

## Addison landowners form coalition

---

ADVERTISEMENT



By Derrick Ek  
Corning Leader  
Sun Dec 20, 2009, 12:00 AM EST

---

Addison, N.Y. -

A new group has formed to help area landowners negotiate leases with natural gas companies.

Twin Tiers Landowners Coalition Inc. was recently founded by Mike White and Phil Knapp, two Addison landowners. The small business has hired two professional consultants, launched a Web site, and plans to open an office on Main Street in the village of Addison in about a month. Informational meetings will be scheduled soon, White said.

The idea is to assemble as many acres of land as possible and negotiate as a group, helping secure better signing bonuses and royalty payments. Initially, the coalition will focus on Steuben County and Tioga County, Pa., and may expand to neighboring counties, White said.

"We're growing daily, slowly right now, but we expect it to pick up," White said.

The coalition's two consultants are Gregory Sovas and Adam Shultz.

Sovas runs a consulting firm called XRM, LLC, and is a former director of the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Mineral Resources, which is responsible for regulating natural gas drilling.

Shultz is a partner in Gilberti, Stinziano, Heintz and Smith, a firm that specializes in environmental law. He has a great deal of experience in mineral resource issues, White said.

Twin Tiers Landowners Coalition is already marketing itself to gas companies, White said.

Negotiating a deal that protects owners' properties will be a priority, he added.

White plans to cover the cost of the consultants from a fee negotiated with a gas company in any deal. There is no charge to join the coalition, and landowners' lease deals will not be affected, he said.

More information is available at [www.twintlc.com](http://www.twintlc.com) or by calling 359-3311.

Related Stories.  
Comments (0)