			
	305,895.74	277,035.28	231,748.34	273,690.99	221,826.41			
TOTAL JUNE	779,614.09	746,301.29	690,219.87	728,958.73	738,735.63	647,174.34	101.34%	114.15%
TOTAL 2ND QTR	1,541,967.83	1,468,227.45	1,472,425.50	1,483,768.86	1,551,230.06	1,504,586.80	104.55%	103.10%
TOTAL YEAR TO DATE	2,823,384.95	2,662,223.89	2,694,469.77	2,972,771.10	2,604,989.02	2,892,574.47	87.83%	90.06%
JULY	433,965.92	432,453.30	410,252.24	411,745.37	477,112.67			
	115,003.17	83,942.56	100,376.85	74,883.09	110,609.49			
TOTAL JULY	548,969.09	516,395.86	510,629.09	486,628.46	587,722.16	586,437.37	120.77%	100.22%
AUGUST	410,766.90	432,453.30	398,357.12	423,713.93	460,600.72			
	145,327.21	94,754.18	97,493.27	86,409.28	108,091.58			
TOTAL AUGUST	556,094.11	527,207.48	495,850.39	510,123.21	568,692.30	513,092.80	111.48%	110.84%
SEPTEMBER	438,099.25	464,645.63	463,523.36	438,823.82	439,106.27			
	421,075.01	284,739.55	548,117.62	775,393.26	449,621.83			
TOTAL SEPTEMBER	859,174.26	749,385.18	1,011,640.98	1,214,217.08	888,728.10	995,705.18	73.19%	89.26%
TOTAL 3RD QTR	1,964,237.46	1,792,988.52	2,018,120.46	2,210,968.75	2,045,142.56	2,095,235.16	92.50%	97.61%
TOTAL YEAR TO DATE	4,787,622.41	4,455,212.41	4,712,590.23	5,183,739.85	4,650,131.58	4,987,809.63	89.71%	93.23%
OCTOBER	311,062.42	343,118.57	329,796.30	336,447.86	334,063.55			
	93,352.97	84,744.50	65,279.16	72,998.90	68,400.87			
TOTAL OCTOBER	404,415.39	427,863.07	395,075.46	409,446.76	402,464.42	442,481.00	98.29%	90.96%
NOVEMBER	299,585.00	349,521.14	322,282.25	327,334.22	338,573.47			
	65,432.66	87,435.80	77,652.16	64,690.45	78,398.15			
TOTAL NOVEMBER	365,017.66	436,956.94	399,934.41	392,024.67	416,971.62	428,976.71	106.36%	97.20%
DECEMBER	241,500.00	243,750.00	246,000.00	228,750.00	231,000.00			
	166,372.56	153,080.77	159,199.87	178,518.51	184,985.88			
	258,511.11	308,800.64	338,715.96	171,533.51	339,227.57			
TOTAL DECEMBER	666,383.67	705,631.41	743,915.83	578,802.02	755,213.45	723,156.67	130.48%	104.43%
TOTAL 4TH QTR	1,435,816.72	1,570,451.42	1,538,925.70	1,380,273.45	1,574,649.49	1,594,614.37	114.08%	98.75%
GRAND TOTAL	6,223,439.13	6,025,663.83	6,251,515.93	6,564,013.30	6,224,781.07	6,582,424.00	94.83%	94.57%
BUDGET ESTIMATE	5,909,110.00	6,204,565.00	6,204,565.00	6,390,703.00	6,582,424.00			
% OF GRAND TOTAL	105.32%	97.12%	100.76%	102.71%	94.57%			

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Human Services Development Complex
Minutes from 4-27-11

Present:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jocelyn Harrison-Town of Orange |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Froebel-Town of Orange |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bishop-Town of Tyrone |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Swinnerton-Village of Watkins Glen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |

Call to order – 7:00PM

Welcome

Energy Task Force – (Presentation) Dr. Scott Cline presented “Shale Gas Development - Energy Policy, Development Technology, Opportunities, Risks and Misconceptions.” He can be contacted by email at drscottphd@aol.com. Updated information on current wells visit <http://www.fracfocus.org>. It is not yet known whether Marcellus drilling will take place in Schuyler County.

Dr. Winkler, Health Officer – Flu is active throughout NYS. It is not as prevalent in the rural communities. Strep throat is on the rise in our area. Phil Barnes spoke about a bed bug issue in an apartment complex in Watkins Glen and who is responsible to oversee or monitor the issue. As the bug does not carry disease and are more of a nuisance, it is not a Public Health issue.

