

MINUTES
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Wednesday October 22, 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; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department; Bob Wilkins, Farmland Protection Board; Paula Smith, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Maureen Leupold, GCC and Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Heidi Bogner, NYSDEC; Whitney Autin, SUNY at Brockport.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Dorothy Borgus was chair, Charlie Knauf was scribe, Paula Smith was timekeeper, and Rochelle Bell was facilitator.

The minutes were accepted as presented.

2. State of the Basin Report Distribution Status

Rochelle Bell reported that distribution is complete and everyone on the original lists has received the indicated copy. She also said that the Monroe County Clerk's office called, and asked that a copy be sent to the Clerk of the Legislature, which has been done. She asked if the Clerk of the Legislature in the other counties should also receive one, and will get these in the mail.

3. Subcommittees

Rochelle Bell indicated that Dave Zorn of Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning contacted her and gave her information on associated projects, and indicated that he is hiring a new assistant planner, and wanted to know what subcommittee(s) he/she would be on. Heidi Bogner was introduced, and was recommended by Scott Jones. Dorothy suggested that Joe Carr would be good for the technical/demonstration subcommittee. Rochelle Bell reminded folks that they can be in more than one project area, or could be involved in a project area of a committee without full committee participation. Joe Carr indicated that the Policy subcommittee has public works personnel associated with it, and that he might be a better fit there. Bob Patterson thought now would be a good time to reach out to other folks in the communities to get their involvement. Whitney and Bob Wilkins agreed, get key people with key abilities. Bob Patterson asked how often the main group would meet, how often the subcommittees should be meeting. Paula Smith felt that a lot could be accomplished through e-mail, and at least some of the work needs to be done this way. A meeting should be held to brainstorm, set goals and assign tasks, but review of outputs and improvements could be done by e-mail. Rochelle Bell suggested breaking down into subcommittees for the following 40 minutes. Paula Smith suggested an exec committee structure rather than full committee meetings. Rochelle Bell also indicated that

full meetings would need to be held to deal with parking lot issues. Bob Wilkins asked if bi-monthly would work for the committees. Charlie Knauf suggested that some subcommittees might need more time as they get started, and less as things get accomplished. Bob Patterson suggested that we check lists for additional information needed now. Bob Wilkins pointed to the previously indicated gap in biological information about the watershed that the technical group should be starting on. Whitney suggested that tasks might need prioritization, to see what can be accomplished more immediately, and what might have to be put off until resources can be identified. Rochelle Bell also said that all the subcommittee work needs to be seen in the context of writing a watershed plan, and she asked Bob Remillard what he thought as far as how the subcommittee structure fits. Rochelle Bell said we would want to break this out in two ways: step one, developing action lists, done by the subcommittee, and leading to Step 2, writing the watershed plan. He suggested that the subcommittee add to the list what we can act on, where we can get funding, what we can't act on without additional resources, and what will be needed to move forward. Actual development and writing of the plan will require additional funding, but meanwhile the subcommittee should do what can be done on the list. Whitney asked if there was a plan for the dissemination of information about the SOB, and suggested after elections and before January first. He felt that it would be a good thing to get the media contacts going immediately, while people are interested and showing up. Dorothy Borgus thought this was a good reason for continuing to meet every other month. Maureen Leupold suggested prioritizing the actions listed for each subgroup, and Bob Wilkins suggested looking at the administrative subcommittee policies. Rochelle Bell wanted to keep the discussion focused on the outreach, and so suggested that we look at the list for the Education and Public Outreach Committee, indicating that no decision has as yet been made on how to do municipal outreach or details of a public or municipal official's forum. Paula Smith asked if things that contribute to development of the watershed plan should be prioritized as actions.

Public Outreach Subcommittee: Many of the things on the list are tools. The watershed plan should highlight an inventory of available tools and their use. The plan should also indicate ways to expand into other areas, and expand the number of tools. A question about the status of the web site was answered that Carol Zollweg will continue to support to the extent of posting the minutes and agenda. Whitney said that the website is the information conduit, and should be job 1. Paula Smith reemphasized that one of the next major objectives is to get a watershed management plan developed, and felt that those items that furthered that direction should be prioritized. She further suggested that the newsletter, media outreach and website are ongoing, that the public access survey and Plan, and the commercial activity survey, are essential items in a watershed plan, while the other things on the list are toolbox items not crucial to the plan.

Technical/ Demonstration Subcommittee: Whitney suggested that Biological Health could be a first level in terms of gap analysis. Vegetative, Aquatic, and Wildlife inventories would need to be covered, and Charlie Knauf and Maureen Leupold were indicated as appropriate to this part of the task. It was agreed that at least a definition of what resources are already existing could be started, and this would lead to a definition of gaps needing study to fill. Whitney mentioned that Mark Noll is starting a new project with a geochemist at SUNY at Geneseo, looking to set up an outdoor laboratory setting to monitor

precipitation, some groundwater, etc. that may be helpful to these efforts. Rochelle Bell suggested that the Technical Demonstration subcommittee might break out into 4 further groupings: Hydrology/Chemistry/Water Quality; Biological Issues; Public Works issues, such as Road salt, drainage and flooding; and Agriculture. Bob Wilkins suggested doing these as subsets, then integrating the issues. George Squires reminded the group that they should first identify parties that are already responsible for these areas to avoid duplication. Steve Locke of the Bergen Swamp group was offered as an example. Pat Tindale said we need to be involved in networking to define who is doing what in the technical areas. Maureen Leupold suggested that the drainage issue should be a high priority. The task group should identify needs and actions for agriculture early on as well.

Policy Subcommittee: for the next meeting, try to get the people who are necessary, that can help the most. Bob Remillard suggested having the small group meeting and hammering things out at that level, and then coming together with the full group. Whitney said that as much as possible ought to be done via e-mail.

Rochelle Bell offered to identify the names and assemble e-mail lists for each task group.

4. Next meeting

Bob Wilkins suggested meeting as subcommittees in November, then meeting as subcommittees in the first half and as whole groups in the second half of December. The next full committee meeting was set for December 2, 2003.

5. Grant Support

A motion was made by Paula Smith, seconded by Maureen Leupold, and carried, to support the Genesee County AEM grant application.