

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

Present: Whitney Autin, Jim Zollweg, Mark Noll, 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, Town of Chili; Dario Marchioni, Town of Chili Planning Board; Maureen Leopold, GCC and GCSWCD; Linda Driscoll, Delta Labs, Inc; William W. Wilcox; Bernice F. Wilcox, Chili Mills; Mary Arnold; Lyle Warren, Churchville Trustee; Bob Wilkins, Monroe County A.F.P.B.; William Gick, Town of Bethany; 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 Remillard was timekeeper, Rochelle Bell was facilitator.

The minutes were corrected as follows: In Report Section C add: Bee Wilcox and Chuck Rettig presented a narrated document they researched and wrote titled the “ History of Black Creek in Wyoming, Genesee, and Monroe Counties in Western New York” for availability of publishing in the history section of the BCWC report.”

The remainder of the minutes were accepted as presented.

Consultants’ Report: Dr. Whitney Autin reported that he has a rough draft, they are into the development of the third section on uses of land and water in the watershed, and they are also starting work on a summary of problems, for which they will consider input. R. Bell distributed a list of problems assembled at the breakout sessions of the symposium. W. Autin indicated that he saw no mention of water quantity as a problem, but R. Bell indicated this was only what was said in the session, but was not necessarily exhaustive. The Team will try to provide some sense of priority within lists such as this one, and may also be able to indicate where actions to deal with a problem are either completed or underway. W. Autin thought they could deliver on time for review prior to the next meeting. He sees a need to get feedback under fairly specific time cues, so that there is initial discussion at the next meeting, a period for comments, and then a window to finalize language. Dorothy B. wondered if we should have 2 meetings for discussion, adding a meeting in early May, but Whitney indicated that the regular April and May meetings should be enough. It was emphasized that the April meeting should be well attended, and people should come having read the sections and prepared to work through them. Version 1 should be completed for April, version 2 for May, and the final should be complete for the June meeting. As Rochelle will be away for spring break week, Whitney will transmit to Charlie, who will get out the mailing. Whitney et al will post everything on the website in *.pdf format, county staff will do an e-mailing, and mailing and notify everyone that the documents are posted; a hard copy of the report will be mailed to those without e-mail.

Dr. Jim Zollweg talked about an additional perspective to the report: a vital part of the state of the basin will be the dataset, which will be very complete and detailed for a modest watershed, and will be in GIS format. While Whitney has been talking about the text, Jim is wondering how the data should be delivered, and also how the report in its entirety should be delivered, how many copies will need to be delivered that are complete in terms of maps, text and data. Rochelle indicated that she is working with River Network on redistribution of funds remaining from the symposium, and that she should be able to devote some of those funds to printing costs, either by sending to Kinko's or some other printer. Jim suggested that CD's might be a good option, that a lot of data can be stored on a CD for about \$1.00. Rochelle and Charlie will look at the fiscal end of the printing, generate a list of those people who will have to get a hard copy of the final report, and determine level of detail and funding available from there to come up with printing figures. Rochelle also indicated that maps should be setup so that even if the original is a color map, the keying and patterning should be done in a way that allows the map to be reproduced in black and white. Someone asked if copies of the maps that Whitney circulated could be obtained, and Jim indicated that as soon as a map is completed it is put on the website, so people could view the maps there.

Dr. Mark Noll said that he has a student on board for the water quality work, he has the list of people who will participate in the well sampling. They will drop off sampling kits with instructions on how to collect the well sample, and pick up the kits the next day. He indicated that all the water quality data that is currently available is at or below Churchville, and that he has seen nothing from above the swamp, and asked that if anyone is aware of additional data on water quality, they contact him. Most of the data they have now is "snapshot," which doesn't adequately represent the water quality for a long time period or geographic area. They are identifying areas where they can sample major sub-basins of the whole watershed. He finds it odd that nothing has been done on the west end of the watershed. They will be doing major cations (Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium); some other metals such as Iron, Nitrate, Chloride, Sulfate and Phosphorus. They will not attempt to characterize species of Nitrogen (Nitrate, Ammonia, Nitrite, Organic Nitrogen) or Phosphorus (Total P, Soluble Reactive P) or analyze for organic compounds such as herbicides and pesticides. Dorothy asked about the number of locations to be sampled. Mark answered that about 10 surface water sites would be selected in addition to the groundwater sites.

