

Intermunicipal Planning for Black & Oatka Creek Watersheds

Meeting Summary – 09/21/09

Joint Meeting of the Black Creek and Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plans Project Advisory Committees

6:30 – 8:30
Village of LeRoy Village Hall
3 West Main Street, LeRoy, NY 14482

In Attendance

Greg McKurth, Wyoming SWCD
Maureen Leupold, Genesee Community College/Oatka Creek
Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford Reg/Black Creek
Lisa Compton, Oatka Creek
Felipe Oltremari, Genesee Co. Planning
Robert Kiley, Monroe Co. SWCD Black Creek
Judy Spring, Genesee Co. SWCD/Black Creek
Ray Cipriano, Black Creek

George Squires, Genesee Co. SWCD
Esther Leadley, Genesee County Legislature/Oatka Creek
Rochelle Bell, Black Creek/Monroe Co. Planning

Staff

Brian Slack, G/FLRPC
David Zorn, G/FLRPC

Meeting Summary

6:30 Introductions

6:35 Review Meeting Agenda and Outcomes

6:40 Review and approve meeting minutes from 8/10/09 and 8/24/09

Brian Slack explained that committee members requested that meetings are conducted using Roberts Rules of Order and that all meeting summaries from the previous meeting be approved at the next meeting thereafter. We therefore had two sets of meeting summaries that required approval from committee members – 8/10/09 and 8/24/09.

Brian requested a motion for approval of the meeting summary from 8/10/09; a motion to approve was made by George Squires to approve the summary with a 2nd by Ray Cipriano. All were in favor; motion carried.

Brian requested a motion for approval of the meeting summary from 8/24/09; a motion was made by Lisa Compton to approve the summary with a 2nd by Greg McKurth. All were in favor; motion carried.

6:50 Final Discussion of Community Outreach Plans

Brian explained the process that has been in play regarding the revision of the Community Outreach Plans for both the Black and Oatka Creek projects. He noted that committee members were welcome to offer further minor comment and revision on their respective Plan. A request for Project Advisory Committee

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approval with or without additional edits would then be requested; once those edits (if any) were made, the plans would be sent to NYS Dept. of State Div. of Coastal Resources for review and final approval. Brian then opened the floor up for discussion on both Plans, considering that they were nearly identical, barring obvious exceptions. Each watershed Project Advisory Committee would then proceed by voting on their Plan separately, beginning with Black Creek.

There were no additional comments on the Black Creek Community Outreach Plan. A brief discussion ensued regarding lists of members. Agency officials in most cases belong under the category of “Other Project Advisory Members Assisting Both Projects.” Given that edit, Brian requested a motion for approval. Judy Spring made a motion that the Black Creek Community Outreach Plan be finalized with the revisions discussed as well as those contained in the 9/2/09 draft and sent to NYS Dept. of State Div. of Coastal Resources for review and final approval; Bob Kiley 2nd. All were in favor; motion carried.

Moving on to Oatka Creek, some minor changes were offered. It was noted that Bob Kelley would not be participating in the process and his name should be removed. Further, Felipe Oltremari should be listed in the “Other” category. Given those changes, Brian requested a motion for approval. Maureen Leupold made a motion that the Oatka Creek Community Outreach Plan be finalized with the revisions discussed as well as those contained in the 9/2/09 draft and sent to NYS Dept. of State Div. of Coastal Resources for review and final approval; Lisa Compton 2nd. All were in favor; motion carried.

Brian will make the revisions and notify the committees when the changes have been made.

7:15 Appointment of Chairs

It was asked what the role of the Chairpersons would be. Brian explained that the role of the Chair is outlined on page five of the Community Outreach Plans. He noted that the role of the Chairs is somewhat redundant when joint meetings are being held. As the projects progress, however, and Committees begin to meet separately, the role of the Chair may become more significant.

Mr. McKurth made the recommendation that the existing chairs of the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee and the Black Creek Watershed Coalition serve as Chairs for the respective Project Advisory Committees [Rick VenVertloh in Oatka and Larry VerWeire for Black]. Mr. Cipriono asked why it wouldn't be a good idea to merge the two committees. It was explained that when the project was in its infancy, both watershed groups agreed to having separate Project Advisory Committees; this is also written into agreements with the NYS Dept. of State Div. of Coastal Resources. Mr. Oltremari agreed that using the existing Chairs of the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee and the Black Creek Watershed Coalition seems to make a lot of sense.

Given that neither of those individuals was present at the meeting, it was agreed that it would be best to first contact them to make sure they were in favor of serving as Project Advisory Committee Chairs.

Brian requested a motion to approve Larry VerWeire as Chair of the Black Creek Project Advisory Committee pending his agreement to do so. Peggy Grayson made the motion; 2nd by Ray Cipriano. All in favor; motion carried.

