

Back Mountain communities start toward water commission

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Representatives from six of the eight Back Mountain municipalities, who were invited to last Thursday night's town meeting at Dallas Senior High School joined the ad hoc committee formed to evaluate the organization of a Back Mountain Water Commission.

Craig Tupper of Dallas Borough; Frank Townend, Dallas Township; Ed Price of Kingston Township; Alan Major, Lehman Township; Joy Daubert, Franklin Township and Dave Abod, Harveys Lake Borough agreed to sign the resolution to address any water problems facing the Back Mountain area and to serve on the committee.

Ellie Rodda, a member of the Kingston Township Water Commission, addressed the more than 200 people who attended the meeting, explaining that about 18 months ago she attended a township planning commission meeting where new developments were being discussed and before she knew it she was appointed to the township's water commission.

"Most people take water for granted," she said. "But who knows how many companies there are, who owns them, how many wells there are, how deep and what is the water quality?"

"I have lived in the Back Mountain for 36 years and know what it is to be without water. For more than 30 of those years there were few schools, and no sewers. How many people will come to this area if we have no water. If we don't update our water resources and do long range planning how long will it last? Each municipality must cooperate if we are to have good management," Rodda told the audience.

Rodda compared the Back Mountain watershed to a large ice cream soda with all the municipalities' residents putting a straw into the same soda. "How many straws are in that soda, how long will it last, think about it," Rodda said.

The community officials and representatives of state agencies, who served on the panel agreed that it

is time a regional commission was formed for the purpose of gathering information about the quantity and quality of water available to supply the Back Mountain area. Local governments should then be able to use this information to do long range planning for development.

Following the signing of the resolution and the committee deciding to meet sometime before August 1, Bigler opened the meeting for questions and answers.

State Senator Charles Lemmond, Rep. George Hasay and Rep. Scott Dieterick, DER officials, PUC representatives and other state agency officials and local municipal officials, as well as Dallas-Shavertown Water Company owner Robert Hassold and manager Joseph Salla, took turns answering questions posed by residents about quality of water, contamination and overdevelopment in some areas.

An official of the state Department of Environmental Resources explained that there are laws pertaining to the quality of water but no laws relative to the quantity. He said that in many areas of the state, water problems are the result of insufficient planning on the part of small companies and municipalities.

State director of Water Resources told the people that the state has virtually no authority to force small companies to drill more wells or find back up water resources. "These small companies seldom have the money to do the planning and development necessary. In New Jersey there is a law that allows the state to assign one company to another company even if the company is losing money."

In answer to how many wells in the area, Dallas Water Company manager Joseph Salla said that their company had one in Dallas and one in Shavertown and the third well closed due to contamination was owned by PG&W.

The P.U.C. attorney on the panel explained that the commission has no authority to require adequate water supply but must deal case by case; when in doubt the PUC can use provisions in an act to have certificates returned to the commission but unfortunately the com-

mission does not have sufficient manpower.

Rep. George Hasay who resides in Shickshinny said he has seen green go to brown to no water at all. "If we are not careful we will not have water," Hasay said. "Water tables change and sometimes become lower."

Sen. Charles Lemmond said the cooperation of the municipalities is needed. "If we find there is not enough legislation on the books, then it is time we do something about it," Lemmond said.

A hydrogeologist on the panel said that a water commission is responsible for gathering information about water for zoning and development.

"A local group with local data of an area can anticipate a problem before it happens. Before it becomes a problem, perhaps the commission can do something about it. In an area of intense development, a water commission can step in and stop individual septic systems and individual wells."

Water company owner Robert Hassold told the people his company would support any efforts made to form a Back Mountain Water Commission. "We are just as interested in providing good service as the people are in having it. The development is exploding to the point the commission is necessary to look at the entire problem. We will do what we can to help."

Salla enumerated the improvement the company is involved in at the present time such as the new interconnecting pump between Dallas and Shavertown, a new well which will pump 200 gallons per minute which will be started this week and ready in two months and construction of a larger tank.