Sales Tax Update /2011 Budget – Tim O’Hearn shared that the county budget process is underway. State impacts have not been as significant as expected although they will have an impact. CHIPS funds are intact this year. It is unknown as to how, or if they will appear in future years. The state aid for assessments has been eliminated. There will be no direct oversight or governance of assessments by the state. The 1st quarter sales tax results are in (handout). The projection of Economic Growth is 3%. The Legislature will evaluate performance outcomes in determining the amount earmarked toward Economic Development.

Tax Collection Process – The Schuyler County Treasurer sent out delinquent tax notices to all tax parcels in the Town of Montour and a portion of Tyrone as they did not receive notification of payment made within each township. As of this date and as each town is now equipped with internet capability, all towns will now be submitting tax info and sending out their own delinquent notices to tax payers with the town bearing the associated cost.

Chargebacks will now be given to the towns. The towns can change what charges to implement. Will the County pay the fee to the towns? Jane Ike shared that letters were sent to 20 tax payers although taxes had been paid. Tim suggested meeting with the Treasurer.

Around the table –

Next meeting: July 27th at 7:00PM in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

Schuyler County Weekly Surveillance Summary

Local Surveillance Data (week of 4/13-4/20): ER had slightly elevated rates of respiratory illnesses all week, with a larger increase 4/18. Low to moderate levels of respiratory illnesses in schools and physician offices. GI illnesses at baseline.

Regional Surveillance Data: (The region includes the counties of: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates) for the period 4/2/11-4/8/11:

- Chlamydia: Several
- Hepatitis C: 2
- Strep pneumoniae: 1 in an unvaccinated 77 year old smoker
- Group A Strep bacteremia in a 55 year old woman. Investigation is ongoing.
- Influenza A: 1
- Increased influenza like illness in one county.

NYS Update:

Western region: C. difficile outbreak in an acute care hospital. 11 cases, with 1 death since 3/1/2011. Investigation is ongoing.

Central region: Influenza, GI illnesses and scabies continue. GI illnesses seem to occur in waves.

Downstate:

- 7 week old infant death from pertussis. 3 siblings were all current with vaccinations. Parents were offered Tdap and declined. Mom had history of a coughing disease. Investigation ongoing.
- GI outbreak on a college campus, with 115 cases. Undetermined etiology at this time.
- 7 invasive group A strep diagnoses in assorted Long term Care facilities in a short time frame. Investigation ongoing.

NYSwide:

- Overall influenza is decreasing. There was one influenza A pediatric death last week. There have been 91 pediatric deaths across the U.S. this season.
- Because of the widespread occurrence of measles cases, it is recommended that if a provider or ER sees a case with a suspicious rash, that patient should be isolated immediately.

Summary of updated recommendations for use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine --- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2010

General Recommendations

For routine use, adolescents aged 11 through 18 years who have completed the

recommended childhood diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis/diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTP/DTaP) vaccination series and adults aged 19 through 64 years should receive a single dose of Tdap. Adolescents should preferably receive Tdap at the 11 to 12 year-old preventive health-care visit.

Timing of Tdap

- Can be administered regardless of interval since the last tetanus- or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine.