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Brian requested a motion to approve Rick VenVertloh as Chair of the Oatka Creek Project Advisory Committee pending his agreement to do so. Greg McKurth made the motion; 2nd by Ester Leadley. All in favor; motion carried.

7:30 Review Checklist of reports, studies and actions

Brian focused discussion on the “Summary of Reports and Actions” document posted to <http://gflrpc.org/Publications/BlackOatka/RelatedMaterials.htm>. He explained that this document is not a project requirement *per se*; rather it is simply a tool to help focus discussion as we continue to try to determine if we will require a 3rd party contractor to assist us with scientific and technical evaluation. The document will also be very helpful for staff and committee members as we move into addressing major project tasks, such as the watershed Characterization reports.

Brian went through the document section by section and requested updates or revisions. It was noted that the “All Hazard Mitigation” reports that have been completed for each county should probably be listed under the first section, reports covering both watersheds.

Moving on to the section covering only Black Creek watershed, several additions were offered. These included the following:

- Watershed Plan for North Chili Tributary of Black Creek. 2001. Available online
- USGS publications and reports. Available online
- A Report on Water Quality at Godfrey’s Pond. 1983. Submitted by G. Squires
- Fish Study completed for the DeWitt recreation area

Several comments were also made, some of which apply to both watersheds:

- What NYSDEC heritage data is available?
- What about river otter studies that have been done? June Summers and Dennis Money were involved with this project.
- What about beaver populations? Is there data on this subject?
- What about the SW Lake Ontario plan/initiative, being managed by Jenny Landre at the DEC?
- Bergen Swamp Society in association with the Rochester Academy of Sciences likely has some studies
- Perhaps some of the professors at SUNY Brockport have some other projects or reports that we are not aware of

Moving on to the section covering only Oatka Creek watershed, several additions and corrections were made:

- The first report lists T. Tatakis as the primary author; the primary author is in fact EMJ/McFarland-Johnson Engineers, Inc.
- USGS publications and reports. Available online
- Oatka Creek Park Vegetation and Wildlife Study. 2000. Submitted by Lisa Compton

Several comments were also made, some of which apply to both watersheds:

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- What about dams and the DEC? They've been doing quite a bit of work on dams lately; are there any reports resulting from these efforts?
- What about superfund sites? Or the Toxic Release Inventory maintained by DEC?
- What about reports generated for major and minor spills that have occurred throughout the watershed(s)?

Moving on the section "Ongoing or Anticipated Monitoring Actions," the only major action that the group was aware of was the Monroe County study noted in the summary.

Brian concluded the review of the document by noting that this process of reviewing documents is just a start. Many of the inventories that exist will be accounted for in the watershed Characterization reports.

Having finished reviewing the document, Brian reiterated that the purpose of this "exercise" was to try to inform the discussion on whether a third party consultant would be needed and, if so, what would we want them to do. He emphasized that it is apparent that a major role that they would need to play is to be to synthesize the volumes of data and reports that have already been compiled. It became apparent to Brian when he started putting this summary together that it would be necessary to have an individual with a scientific background to assist with this arm of the project. He also noted that it appears that there is significantly more monitoring data for Oatka Creek than there is for Black Creek.

Rochelle Bell noted that a next important step would be to review the recommendations contained in these reports that we've compiled to see what exactly they recommend for next steps. Judy Spring raised the question: what exactly would we want a consultant to do for us? Dave Zorn noted that it may be the case that we need a group to prepare a "monitoring and sampling plan" rather than actually collect new sampling data. Brian noted that, given our limited resources, this seems like it may be a logical approach for us to take. George Squires noted that it would be interesting to see how different scientific and engineering outfits would approach these issues.

Rochelle Bell noted that a "Request for Qualifications" might be a more appropriate approach to soliciting third party consultation, given that we may actually be asking for groups to tell us how they'd approach the scientific portion of the watershed management plan. Brian noted that he will have to check with NYS Dept. of State Div. of Coastal Resources to make sure that an RFQ is allowed. All of the literature that he has seen refers only to Request for Proposals, not RFQs.

It was agreed that we need to further refine what exactly it is we want a 3rd party to do. Brian said that this may be best accomplished by beginning to prepare either a draft RFP or RFQ. Short of a draft RFP/RFQ, Brian will endeavor to prepare a draft contractor's "scope of work" for the Project Advisory Committees to review and discuss at the next meeting. This draft scope should also include any items listed in the project work plan that G/FLRPC will require assistance with.

8:00 Other Issues for Discussion

Brian noted that G/FLRPC is preparing a work plan for the committees. This will be helpful for committee members as we move forward with the project.

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Next Meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 19th at 6:30 [Note: A conflict was noted by Rochelle Bell on 9/22 that the Chili Comprehensive Plan Update Committee has standing meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month. We will have to schedule an alternative date.]

Ray Cipriano noted that the LeRoy Vol. Ambulance facility has an excellent meeting room that they would allow us to use, barring any conflict with the date. All agreed that this would be a good option.

8:30 Adjourn