

**MINUTES**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Wednesday February 26, 2003  
Chili Town Hall

Present: Whitney Autin, 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; Dario Marchioni, Town of Chili Planning Board; Bob Eichenberger, Town of Byron; Maureen Leopold, GCC; Linda Driscoll; Donna Alder, Roberts Wesleyan College; Peter M. Widener, Chili Town Historian, James C. Gamble; William W. Wilcox; Bernice F. Wilcox; Paula Smith, Monroe County SWCD; Mary Arnold; 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 Bob Eichenberger was timekeeper.

The minutes were corrected as follows: On page 3 Item #4, Spring Brook in Byron should be changed to Spring Creek in Byron.

**2. Consultants' Report**

Whitney Autin reported that Jim Zollweg was unable to attend because of a flood in the building at SUNY Brockport where his lab is located. Impact to the report should be minimal due to backup copies of all work.

Since the last meeting a variety of work has been completed, especially in two areas.

- Digital Elevation Maps for the basin are done showing topography, slope and aspect, in shaded relief. Whitney circulated an example of the topography in black and white. All have been on the website since last week.
- Whitney indicated that they were also assembling smaller items on the outline from public domain information, and he was figuring 6-8 weeks to complete the data gathering. Rochelle indicated that at the last meeting, it was indicated that a draft should be ready for distribution before the April meeting, which Whitney indicated was realistic, and the total report should be done by the third week in June.

Whitney also indicated that there were a number of things being done as projects associated with the overall program at the school that will have utility in the watershed report, such as:

- The surface water characterization that J. Zollweg detailed in January.
- Characterization of Groundwater- For this they are looking for 5-10 well owners willing to have their well sampled and willing to allow the data to be published.

Sampling involves a short pre-pumping to clear “stale” water from the case, and collection of approximately a gallon of the well water, which would then be analyzed by the college for general chemical background information.

- They are also looking for other projects on the geology and hydrology of the area, and in this light, Whitney offered to open two class field trips to Coalition participation. The first will be held on Saturday, April 5, and will consist of a trip through the watershed to look at significant geological features, especially nature of bedrock and effects of glaciation, and surface land cover. The second will be held on April 26, when students will present questions raised during the first trip, and their reports of their findings. Individuals interested in going on either trip should save the dates and watch for further information about where and when to meet. Individuals will be responsible for their own transportation.
- They have also received a geologic mapping grant to look at the distribution of subsurface materials. It is Whitney’s intention to do a re-mapping of the Churchville area which allows him to extend prior work that he has done on Holley.

Donna Alder asked about going along on the water sampling with M. Noll, and there was some discussion on the need for rapid response to capture unfolding events in this kind of sampling, as opposed to the kinds of things that can be scheduled in advance.

### **Report Sections:**

#### **Section A: Complete**

**Section B:** Bob Remmelard had completed a draft of this section, that he thought he had sent to Rochelle, and which he provided in hard copy. There was a question about how to do an edit of the report. Whitney suggested getting a full first draft before starting to do any heavy editing to avoid redundant work. He indicated that each area of the outline requires some narrative language to be added. For those assembling information, Rochelle should serve as the collection point, who will then get everything to Whitney. Whitney asked that everyone check the website maps, and then get back to him or Jim Zollweg if they see problems with the maps. Some of the attendees indicated that they were having problems with the maps, some getting half maps and others partial overlays. There is a troubleshooting guide at the bottom of the home page with some potential fixes, especially for PDF files such as the maps, or if none of the solutions offered works, problems can be communicated to [jzollweg@brockport.edu](mailto:jzollweg@brockport.edu).

**Section C. History:** Pat Tindale had a lot of information from the School for the Deaf. Dorothy had contacted current and past historians in Chili and had a 13 page study, which is very comprehensive. Rochelle answered a question about information from upstream communities by indicating that she has information on Godfrey’s Pond and Bergen Swamp, but no information on Bethany and Stafford. Dario asked if they were aware of the 1975 study of the creek, which Whitney said they have. Pat asked whether the report would include pictures, especially the pictures on the website. Whitney indicated he

planned to look for significant viewsapes, and when these had been identified, get good digital photos from the locations. Mary Arnold indicated that she knew of a website with good historical photos, and offered to check it and get the address.

**Sections D and E:** The first discussion focused on whether the two sections on Water Quantity and Water Quality should be merged, and there was consensus that they should. The next topic for discussion focussed on whether recreation was an appropriate goal for inclusion in this section. Whitney indicated that they have looked at compiling the information as an inventory of what is available in the watershed from existing sources such as DeLorme's Atlas, NYSDEC, etc, but indicated that it doesn't need to be included as a goal at this stage of the report as it can be included in a later section. There was then a discussion of whether this was appropriate as a goal or an objective, or whether it was just a fact about the basin. The group decided to leave things the way they are: include recreation in the report; list it as an objective; don't list it as a goal.

#### **4. Spring Field Trips:**

Barbara Drake provided Rochelle with 4 possible dates for a hike in the Bergen Swamp, and the group decided that Saturday, May 17 worked best for them. Rochelle will work out the details and get back to the group with more information. **THERE WILL BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF HIKERS, SO IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, SIGN UP EARLY.**

Dave Mundie is still interested in leading a canoe trip, and George Squires indicated that Adventure Calls rafting has offered to make some canoes available, and has suggested that a trip start at Route 19, go up to the swamp, and then proceed downstream to Churchville Park for takeout. They have suggested April 26, but a number of people have indicated that they have commitments for that day pertaining to Earth Day, and also commented on possible high water problems in April, so Rochelle will discuss another date, possible May 10, with Dave.

#### **5. Three-county Intermunicipal Agreement:** Done.

**Publicity:** Dorothy got a cover article on the coalition in the Gates Chili Post, and the editor has indicated that an editorial will be generated to urge community participation in the plan. Dorothy indicated that she would also talk to Suburban News.

#### **6. Next Meeting:** March 26, 2003, 7:00 p.m. Chili Library