

## **MVCAC Meeting Minutes 06/23/11**

The June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held at the Morgantown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. There were nine members present.

Duane suggested that our group might want to help to cover the expenses of Ben Price from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund to attend the Morgantown City Council meeting. Linda moved that we contribute \$135 toward the expenses and Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Paula gave the Treasurer's report. We collected \$160.00 in dues at the March meeting, and our balance at the end of May was \$1071.84. Jim moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Duane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Duane shared a letter from MVCAC to the WV DEP that was mailed May 18, 2011. In the letter, we called for an immediate cessation of drilling activities for Marcellus gas wells in the Morgantown Industrial park until adequate protections for air emissions are put into place.

Duane noted that there were two errors in the Dominion Post with regard to the ban on fracking adopted by the Morgantown City Council. One error was that they stated the vote took place after midnight; however, it took place before midnight. Another error was that they stating the ban was on "horizontal drilling and/or fracturing or fracking," when the language actually states "horizontal drilling with fracturing or fracking." Bill asked if drillers who wish to contest the ban must go to Circuit Court, and the response was "yes." Duane suggested that MVCAC support Bob Bastress, who is representing the City with regard to the ban. Bill moved that we consult with Bob to determine what we can do to identify a plan of action for MVCAC with regard to helping him. Jim seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There was extended discussion regarding the lack of any controls on air emissions as a result of fracking. Jim moved that MVCAC send a letter to the WV House of Delegates Select Committee on Marcellus Shale Regulation requesting that they require air quality regulations. Dee seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Jim will draft a letter.

Duane suggested that we might want to consider requesting methane monitors in the Morgantown Industrial Park, because of the proximity of those gas wells to places such as Skyview Elementary. Bill asked how much of a risk methane release poses. Dee will look into this and report back to the group.

Duane reported that the appeal of Bill Hughes from Wetzel County to the WV Air Quality Board was heard on May 19, 2011. In the appeal, Mr. Hughes noted that

while the Board places some limits on emissions from compressor stations, these are not sufficient, and there are none on the wells that feed these stations. He was represented by an attorney from GASP. There were to be two days of testimony, but after one day, the attorneys for Appalachia Midstream Services (an affiliated company of Chesapeake Energy) requested a "directed verdict," which was granted. This ended the hearing in favor of Appalachia Midstream Services, and Duane was permitted to testify only as a "fact witness," not as an "expert witness," despite the fact that he is a chemical engineer. It is not clear whether there will be further appeal to Kanawha County Circuit Court, because Bill Hughes has health problems.

Jim reported that Coresco has requested a renewal of their permit for limestone quarrying. This operation discharges into Crooked Run and eventually into the Mon. Jim and others are monitoring this situation.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Shuster, Secretary