



## **Black Creek Watershed Coalition**

### **2013 Annual Report**

- ◆ Meeting dates and number attending: January 30 (11); February 25 (10); March 27 (7); April 30 (10); May 31 (8); July 31 (8); August 29 (11); September 30 (13); October 25 (8); November 27 (6); December 13 (6).
- ◆ The BCWC received four boxes of MapGuides (480) from Christine Sevilla's estate.
- ◆ Rochelle reported that "since the MapGuide was created we have spent \$6,349 on 9,476 maps at an average cost of \$0.67/map."
- ◆ The Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan was discussed.
- ◆ MapGuide updates and funding to re-print was discussed. 5,000 new MapGuides were printed with donations from: Wegmans, New York Water Environment Association, LL Bean, American Canoe Association, and FL-LOWPA. Brian Ostling agreed to store boxes of MapGuides at the new Chili Highway Facility at 200 Beaver Road.
- ◆ *Watershed Management Plan Update:* Tom Kicior of G/FLRPC reported on progress of local law assessment regarding sub watersheds, land cover, impervious surfaces, wetlands and population. New planner at G/FLRPC (CJ – Carrie J. Randall) is working on report. David Zorn sent a draft subwatershed prioritization to NYS Department of State (DOS) for initial review. The Watershed Characterization is done.  
(See <http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/BlackOatka/Characterization/BlackCreekWatershed/index.htm> ). The Subwatershed Report was reviewed by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and has been sent to DOS for their review. The Regulatory and Programmatic Environment Report has been reviewed by the PAC and by DOS. DOS had no comments. PAC had a few comments and these are being incorporated into the document. When revisions are complete this document will go to DOS as final.
- ◆ Discussion was initiated on "not-for-profit (501-c3) status for the coalition. Coalition by-laws changes are necessary to achieve the status. Discussion and changes were made throughout the year.
- ◆ We had discussion on fishing access at "trout" sections of several tributaries to Black Creek. DEC Fisheries report brook trout in several sections. Spring Creek at Chapell Road in Byron is stocked with brown trout annually.

- ◆ We discussed the Black Creek Trail Feasibility Study released in April 2013 and prepared by Bergmann Associates. The study involved a fifteen mile trail connecting the Village of Churchville, through the Towns of Riga and Chili, to the Genesee Valley Greenway. Financial assistance for the preparation of this report was provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) and the Towns of Riga and Chili and the Village of Churchville.
- ◆ The BCWC discussed updates to the Chili Zoning Law.
- ◆ We heard about W.A.V.E. (Wadeable Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators -- DEC's citizen water quality monitoring program). Coalition members attended the training.
- ◆ The BCWC Annual Meeting was held at the Interpretive Nature Center at the Genesee County Park in Bethany. A power-point presentation on the "Headwaters of Black Creek" was shown by George Squires. Election of officers was held and members elected include: Larry VerWeire as Chair. D Borgus as Vice Chair. L Warren as Treasurer. And D Van Curran as Secretary.
- ◆ There was discussion of the NYSDEC proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus in Upper Black and Bigelow Creeks. *DRAFT Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document proposed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) to address the following waterbodies: Black Creek, Upper, Genesee County and Bigelow Creek, Genesee County.* Upper Black Creek and Bigelow Creek are impaired for phosphorus. Public comments on this document were accepted for 30 days, through close of business October 25, 2013. This date was extended and a public meeting was held at the Genesee County Park Interpretive Nature Center in Bethany on October 30, 2013.
- ◆ Julia Garver, an attorney with the Merzbach Law Office in Rochester has agreed to assist the Coalition (pro bono) in filing necessary documents for not-for-profit (501c3) status. Julia is a watershed resident in the Town of Bethany.
- ◆ We discussed the Horseshoe Lake (formed by dam on Bigelow Creek) NYSDEC permit application for dredging and boat launch construction.
- ◆ There was discussion on re-newing the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) among the watershed counties which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2013.
- ◆ The BCWC set up a display at the following events during 2013: Cool Kids EcoFest at Genesee Community College on April 13, Millseat Landfill Open House on July 25, and the Churchville Country Fair on August 10 and 11.
- ◆ The Coalition continued to maintain the website (<http://www.blackcreekwatershed.org/>) and thanks the volunteer efforts of Carol Zollweg for keeping the content current.