

Black Creek Watershed Coalition

2011 Annual Report

- ◆ Meeting dates and number attending: January 27 (15); February 22 (12); March 30 (9); April 28 (10); May 23 (11); June 28 (12); July 26 (13); August 29 (18); September 28 (12); October 27 (10); November 29 (11).
- ◆ Monroe and Genesee Soil & Water Conservation Districts submitted grant applications for implementation of conservation practices under Round 17 of the NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPSACP).
- ◆ Peter Lent introduced us to macroinvertebrates – this continued throughout the year and became a very useful tool for attracting people to our public displays.
- ◆ A Great Lakes Basin Commission Erosion and Sediment Control grant application was submitted for Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds (jointly). The original amount of funding requested to allow SWCDs to do erosion and sediment control projects on agricultural land was \$800,000. The grant was awarded in 2010 to Wyoming County SWCD in the amount of \$536,000. Monroe, Genesee, and Wyoming County SWCDs will coordinate the work to be done. A “kick-off meeting was held at Sunnyside Lodge – Black Creek Park on March 31, 2011.
- ◆ The Coalition had mapguides re-printed in January by Monroe Litho.
- ◆ Steve Lewandowski reported that Center for Environmental Initiatives-Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (CEI-LOCI) is done with the Black Creek Project. The basic conclusion is that there is high loading of nutrients in the upper watershed, which is intensely agricultural. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) appear to account for >40% of the phosphorus loading. The Bergen Swamp and the lake behind Churchville Dam do a lot of good for water quality – phosphorus and sediment settle out.
- ◆ The Coalition continued work on the watershed planning effort for Black and Oatka Creek watersheds that is coordinated by Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) through a Department of State (DOS) grant. Coalition members served on the project advisory committee (PAC). The work this year focused on the watershed characterization section of the plan.
- ◆ Brian Ostling gave an excellent report on Town of Chili construction site inspections and what a concerned citizen in should do if they are concerned about what they observe.
- ◆ A public meeting on the study results for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process was held on April 12 at the Churchville Village Hall. The meeting was sponsored by CEI and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

- ◆ The watershed display appeared at Cool Kids EcoFest on Saturday April 9th at Genesee Community College, Earth Day in Churchville –April 23rd and Genesee County Park – April 30th, Village of Bergen Park – June 11th, Mill Seat Landfill (Waste Management) open house – July 28th, Churchville Walk-About, Chili-Fest – July 3rd, Byron Heritage Festival – July 30th, Churchville Country Fair-August 20-21.
- ◆ We discussed a handout on septic systems (and proper maintenance) to be used for our public displays.
- ◆ The May 23rd and August 29th meetings were held jointly with the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee.
- ◆ Mellissa Winslow's (AMAZING) presentation: Mellissa Winslow, under the direction of Dr. Joe Makarewicz, did one year of extensive water quality sampling (stressed stream segment analysis) in the Black Creek watershed and is now using the data to calibrate the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model.
- ◆ We had significant discussion on the creation of a banner for our public displays.
- ◆ We heard about the Black Creek Trail Feasibility Study funded by the Genesee Transportation Council.
- ◆ We heard a presentation by Jonathan Ignatowski from Chili who is attending St. Lawrence University. He reported on his project studying Chili's Wetland Resources
- ◆ Brian Slack introduced us to the concept of the "Active River Area" as presented in an April 2008 document by The Nature Conservancy .
- ◆ We learned of the Black Creek Wildlife Station (www.bcwildlifestation.com), 169 Burnt Mill Rd., Churchville, NY.
- ◆ We discussed buffer areas along the creek (as a potential project for further study) and future funding sources in general.
- ◆ We learned that the TMDL process had turned into the Water Quality Restoration Strategy and a public meeting was held on October 25th at the Churchville Village Hall.
- ◆ George Squires reported on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) project going on in Genesee County along Black Creek. A similar project is happening in Monroe County at Archer Road.
- ◆ Brian Slack left G/FLRPC for a new position with the Ulster County Planning Department.
- ◆ We learned that NYSDEC may be initiating an accelerated biomonitoring program in the Upper Black Creek Watershed next year (2012).
- ◆ We discussed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 9-Point Watershed Planning process required to qualify for federal (EPA) funding. We will attempt to compare that process with the one we are currently going through with the NYS Department of State and G/FLRPC.
- ◆ The Coalition continued to maintain the website (<http://www.blackcreekwatershed.org/>).