



Black Creek Watershed Coalition

2012 Annual Report

- ◆ Meeting dates and number attending: January 30 (12); February 28 (14); March 29 (11); April 26 (15); May 31 (11); June 26 (10); August 27 (14); September 25 (13); October 25 (8); November 27 (6); December 13 (6).
- ◆ Anwar Karim, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist from the Monroe County office reported on the federally funded Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) project just off Archer Road in Chili. The purpose of the project was to restore 27.6 acres of land that had been cleared, drained and farmed long ago to wetland habitat. The area also has a history of flooding.
- ◆ A public meeting was held February 7, 2012 for the Intermunicipal Planning for the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds project at the Byron Fire Department Recreation Hall located in Byron, New York. The public meeting provided an overview of the draft Black Creek Watershed Characterization, which was developed with input provided by the Black Creek Watershed Project Advisory Committee. The draft Black Creek Watershed Characterization provides a description of Black Creek's watershed area and the condition of natural resources and the built environment within that area. This characterization is the first component of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Black Creek watershed. Nineteen people attended the meeting.
- ◆ The 2012 Lake Ontario Basin Forum was held on March 28th at SUNY Brockport. Dr. Joe Makarawicz presented Melissa Winslow's research, which showed Spring Creek and Bigelow Creek subwatersheds (of Black Creek) are highly impacted by phosphorus. Possible sources of Phosphorus (P) were discussed.
- ◆ A logo for the Coalition was developed by Caitlin Defendorf (See top of page). After much discussion, a banner with the new logo was ordered, delivered and proudly displayed across the front of our table at the July 26th Millseat Landfill Open House.
- ◆ Water quality monitoring in Black Creek Watershed: George reported on meeting with folks from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Cornell on Jan. 26 about biomonitoring by the DEC biomonitoring unit. Brian Duffy/ DEC - Albany indicated they plan to monitor 12 sites on Black Creek. In addition to biomonitoring they will do chemistry and temperature monitoring too. Cornell also wanted to do some more monitoring for their computer model. The monitoring will be in the Upper Black Creek Watershed from Rte. 237 bridge in Byron upstream to headwaters (no monitoring in Monroe County). Brian Duffy further reported that the monitoring portion of the project wrapped up smoothly on September 20th with macroinvertebrate sampling and habitat assessment. Water chemistry sampling was good all summer despite the low water levels and even no flow conditions during

a week or two during the summer. Brian reports it looks like we managed to collect decent data.

- ◆ 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). Following the February public meeting the focus for the year was on Assessment of Local Laws and Practices. The NYSDOS approved a contract extension to September 2013 for our planning grant.
- ◆ The Coalition said good-bye to Tom Ryther who moved back to Duluth, Minnesota. Tom represented the Genesee Land Trust – Brookdale Preserve.
- ◆ The watershed display appeared at Cool Kids EcoFest on Saturday April 14th at Genesee Community College, Pick Up the Parks - Churchville Park–April 28th, Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Outdoor Expo – Mendon Ponds Park – June 9th, Mill Seat Landfill (Waste Management) open house – July 26th, Byron Heritage Festival – July 28th, and Churchville Country Fair - August 18-19.
- ◆ Coalition Chairman, Larry VerWeire organized volunteers at Churchville Park for the 3rd Annual Pick up the Parks event (1st time at Churchville Park). Out of nine sites, Churchville Park ranked fourth in terms of the numbers of volunteers and pounds of trash collected.
- ◆ Several public meetings were held dealing with the Black Creek Trail Feasibility Study funded by the Genesee Transportation Council. Coalition members actively participated in discussions and updated us at our monthly meetings throughout the year.
- ◆ An Annual Meeting was held on August 27th at the Genesee County Park and Forest Interpretive Nature Center in Bethany. David Lindsey reported on the Town of Chili efforts to update their zoning law.
- ◆ The supply of Black Creek Watershed Map Guides has been depleted and discussions have been ongoing regarding re-printing (3rd). A portion of Genesee County's Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) grant funding will be used to partially fund the effort and Coalition members will work toward securing additional funding. At our November meeting we were informed that Wegman's will contribute \$500 toward the re-printing of our map guide. The BCWC received over 400 Map Guides from Christina Bang, the new owner of Christine Sevilla's house.
- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Genesee and Monroe Counties completed erosion and sediment control projects on two farms in the watershed. Boldt Farms in Genesee County and land owned in Monroe County by Paul Stein and Sons Farm were both involved in projects to reduce erosion.
- ◆ A Sierra Club sponsored canoe and kayak trip was held on October 14th. A group of folks (including Coalition members) paddled upstream from Churchville Park.

- ◆ Jim Zollweg (SUNY Brockport Professor on Sabbatical at Cornell) led a long discussion at our November meeting about all of the research in the watershed done by SUNY Brockport (2 departments), Cornell (2 departments), DEC (Albany), Center for Environmental Initiatives (CEI) and Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) & EcoLogic (Watershed Plan) and how it does or does not overlap or inform other efforts. The research is largely focused on quantifying P and N concentrations for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
- ◆ The Coalition continued to maintain the website (<http://www.blackcreekwatershed.org/>) and thanks the volunteer efforts of Carol Zollweg for keeping the content current.