Adults Aged 65 years and Older

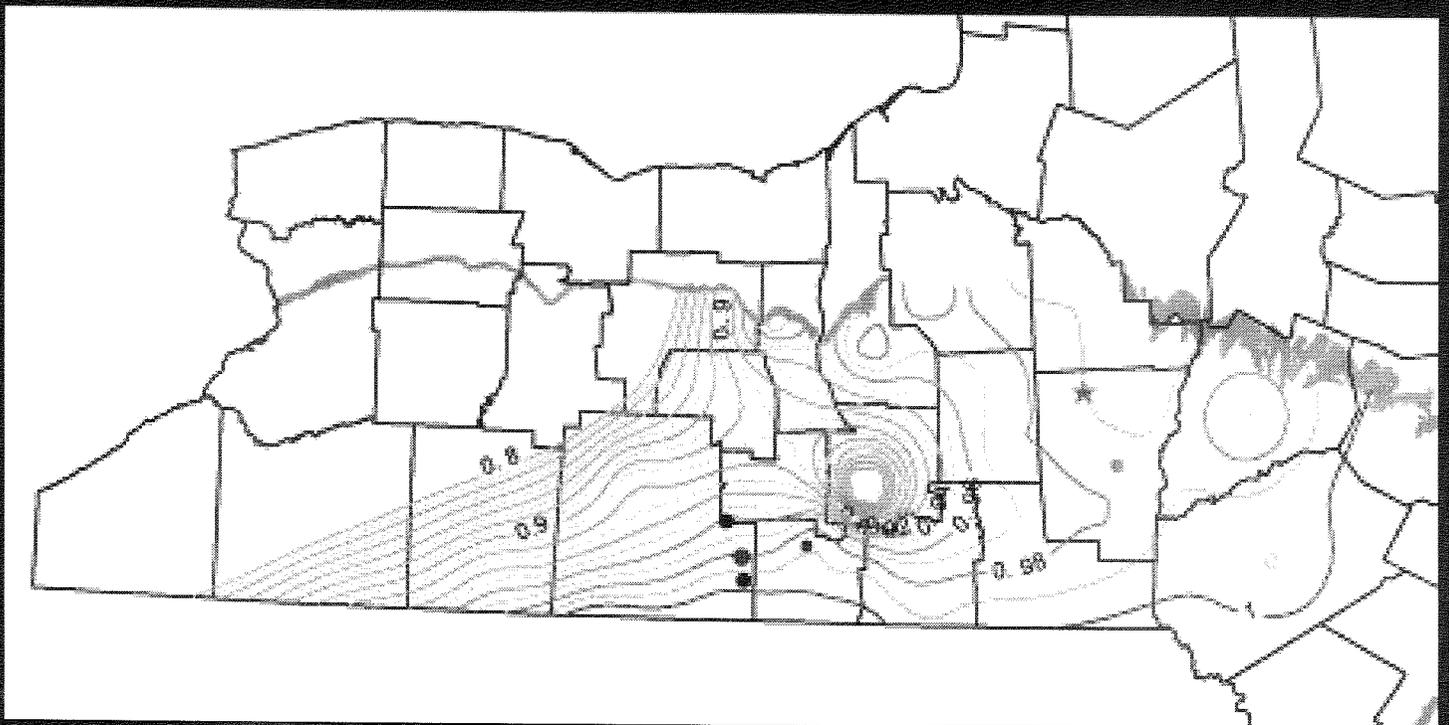
- Those who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant aged less than 12 months should receive a single dose of Tdap.
- Other adults ages 65 years and older may be given a single dose of Tdap.

Children Aged 7 Through 10 Years

- Those not fully vaccinated against pertussis* and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists should receive a single dose of Tdap.
- Those never vaccinated against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis or who have unknown vaccination status should receive a series of three vaccinations containing tetanus and diphtheria toxoids. The first of these three doses should be Tdap.

* Fully vaccinated is defined as 5 doses of DTaP or 4 doses of DTaP if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday.

New Marcellus wells and the TR Map



The geochemistry work that we have done suggest that the shales in this area are favorable - some wells drilled here have not produced

SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION-2011

1ST QUARTER 2011	2,053,156.00
LESS 72% TO SCHUYLER COUNTY	1,478,272.32
Less 4% ED/Planning	\$ 82,126.24
1ST QUARTER TOTAL DISTRIBUTED TO TOWNS & VILLAGES	\$492,757.44

<u>TOWNS</u>	<u>% OF COUNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT TO TOWN</u>
CATHARINE	6.7883600%	33,450.15
CAYUTA	2.0804984%	10,251.81
DIX	18.7826465%	92,552.89
HECTOR	29.7801192%	146,743.75
MONTOUR	8.4658315%	41,716.01
ORANGE	6.2567018%	30,830.36
READING	14.6827689%	72,350.44
TYRONE	13.1630736%	64,862.02
	100.0000000%	TOTAL 492,757.44

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>% OF TOWN</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
BURDETT	3.5216609%	HECTOR	5,167.82
MONTOUR FALLS	1.5006958%	DIX	1,388.94
	51.6423240%	MONTOUR	<u>21,543.12</u>
		TOTAL MONTOUR FALLS	22,932.06
ODESSA	24.3733391%	CATHARINE	8,152.92
	4.1949858%	MONTOUR	<u>1,749.98</u>
		TOTAL ODESSA	9,902.90
WATKINS GLEN	57.8331583%	DIX	53,526.26
	11.7164263%	READING	<u>8,476.89</u>
		TOTAL WATKINS GLEN	62,003.14
TOTAL VILLAGES			100,005.92

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CATHARINE	25,297.23
CAYUTA	10,251.81
DIX	37,637.69
HECTOR	141,575.94
MONTOUR	18,422.91
ORANGE	30,830.36
READING	63,873.55
TYRONE	<u>64,862.02</u>
TOTAL TOWNS	392,751.52
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	<u>492,757.44</u>

