

# Centre County Senior Environmental Corps Newsletter February 2018

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*Team 13 water sampling in the Beech Creek Watershed*

## CCPaSEC Elections

Elections of officers are conducted at the February Meeting. Attendance is important. When votes are taken, every member present shall have one vote. All terms of office shall be for one calendar year, and officers may succeed themselves.

**The President** shall chair meetings, prepare agendas, keep in touch with advisors, appoint committees when necessary, help committee chairs when requested, and generally supervise the carrying out of the members' voted wishes. She/He shall monitor the progress of the CCPaSEC goals selected at the start of each year. She/He shall be the primary person for communications with our various partner groups concerning water monitoring or environmental project issues. She/He can work with the appropriate people to identify new monitoring locations when the need arises.

**The Vice President** shall act for the president in the latter's absence, serve as a representative to the board of ClearWater Conservancy, and perform other duties as required.

**The Secretary** shall attend all board and general meetings of the Centre County PaSEC and take notes of the meeting interactions. She/He shall compose the minutes of the monthly

meetings, forward minutes electronically to the President for distribution to all members. She/He shall maintain electronic and hard copy files of membership approved Minutes and hold other documents of the group in custody as directed.

**The Treasurer** shall receive and have custody of the moneys of the group, depositing them with ClearWater Conservancy, and make withdrawals when instructed by vote of the membership or Board. She/He shall keep an account book and shall provide a brief monthly report of income and expenses at the membership meetings and an annual report at the Annual Meeting.

## New Fracking Technology

From time to time *Marcellus Drilling News* has covered alternative fracking technologies. A new technology which uses natural gas itself (instead of water) in the fracking process is being used in Canada and now, it is being tried in Texas. Jadela Oil is conducting what they call a "science experiment" in Maverick County, Texas, in the Eagle Ford Shale, to see if this new waterless fracking technology will work as well in those shale deposits as it does in Canada.

Jadela recently completed fracking their first well in September using propane/butane and they are waiting for full data on how the well is producing before making the results known.

Qmast's method concentrates a microwave beam equivalent to about 500 household microwaves to heat up an area that reaches approximately 80 feet from the wellbore. The crude oil then flows freely to the wellbore.

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The “microwave fracking method” has piqued the interest of environmentalists for several reasons.

Another new fracturing fluid has been developed by researchers, led by Professor Kenneth C. Carroll, at the University of New Mexico. This new liquid addresses some of the issues of hydraulic fracturing. This new fluid is water based along with 1 percent polyallylamine (a carbon-based polymer), which expands with the addition of carbon dioxide. The fluid turns into a hydrogel expanding, up to 250% in volume, within the cracks of rocks and fractures them. The great thing about this process as opposed to that of hydraulic fracturing is that it is much more environmentally friendly. It uses much less water and does not rely on harsh chemicals, while at the same time being more cost effective. Another key improvement is that this new fluid is able to fracture bedrock that was previously thought to be impenetrable.

This new fracturing fluid impacts the geothermal, oil, and natural gas industry. This new polymer based fracturing fluid addresses and improves upon the many challenges of hydraulic fracturing. There are still a number of tests remaining, including field tests, before it can replace hydraulic fracturing. Unfortunately, the key environmental issue of methane seepage is left unresolved. The process however is much more environmentally friendly with the reduction of water and chemical usage.

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## Equipment Check

All teams are reminded that The Quality Team will conduct our annual equipment check and determination of Percent Recovery on February 21.

Make sure you have your DO meters, flowmeters, and colorimeters. You can include both teams' pH and conductivity meters.

## Membership

The Centre County Senior Environmental Corps is looking for volunteers. Help us develop our monitoring and reporting procedures and help support teams of seniors who gather water quality data and macroinvertebrate populations that are published on our public website: [www.ccpasec.org](http://www.ccpasec.org).

New teams are being formed all the time. Come join us and find new friends.

To join us: Please call the Centre Counter RSVP

(Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)  
Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Phone **(814) 355-6816**

The CCPaSEC newsletter is published quarterly except for special events. To contribute news articles, or corrections please Contact Ken Johnson via our CCPaSEC website: [www.ccpasec.org](http://www.ccpasec.org).

*“Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it”. —André Gide*