

**MINUTES**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Monday September 15, 2003  
Chili Town Hall

Present: 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; Bob Patterson, Town of Bergen; Bob Eichenberger, Town of Byron; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department; Bob Wilkins, Monroe County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board; Paula Smith, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Maureen Leupold, GCC and Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; Ron Pikuet, Town of Chili.

**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 Wilkins was timekeeper, Rochelle Bell was facilitator.

The minutes were accepted as presented. Rochelle suggested that items 5 and 6 on the agenda be reversed in order, and this was accepted after modification of the end times.

**2. State of the Basin Report Distribution Status:** Rochelle reported that publication, mainly assembly, is taking awhile and a few copies are going out at a time. Color copies are costing in the neighborhood of \$70.00, and while one fold in the maps can be done by machine the other has to be done manually. **KUDOS TO THE CLERKS AT MC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.** Bob Patterson commented that there are a lot of maps, and some seem redundant. It may have been possible to cut costs somewhat by combining some of the maps. Rochelle indicated that she has not received any comments back, but that it is early in the distribution process. Color copies are going to all libraries indicated in earlier discussions. The report should help with the long-term outreach effort, as a working document and reference.

**3. 5 Star Grant:** Paula Smith reported that she and George Squires collaborated on this EPA grant last January. Phase I of the project involves using funds from the grant to augment USDA funding available for removing agricultural land from production to restore streamside buffers. Phase II will involve conducting a workshop or conference to do additional education and a field trip to promote creation of these buffers. They are meeting soon to choose two farms for participation, probably one in Genesee County and one in Monroe County. The grant is administered through the Water Education Collaborative. Rochelle wondered if the Black Creek Watershed Coalition's existence helped to facilitate the award, and Paula replied that collaborative efforts always score higher in this day and age. Maureen Leupold wondered if there would be any student opportunities for planting, etc, and George said that much of that work would need to be done in the spring, as a lot of the work would involve woody vegetation. Maureen said the Genesee Community College has a grant for high school students in terms of helping with this kind of activity, and some activities suggested included monitoring vegetative

development and watering plantings. Paula said there was about a one-year window for implementation of the grant project, but that the landowner commitment involves a one-year easement. George indicated that there was a lot of cropland that is in production right up to the edge of the waterway, and that buffers received a lot of points in the EQIP program. The idea for the grant application came out of the discussion at Caring for Creeks.

#### **4. Prioritize Goals and Objectives; Share ideas about projects that can be done; set timeline.**

Rochelle distributed handout which broke goals, objectives and recommendations listed in the State of the Basin Report into four categories (Policy, Technical and Public Outreach/Education and Administration), which might lend themselves to the formation of subcommittees to pursue the goals. She indicated that there are many tasks that can be pursued without funding. Bob Patterson commented that he has noticed that governments are basically limited to working along thoroughfares and can't get off the roads, so that maybe the only way to get some of the goals accomplished is by creating zoning or drainage districts. Dorothy and others pointed out that the Town of Chili has drainage districts. Rochelle commented that the ensuing discussion was what should happen as part of a policy/outreach subcommittee. There was continued discussion of drainage districts, and Dorothy Borgus offered to get a copy of the Chili ordinance to Bob Patterson. Paula Smith suggested going around the table and getting some input on either the goals and ideas or gaps that we saw, and started by saying it would be good to get a decision-makers meeting together, involving municipal decision-makers. It was pointed out that that was one idea that had been offered at the last meeting, but it had been rolled into a Public Information Meeting on the State of the Basin Report, not targeted to local decision-makers as Paula suggested. George Squires said the list could be checked to see if there are government or other entities that are already responsible for doing some of the functions, and if so, these become the logical subcommittees, or at least participants on them. Dorothy also pointed out a need to re-invigorate some former committee members, and Rochelle suggested that the subcommittee structure might serve to do that as folks see action on the area they are interested in and come back to help out. Maureen Leupold pointed out the lack of biological data in the State of the Basin, and in the watershed; Rochelle suggested that a Biological Health/Diversity committee might be appropriate, but Charlie felt that this could be accomplished as part of a technical subcommittee. Bob Remillard suggested that Maureen, Whitney, and others would be appropriate for such a group, and suggested that between now and next meeting, folks think about which groups they could help, and who else might be needed for the different subcommittees. He suggested that the Meeting Notice contain language about breaking into subcommittees, and requesting that people take the time to consider signing up for one or more subcommittees even if they can't attend the main meetings. It was also suggested that the meeting notice follow up on the State of the Basin report, and ask for comments from the recipients who were not part of the generation process, as these will be important in the next steps of the process. It was suggested that this topic will need to be revisited at the next meeting, and that after that, it might be appropriate to start having committee meetings alternating with full coalition meetings. Ron Pikueta asked about current size of

the full group, and if all the municipalities are sending representatives. Rochelle indicated that all but 2 municipalities have representatives on the list, and that attendance is usually a little bit better, around 20 people. Ron suggested that it might be helpful to do a smaller outreach to each municipality, and Bob Patterson added that it might be best to get the town or Village Board and especially the Planning Board to have the greatest effect. Bob Wilkins thought presentations would best be done by one good salesman, with maybe some support from other members of the group. Charlie Knauf suggested that rather than trying to prioritize the whole list, the subcommittees should form and prioritize their tasks and possibly complete the lists individually. Bob Eichenberger felt that there are too many things on the list. Rochelle asked that people get comments on the list to her, and that she would attempt a shortening and streamlining of the list.

It was asked whether the SUNY folks would still be a part of the effort, and Rochelle responded that she knew that Whitney was interested in continuing his involvement, but had a conflict for the Monday meeting time. As time in the Town Hall had run out, the meeting was adjourned with a resolve to continue the discussion at the October meeting, which was scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, tentatively to be held at the same location.