

**MINUTES**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Tuesday, January 21, 2003  
Chili Town Hall

Present: James Zollweg, SUNY Brockport; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Robert Remillard, Lake Plains RC&D; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Pat Tindale, Town of Chili Conservation Board; Charles Rettig and Jim Karabinas, Town of Chili residents; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

**1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes**

- Dorothy Borgus was chair, Charlie Knauf was scribe and George Squires was timekeeper.
- There were no additions or corrections to the minutes.

**2. Discussion of Report Sections:** An outline for the report was distributed and reviewed by the group to determine what should be done by the group and what should be done by the consultant. The following observations were made of sections in the Introduction:

- Section A. Purpose  
Done
- Section B. Background  
Rochelle indicated that she had 1.5 pages that had been done by Carole Beal and that it is similar in language to the newsletter. She thought other pieces were needed for this section. Some of the information might also go into "Section H. Public Involvement," to indicate the people who planned the symposium. George asked if there was any definition of what was missing or needed, and indicated that there might be contributors who don't attend meetings. George wondered if the format of a list was adequate. Bob suggested that a narrative that talked about the symposium, the distribution of newsletters and the other activities undertaken, including a list of contacts, was appropriate for the body of the report, and the other references could be included as an appendix. Chuck thought this was a good additive, a text in the main part of the report, and a full list of contributors in the appendix. Bob offered to get together a template for this format for the next meeting. Rochelle will send Bob electronic copies of the activity reports done for the River Network, which can be used to do the section template.
- Section C. History  
Dorothy raised a question of how long this section should be, and what its uses would be. George indicated that while many of the libraries and historians have information that could be useful, it is not organized by watershed. Pat indicated that Chili has the number and location of mills on the creek, and that some of the information is in the brochure for Black Creek Park. Chuck indicated that a lot of the Black Creek history could be found in the Scottsville library, along with the Oatka Creek history. The extent of the history along the creek gives an appreciation of the resource. The group saw a need to talk to all the municipalities about the history. George indicated that he had talked to Byron and Bethany, who do not have historians, and that Bergen has some history information. Dorothy suggested that a letter be sent to all the municipalities, and Rochelle indicated that Carole had contacted most historians. Carole's information included something from

Ron Sloat about the Railroad and Godfrey's Pond. All who have access to local history information should send it to Rochelle, and she will talk to the other contacts from Carole's list and accumulate the information. Chuck will get the information from the Scottsville Library, Dorothy and Pat will get the Chili information.

- Section D. Water Quality Goals and Section E. Water Quantity Goals  
Dorothy indicated that these were not separated on the original list, and that it was a parking lot item to determine if these goals should be merged in the document. It was decided to postpone that decision until a larger consensus group was present.
- Section F. Relationship to Other Programs.  
Bob asked if there were any programs unique to Black Creek. Rochelle asked about the flood mitigation program in Genesee and Wyoming Counties, which George indicated was not germane to Black Creek, only Tonowanda and Oatka. After Rochelle read through the list of programs, which appeared to be complete, George, Charlie, and Rochelle offered to review the list for possible omissions. There was a short discussion about including local programs in towns and villages, the North Chili subwatershed plan, the Bigelow Creek plan, US Fish and Wildlife programs on the creek, and the Bergen Swamp designation.
- Section G. Stakeholders  
Rochelle indicated that she has a general list of stakeholders, and will bring this to the next meeting for the rest of the group to review.

