

Protecting PA's Water Sources

By Carl Cox, PSAB Past President

In April, a group of concerned water operators, source water protection coalition members, and shale gas extraction representatives met with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Sec. Patrick McDonnell to discuss the inclusion of source water protection plans into the DEP database for staff to access for planning and permitting purposes.

The group also suggested that all regulatory agencies come together and standardize reporting requirements to save suppliers from the inefficiency having numerous forms to fill out and numerous deadlines for reporting

The reinstatement was suggested of the educational opportunities provided through the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) program in the past. It also asked for support for legislation to enact construction standard for residential water wells. Pennsylvania is one of only two states that does not have these standards.

McDonnell and DEP staff reported that source water protection plans are in development. The reinstatement of educational opportunities is in the works; however, it will no longer operate as WREN.

In addition to McDonnell, participants included Jennifer Whisner, chair, Columbia-Montour Coalition for Source Water Protection; Eric Moore, PE, chair, North Central Source Water Protection Alliance; Brian Heiser,

executive director, State College Borough Water Authority; Kimberlie Gridley, co-chair, Tioga County Source Water Protection Coalition; Scott Blauvelt, PG, director of regulatory affairs, JKLM Energy; Carl Cox, chair, Tioga County Source Water Protection Coalition and past president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs; and staff from Gov. Tom Wolf's office and McDonnell's office. **B**



Pictured from left: Dr. Jennifer Whisner, chair, Columbia-Montour Coalition for Source Water Protection; PSAB Past President Carl Cox; DEP Sec. Patrick McDonnell; Kimberlie Gridley, co-chair, Tioga County Source Water Protection Coalition; Brian Heiser, executive director, State College Borough Water Authority; Eric Moore, PE, chair, North Central Source Water Protection Alliance; and Scott Blauvelt, PG, director of regulatory affairs, JKLM Energy.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Are you signed up for PSAB's LinkedIn Discussion Group?

If not, you are missing out on connecting with other officials and colleagues from around the state. Signing up for LinkedIn is free and easy. If you don't have an account, you can sign up at www.linkedin.com. Once you have created your account, you can join the "PSAB - Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs" group. Here you can ask questions with managers, secretaries, mayors, council members, and other employees from around the state.