10/11 comparison

1st Quarter

<u>TOWN</u>	2011	2010
CATHARINE	25,297.23	15,423.42
CAYUTA	10,251.81	7,022.47
DIX	37,637.69	30,772.25
HECTOR	141,575.94	98,192.52
MONTOUR	18,422.91	11,521.02
ORANGE	30,830.36	23,223.94
READING	63,873.55	41,700.00
TYRONE	64,862.02	42,673.10
TOTAL TOWNS	392,751.52	270,528.71

VILLAGE

BURDETT	5,167.82	3,584.23
MONTOUR FALL	22,932.06	14,607.86
ODESSA	9,902.90	6,065.11
WATKINS GLEN	62,003.14	49,296.76
TOTAL VILLAGE	100,005.92	73,553.97
TOTAL DISTRIBL	492,757.44	344,082.68

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Human Services Development Complex
Minutes from 7-27-11

Present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jocelyn Harrison-Town of Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Froebel-Town of Orange |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |

Call to order – 7:06PM

Welcome

Dr. Winkler, Health Officer – There is an increase in upper respiratory illnesses but nothing else prominent in the county occurring at this time. (Handouts)

Right To Farm Law – On behalf of Jenna Hicks, Ben Dickens suggests all towns individually adopt the Right To Farm law. The County adopted this law back in 2004 but the feeling was that the law would provide more strength if each town had it effective in their own areas.

2011/2012 Budget – Tim O’Hearn shared information on the webinar he and other municipalities attended this morning. While there are a lot of unknowns, the tax cap will occur and will affect all lines within your budgets. The process is yet to be determined. The tax cap can increase no more than 2% individually or by the PCI. From Junes index, the PCI appears to be over 2%. Pension contributions will be exempt. Each County, Town, and Village will be expected to place in a reserve fund any amount remaining from the over budgeted amount. Schools are not part of this process. The 2% tax cap comes without any mandate relief.

Sales Tax Update – Projection looks favorable for this years’ revenue.

Around the table –

Next meeting: October 26th at 7:00PM in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Human Services Development Complex
Minutes from 10-26-11

Present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix | <input type="checkbox"/> Jocelyn Harrison-Town of Orange |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bishop-Town of Tyrone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John King-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Swinnerton-Village of Watkins Glen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |

Call to order – 7:05 PM

Welcome

Dr. Winkler-Health Officer Reports – (Handouts) The flu is now in NYS and is considered sporadic. Recommends vaccines for those who have close contact with infants age 12 months and under.

DSS Perspective on Building Conditions – Michelle Wasicki – (Handout) Would like to build better relationships between code enforcers & staff of DSS when determining conditions & health issues in residences of clients they work with. Complaints made to Code Enforcers are not responded to in a timely manner. As DSS staff are under time constraints, there cases are often thrown out due to lack of back up information on conditions clients and their children live in. Rocky Kambo shared that he is putting together a draft of ‘rental inspection law’ and will bring it back to the Towns & Villages for review.

SCOPED Presentation on Performance Measures – Kelsey Jones – (Handout) Presentation of Performance Measures over the past year. Grants have brought \$17,000,000 into the County.

Public Water Analysis/Municipal Gas Guide – Rocky Kambo – Presentation on Schuyler County Public Water Analysis. Purpose is to demonstrate what areas would be affected if there was a contamination in our water sources. Rocky has digitized the County focusing on areas that could be developed by water structures. Rocky has digitized the County water lines, which allows municipalities to decide on where they should direct development.

2011/2012 Budget Update / 2% Property Tax Cap –There will be a Public Hearing on November 14th at 6:30PM on the County’s tentative budget. The Legislature may act on the tentative budget that evening. The budget has a 2.1% increase in the tax levy. \$8.16 per thousand of assessed value. The basic costs associated with Elections show no substantive increases although as there will be a Presidential election in 2012, there will be additional overall costs.

Sales Tax Update - (Handout) Sales Tax Distribution for 2011. This represents the last quarterly payment for this year. \$302,000 generated for Economic Development, \$44,000 to be place in reserve. Tourism & room tax revenues are up.

Redistricting of Legislature Representation – Discussion will continue on this topic. Next year would be the most opportune time for this task.

New Property Tax Exemption Law for Downtown Revitalization – (handout)

2012 Meeting Dates: January 25th, April 25th, July 25th, October 24th

Around the Table-

Tim O'Hearn acknowledged Rebekah LaMoreaux who represents the Chamber and will be at future meetings.

Next meeting: January 25th at 7:00PM in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.