### **3. Consultant progress report (Jim Zollweg)**

- One item that is a concern to Jim Zollweg that rises again and again is flooding in Chili. Jim needs more information on the nature of the problem. He has a lot of hydrologic information, and the expertise to use this data, but he needs to be able to connect this information to the real world. He is looking for dates of flooding, location of where the flood crested in terms that he can locate on maps, such as streets, intersections, etc, so that he can link the numerical data to places. The group indicated Hurricane Agnes and the January 1998 floods as two where flooding was very widespread. There was a lack of agreement on causes, with some saying that flooding was mainly caused by obstructions in the channel, some saying that the flooding was seasonal, and some indicating backwater from the Genesee River as the primary cause. There was a discussion of areas of fill that have occurred since the 1998 storm that may be acting as levees, and of some fill further upstream in meander areas that may be worsening the flooding. Jim suggested that people e-mail him information on the extent of flooding. Any information that can help Jim define the areas of flooding should be sent electronically to [jzollweg@brockport.edu](mailto:jzollweg@brockport.edu). After a discussion of measuring points on the river, Charlie offered to try to find out who from the County is making measurements, locations measured and whether there is data from the measurements. Pat and Chuck also indicated the role of the Court Street Dam in controlling water levels in the creek. Pat said that when the dam was lowered a couple of years ago to allow for work on the retaining wall along Plymouth Avenue, levels in the Black Creek system dropped so much that Little Black Creek went dry. It was indicated that the USACE and NYSDOT portions of section F should be expanded to discuss the use of the river and the canal for both flood control in the Genesee River, and pool maintenance for the Erie Canal.
- A second item on Jim's list was to explain that he and Dr. Mark Noll of SUNY Brockport have a schedule and plan for taking three Water Quality "snapshots" of the Creek and its tributaries. Reasons for this include:

- Existing data is not of the “type” and “interval” that they want to use, and does not focus on the tributaries. They will pick approximately 12 locations around the system to get a sense of what is happening throughout the system, as opposed to the static data collection at one point. They will look to sample during late snowmelt, after an intense spring rainstorm, and once summer conditions obtain equilibrium. Their sampling plan will be posted on the website.
- They will be looking at locations that are representative of a particular land use or other areas that are distinctly different in an attempt to characterize typical contributions from types of locations. These data can then be used to estimate what should be expected from other similar tributaries or areas that are not sampled. Serial sampling along the stream may also be useful in estimating the impacts of landforms such as the Bergen Swamp, which might be expected to “buffer” water quality but may also contribute trace elements, and in isolating segments where major contributions of pollutants are occurring.
- Jim asked if he could have another copy of the contacts list. Rochelle will send Jim a copy.
- A timetable for the draft was discussed. Three weeks before the April meeting, Jim will get a draft to Rochelle, who will distribute it to the coalition for review prior to the April meeting, when comments should be returned to Jim.

#### **4. Discussion of a spring field trip**

Dave Mundie may be interested in organizing a spring canoe trip. There was discussion on where a canoe trip could be held with consensus that pretty much the entire creek was not navigable due to meandering, narrowness or obstruction with the exception of the stretch from Churchville Park upstream to Route 19. There was also some discussion of another Bergen Swamp trip. Rochelle will talk to Dave Mundie and Barbara Drake about possible trips. George will talk to Adventure Calls Rafting Co. to see what they could offer. One member questioned whether the field trips were a component of the grant, and was answered that while they were not necessary for the grant, it is good to do something recreational and recreation was one of the original objectives for the creek. There were questions about the stream as a fishing resource and whether the stream has been shocked. Incidental responses included that the stream is a good habitat for warm water species, that some of the tributaries are listed or suspected as trout waters (Spring Brook in Byron, Hotel Creek, Mill Creek), and that fish are visible around the bridges when the water clears. It was agreed that the recreation issue should be an agenda item at next month’s meeting.

#### **5. Updates on Public Relations**

- Dorothy talked to a reporter from the Gates Chili Post, who will do a lead story about the Coalition in the Post. They will also use this in other Post publications so the project should get coverage in Brockport, Sweden, etc. She asked who else would be willing to talk to the reporter. Jim, Rochelle, George and Bob will all talk to the reporter, Natalie Hansen, about the Coalition. Dorothy also indicated that Suburban News is another possibility at a later time. Dorothy also asked for contact information for Maureen Leupold, vice chair. Rochelle will get the contact information to Dorothy.
- Rochelle reported that the IMA has been signed by Genesee and Monroe Counties, and is with the County Attorney in Orleans County, so it should be back in about 2 weeks. The

Contract with the Research Foundation is complete, and Jim will start submitting vouchers.

**6. Next meeting**

Wednesday 2/26/2003 at 7:00 PM, Chili Town Library, Multipurpose Room, Dorothy Borgus, Chair.