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Savage River Watershed Association

Marcellus Shale Follow-up # 4

IMPORTANT UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING

The Garrett County Commissioners have announced that the Board's Public Meeting for **Thursday January 20, 2011** will be conducted at the **St. Peter's Social Hall in Oakland**. The public agenda will commence at **4:00 PM** with a presentation by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Garrett County Department of Planning and Land Development on natural gas extraction scheduled at that time. Members of the Board of County Commissioners Marcellus Shale Advisory Committee will also be in attendance for this agenda session. **Interested persons are encouraged to attend to utilize this time to address questions to State and County officials and public commentary will be welcome.**

PLEASE NOTE: SRWA January 20 meeting at Route 40 School has been cancelled so that our members can attend the commissioners meeting and share any concerns they may have; those unable to attend are urged to send their comments to the commissioners by mail or email.

SRWA statement made at the Sen Edwards/Del. Beitzel pre-legislative meeting on Jan 6:

Natural gas is a relatively clean source of fossil fuel energy and has many benefits over coal and oil. However there are many problems associated with drilling, including increased air and noise pollution, and the introduction of invasive species. In addition, the technology required to extract this gas uses enormous quantities of water and produces enormous quantities of wastewater. In our March 2010 letter to Governor O'Malley (copied to Senator Edwards, Delegate Beitzel, Garrett County Commissioners, and Secretaries of DNR and MDE), SRWA raised the following questions that have still not been adequately addressed:

- *Is Maryland prepared with regulations and staff to monitor drilling activities?*
- *How will chemically tainted wastewater be treated and where will it be released?*
- *Who will pay to monitor potential impacts to private wells near lands being drilled to ensure that drinking water for humans, livestock and wildlife is not impacted?*
- *Who will ultimately pay when wells and streams are contaminated?*

SRWA respectfully asks that during the upcoming legislative session you work to ensure that this needed energy doesn't come at the price Garrett County's clean water. As such SRWA requests:

- *That shale gas drilling and/or associate infrastructure not be allowed on/or beneath Maryland State Forests and other public lands.*
- *That you support a State and County moratorium until that time that adequate safeguards and regulations are in place to protect Garrett County's surface and ground waters for its people and environment.*

Important References:

MD DNR Report of Implications of Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling on Conserved Lands

<http://www.savageriverwatershed.org/communications/DNR%20RuralLegacyMarcellusShaleJCRReport12-27-2010.pdf>

Environmental Research on Natural Gas Production from the Marcellus Shale

<http://www.savageriverwatershed.org:80/communications/Marcellus%20GeoEnv%20Soeder.pdf>

Note: Soeder's presentation on Jan 6 at FSU was attended by over 90 people. It was very informative in terms of basic Marcellus Shale natural gas science. More importantly Soeder addressed the many short and long term environmental impacts from drilling and the need for more research. Both of the above references may be accessed via the direct link provided or by going to www.savageriverwatershed.org and clicking on the "Communications" page.

Webinars

"Marcellus Monitoring: The role of volunteers in baseline data collection"

Featuring presentations by Julie Vastine and colleagues (Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), Dickinson College) **The webinar will be offered on two different dates:**

January 18, 2011 at 2:00 pm E.T. (11:00 am P.T.)

Webex Link:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=148449197&UID=480781817&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

January 19, 2011 at 11:00 am E.T. (8:00 am P.T.)

WebEx Link:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=148449417&UID=480781817&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

Call in number: 1-866-299-3188

Access code: 5661187#

The above webinar is free and no pre-registration is required. For additional details, please contact: Cathy Tate at cmtate@usgs.gov or (303) 236-6927

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**Savage River Watershed Association, Inc.**

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*SRWA is a group of local landowners and other citizens dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rural nature and natural resources of the Savage River watershed by assisting interested landowners and public land managers with environmental stewardship efforts and educational outreach.*

*Board Members: Kenny Braitman, Annie Bristow, Mike Dean, John Fritts, Ed Gates, Carol McDaniel, Liz McDowell, Rich Raesly, Matt Sell, Tom Wolfe*

*SRWA is a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization. Please consider joining or making a donation. For more information visit our web site at [www.savageriverwatershed.org](http://www.savageriverwatershed.org)*