Rochelle asked about the datasets used to generate the maps. She asked if the map that shows churches also included synagogues, mosques, etc. She indicated that the Zen Center on Bigelow Creek is not on the map, but has been brought up because of the springs on the property. J. Zollweg answered that there are limits on the data sources, and that no data set is perfect. The ultimate objective of the State of the Basin and associated mapping is to serve as a basis for the watershed plan, and that there are preeminent maps such as soils, geology, wetlands, etc. W. Autin recommended that the board remember that there are key areas where data gaps are critical and others where they are not. Rochelle asked if the maps could be edited if more data was provided. J. Zollweg indicated that many edits of non-critical information would not be done until the major portions of the report are done, and would then be undertaken based on time remaining and resources available.

Bee Wilcox indicated that the problem of filling in riparian areas was not included in the breakout list.

Report Sections:

Introduction: Has been sent out for comments to some of the committee. The most current version of the outline is on the website. Public Policy and Stakeholders sections have been combined. Water Quantity and Water Quality sections have been combined. The Introduction, a few comments would be helpful, but they are not looking for a major amount of work. W. Autin asked if we wanted all the same style in the writing. He said that he could do a lot, but it would be helpful if someone could do some of the consistency work before things get to him. Bob Remillard indicated that he has been updating the Public Participation Section -- he added the newspaper article and the TV report. The Black Creek Watershed database list is currently over 400 members.

Section VI. Summary of Problems and Threats: Dorothy asked Rochelle to indicate what has been done, and what she needs help with. Rochelle indicated that she tried to categorize the Symposium breakout list into general categories. A question was asked about trace metals analyses. M. Noll indicated that he could talk to the subject for a fair period of time. He said that they would be looking for a “chemical signature” associated with certain land use areas, which could allow prediction of what impacts a change in the land use might have in the stream. There is not enough information to do that now. Long term, it will be necessary to seek funding to support more detailed information. W. Autin said he has been working with three summary threads for this section, Water Quality, Water Quantity, and Data Gaps, and thought some of the discussion might relate to a problem in terminology. He suggested that we look at risks to the creek rather than threats and problems. Bee Wilcox asked if it would be problematic to look at water quality at the ends of the tributaries before they enter the main creek. M. Noll indicated that they would be doing some of this as part of a systematic evaluation and testing program, and that how many samples depends on how many resources are available. Another question was asked about the utility of Community Water Watch data. M. Noll said this would depend on the kind of testing and quality of the data, that cost per sample for good quality analyses could go as high as \$200-300 per sample. Rochelle asked if they would want the CWW data. W. Autin indicated that the data might be useful, but that the program, while strong for getting people involved in their watershed, is not that strong for detail, but also indicated that the visual inspection of the stream could be useful for judging water quality. There was a question as to whether erosion should be broken out as a separate topic. G. Squires reminded us that erosion is a natural process, and that it can’t be stopped. C. Knauf said that it is good to differentiate between erosion caused by natural process and erosion that is accelerated because of human influences. There was also a mention of the need to include Phase II stormwater regulations and its impacts. Someone asked if they have a full list of data sources. J. Zollweg said that they are just getting to this point, and requests for information will follow soon. Turnaround will need to be fast once the requests are made.

Field Trips: The Bergen Swamp Trip is scheduled for May 17 and a flier has gone out. Contact number on flier to pre-register, as space is limited.

The Canoe trip has been identified as best on 5/31. More information in May.
Whitney Autin's class field trip was scheduled for April 5, meeting in Bergen at about 08:00 and returning to the Junction with the Genesee River by about 5:00 PM.

NB. This trip was cancelled due to the ice storm and has been re-scheduled for Saturday, April 26.

Dorothy wants to speak to the people from R-News and Barbara Drake about a story for R-News.

Publicity: Dorothy had copies of the cover article on the coalition in the Gates Chili Post. She will speak to the editor about the editorial urging community participation in the plan. Dorothy was also featured in a television interview about the group on R-News. Bob Remillard has a videotape of the interview; Rochelle will make a copy for the file and a copy for Dorothy. Chuck Rettig had pictures of the recent flood event in the creek, and an article from the paper.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 29 7:00 PM at SUNY Brockport