There were no answers given to those persons who asked why customers were not notified by private communication instead of having to read about it in the media.

Rep. Hasay told the people that because of the explosive development in some areas the counties are calling a halt to new building. His comment received a loud applause of approval from the people.



They do it like you'd do it

Michael Jordan, left, and Jeff Hockenberry were busy cooking for the crowds at the Trucksville Firemen's Block Party Friday and Saturday

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago July 1, 1938

Dallas Borough will have first July 4 without fireworks under ordinance adopted last year.

State Department offers to help if local communities take steps to end sewage problems.

Camp Wildwood Girl Scout Camp opens for season at Harveys Lake.

Dan Richards to open new Economy Market on Main Street, Dallas.

Married - Leona Kocher to Clarence Oberst.

Deaths - Fred Rineman, Dallas. You could buy - Butter 2 lbs. 55c; coffee 17c lb.; celery 2 bchs. 15c; bananas 5c lb.

40 Years Ago July 2, 1948

Harold G. Payne succeeds R.W. Kintzer as vice president and general manager of Commonwealth, Bradford and Luzerne T% q9e Companies.

Trucksville Volunteer Firemen to sponsor soap box derby at annual fair.

Married - Arlene V. Crispell and Conrad Swinehart; Claire Stevenson and Glenn Nissley; Dorothy Jean Considine and Robert Griffiths; Daisy Jane Bellas and

Robert Lee Williams.

You could buy - Hams 65c lb.; rye bread 15c loaf; Swan uoap 10c med. bar; cantaloupes 25c ea.

30 Years Ago July 4, 1958

Esther Williams swimming pool will be sold at Library Auction.

Dallas Union School District slated for election Tuesday night.

Dallas Kiwanis Club is making final plans for its variety show and dance July 25 at Irem Temple Country Club.

Back Mountain Little League team defeated Daddow Isaacs team 9-1 last week.

Married - Lola ERIS Jeannette Birth and Lee Carr Lamoreaux; Clara Walton and Samuel Alvin Kittle, Jr.; Thais J. Roselle and Carl Gries, Jr.; Shirleylouise Shutz and Peter Tonte.

You could buy - Fryers 37c lb.; plums 19c lb.; ice cream 79c 1/2 gal.; American cheese 75c 2 lb. loaf.

20 Years Ago July 2, 1968

Miss Frances Dorrance and Mrs. Fred Howell named life members of the Library Auction Committee. Suburban Restaurant undergoes

facelifting, enlarges diningroom.

One-man Show by R.G. Kalashefski at College Misericordia, July 3-10.

Married - Sandra Slimak and Robert All Barber.

Deaths - Mrs. Eleanor Davis, Dallas; Adam Conser, Hunlock Creek; Mrs. Daisy Waltman, Beaumont.

You could buy - Chuck roasts 59c lb.; corn 6 ears 49c; Bing cherries 59c lb.; butter 59c lb.

10 Years Ago June 29, 1978

Charlot Richards of Dallas was chosen as this year's Miss Schaefer 500 at the beauty pageant, June 21, at Gus Genetti's Hotel.

Bobby Baird, well-known Back Mountain trumpet player and his band will play at this year's Library Auction Friday night, July 7, during the dinner break.

Back Mountain residents plan Battle bicentennial.

Kingston Township police recover stolen car reported by William Richards, Trucksville.

Centermoreland Little League team takes the league title in the Horlacher League.

You could buy - Franks 99c pkg.; tomatoes 3 pkgs. \$1; coke 8 16-oz. bts. 99c; frozen fordhook limas 2 10-oz. pkgs. 89c.

Don't miss the special section for the Back Mountain Library auction in next week's Dallas Post

COUNTRY CLUB SHOPPING CENTER

annual sidewalk sale days

**THURS.
June 30**

**FRI.
July 1**

**SAT.
July 2**

bargains galore in Dallas

- Insalaco's
- Thrift Drug
- Malcolm's Haircutters
- E-Z Trim
- Mrs. 'A'
- La Fiore
- Kimberly's
- Le Lingerie
- National Video Movie Center