

**MINUTES**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Tuesday, July 1, 2003  
Genesee County Park and Forest Interpretative Center

Present: Whitney Autin, Jim Zollweg, SUNY Brockport; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Jim Scudder, Town of Bethany; Mary Arnold, Town of Parma; Bob Patterson, Town of Bergen; Chuck Rettig Town of Chili; Joyce Fleming, Town of Bethany; Cherie Scudder, Town of Bethany; Maureen Leupold, Genesee Community College/Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District; Robert Remillard, Lake Plains RC&D; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development.

**Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.**

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

Dorothy Borgus was chair, Charlie Knauf and Maureen Leupold scribed and Bob Patterson was timekeeper.

Two typos were found in the minutes from the last meeting: change "Swam" to "Swamp" (5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, page 1) and change "son" to "grandson" (last paragraph, page 1).

**Consultant's Report:** Whitney Autin reported that the "penultimate" *State of the Basin Report* is done. Jim Zollweg, Rochelle Bell and Dorothy Borgus looked over the copy. Any final changes should go to Rochelle Bell. Whitney Autin said that although he was not always sure of what folks wanted him to say, he thinks he has satisfied everyone's content goals. If omissions are found, a page could be inserted here or there.

Whitney Autin went over some changes to the Basin Repot as follows:

- History section was moved to back of the introduction. The history section is anecdotal while the rest of the section looks at the reasons why the report was written, the mission, etc.
- Chapter II – final map list was developed listing 46 maps.
- Chapter III – uses of land and water have been updated; agricultural and idle land has been somewhat broken out.
- Addition of what's going on with the storm and sanitary sewers – how they are managed and impacts on the above.
- Decaying septic systems – proposes to do an inventory of these but not trying to be specific at this point.
- Dam section – 20 dams in watershed.
- Last chapter – summary of problems and risks.

Two primary concerns in the basin

- 1) Water quality -- point source pollution, and SPDES and nonpoint sources of pollution including agricultural and developed areas.
- 2) Water quantity – flooding and low flow conditions. The quantity issue is related to the quality issue. The relationship is such that when there is high quantity, quality may not be so big a problem.

Recommendations in three generic areas:

- 1) How does government manage resources in relation to public perception and desires?
- 2) Data gaps.
- 3) Education gaps.

Rochelle Bell discussed a few items concerning the Appendices. The group agreed to not include the IMA, symposium notes, minutes, reports and newsletters in the final report. It will include a summary of comments from the workshop participants and a report distribution list.

Rochelle Bell distributed a list of credits for review and Whitney Autin distributed the Executive Summary.

Chuck Rettig asked if we had seen the Canandaigua Watershed Plan – response was yes, but he might be thinking of the whole plan that was extremely detailed for each tributary.

Whitney Autin said that the executive summary describes the major overall content.

Rochelle Bell questioned if there were any contradictions between the North Chili Tributary to Black Creek study goals and objectives and what we have done. Whitney Autin replied that no significant differences were found.

The Executive Summary should work for Town Supervisors, etc, where the full report may not.

Chuck Rettig asked if there is anything on soil types in the basin report. Whitney Autin said there was, and these were extracted from NRCS soil survey maps. There are 200 soil units mapped in the watershed which are difficult to show on an 11x17 map, so the units were classified by hydrologic characteristics – percolation rate, slope, runoff characteristics, etc. This type of classification will enable us to look at potential rates of recharge etc.

Chuck Rettig asked how the Phase II regulations will affect the Black Creek basin and should we generate a list to help the municipalities with this. Should the gap in storm water be stressed? It was stated that a few sentences of expansion would be good. Rochelle Bell said that maybe expand to allow municipalities to position themselves for the upcoming Phase II.

George Squires – smaller and smaller municipalities will have to comply with parts of Phase II regulations since they cover construction activity that impacts 1 acre of land. It is good for the consultant, developer, etc. know that they will have to move toward Phase II compliance.

ACTION: Recommend need for inventory where compliance with Phase II will be needed.

A list of Participants was reviewed. Corrections were made and the need to add the Genesee County Historian was noted.

**Distribution Plan:** Chuck Rettig asked if the local libraries were included, which they are. The Village of Bergen Library was added. The fact that all of the information is on the website needs to be emphasized. Questions about how long [www.blackcreekwatershed.org](http://www.blackcreekwatershed.org) will be maintained and the color of the maps were discussed. There are approximately 2 years left on the contract.

## **NEXT STEPS**

1. Take a Break (no meeting is scheduled in August)

2. Rollout of the State of the Basin Report.

Rochelle distributed a Tom's of Maine grant guidelines sheet for discussion as a funding source for the rollout of the report.

Ideas from the group included:

- a) To get town Board members interested, have a special meeting for town boards, village boards, planning boards etc.
- b) Do this regionally i.e. Bergen for Genesee Co, Chili for Monroe Co., so people don't have to travel so far.
- c) At the meetings,
  - a. Show the State of the Basin Report
  - b. Introduce next steps in developing a Watershed Management Plan
  - c. Show the advantages to the towns and villages.
  - d. Get buy-in from municipalities - IMA's

Next Step for the BCWC: Plan Public Information Meetings and the program for them – What are the issues? Put the problems up front in the invitations to get the municipality representatives there. Also show the advantages that can be obtained.

3. Facilitated Retreat based on the WEC model. Use a facilitator to work with the municipalities' representatives to keep things on track.

What about future funding? How much will it cost? Bob Remillard suggested looking at future grants, but we'd need to know how much funding would be needed.

Whitney Autin – Suggests a management plan would be organized around actions. Don't know a lot about different relationships – demonstration projects.

Education – broader, integrated, regional approach.

Plan with key areas of action and proposed demonstration projects.

George Squires said some of the things are the responsibility of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There are bits and pieces that agencies can accept

responsibilities for and find grant funds to do. It would be a good step to lay it out and suggest responsible parties.

Need to iterate a plan before we go to the municipalities. Should have a 3-5 year plan.

"Unpack" the *State of the Basin Report* and itemize all the things that need to be done. Also compile a list of accomplishments to date.

Whitney Autin: Show what's been done - elements to date. Expansion – What are the elements that are strong? What are the elements that are weak?

Are there any "teeth" coming in terms of NYSDEC or EPA regulations? We can assist communities in meeting expectations.

## **Next Meeting**

### **Agenda Items:**

- Next steps

- Concentrate on actions

- Come back with project that can be done – come prepared.

- Get goals and objectives together, prioritize, set a timeline.

Bob Remillard passed out a frame work from Coastal Conservancy "Watershed Planning Guide." (Note: members should read this before the Sept. meeting). Have a plan first. If the municipalities object you can change, but we have to have a proposal or the purpose of the meetings has been deflated. Birdseye also has environmental grants.

Action Item: Have a section on priorities, decide on what should be given to political sector. Next meeting – have all the "tools."

What is the plan on the delivery of the document? Final by the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. 1<sup>st</sup> week in Aug. the report will be on the website. Will go out to the Coalition members by the end of August.

Next meeting "sometime" in September in Chili. (9/15)

George Squires showed the newly released "Genesee County Parks Management Plan." He will read and review the document and bring copies of his comments for the Coalition to review at the Sept. meeting.