

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Tuesday December 2, 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; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department; Bob Wilkins, Farmland Protection Board; Maureen Leupold, GCC and Genesee County SWCD; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Heidi Bogner, NYSDEC; David Zorn, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council; Pat Tindale, Chili resident; Linda Driscoll, Delta Labs, Inc.; Donna Alder, Roberts Wesleyan College.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Dorothy Borgus was chair, Charlie Knauf was scribe, and Maureen Leupold was timekeeper, Rochelle Bell was facilitator.

The minutes were accepted with the change of noting that Pat Tindale was present at the October (last) meeting.

Bob Wilkins asked about the need to discuss, in view of developments in Chili, developments in flood prone areas. Another project has been proposed for Paul Road. Rochelle Bell suggested adding this to the parking lot and perhaps inviting the developer to attend a meeting. Bob said it needs discussion and perhaps the group should take a stand. After this discussion, the remainder of the minutes was accepted.

- 2. State of the Basin Report Distribution Status:** Rochelle Bell spoke with Kathy Luscher at the River Network and she sounded impressed with the State of the Basin Report, especially the maps. Bob Wilkins reported that no word has been received yet from the Agriculture Board. Dorothy Borgus reported that she had asked the Town Clerk in Chili if he had seen the report, and on finding that he hadn't, recommended that he review it. Bob asked if the grant is complete, and Rochelle replied that the monies are spent. Rochelle also spoke to Kathy Luscher at River Network about other grant opportunities, but found that EPA is now putting their funds into Watershed Initiative Grants (which have to be applied for by the State Governor-Charlie Knauf note) for larger watersheds rather than Watershed Assistance Grants for smaller watersheds. River Network doesn't have any funding for the Great Lakes area except for training dollars, watershed leadership training. Dorothy Borgus asked if the training is available locally, Rochelle replied that there is some. Robert Remillard asked if the training grants require match, and Rochelle replied no. Check the website (www.rivernetwork.org) for an application to apply. Robert Remillard said that the International Erosion Control conference has a lot of good courses, albeit expensive. Rochelle said that expenses for courses in a range of \$300-500 are covered in the grant offering.

Robert asked if we have the GIS metadata for the plan. Rochelle was unsure, and Robert asked if we could get them. Many of us recalled having the impression for the SUNY Brockport meeting where J. Zollweg explained the GIS that we were supposed to be getting a set of these files. Rochelle Bell will check with JZ to see if we can get a copy of the files or if there is a way that we can access the files. Dorothy, Pat and Rochelle met on education and

outreach and would like to be able to use the data, especially to try to combine some of the overlays.

3. Subcommittees Reports

Administrative: The Administrative Subcommittee met toward the end of November and started work on press releases, which Rochelle Bell is developing. It was questioned who would deliver, Dorothy Borgus or Monroe County, the response was that Dorothy Borgus would. They decided that it was important to continue to push news articles to get the information out, especially about meetings, times, locations, etc. A news release for the public information meetings is premature, as planning for that function is not far enough along yet. They had a very productive 3-hour meeting and produced a detailed summary, which is available from Rochelle. Robert Remillard detailed planning for the municipal officer's meeting, what is to be presented and how it could be presented, and who has been identified as an appropriate audience (**SEE ATTACHED**). There was a question about whether this meeting would benefit from the experience of the Irondequoit Watershed Collaborative (IWC). Charlie explained that the IWC is somewhat different in that the IWC was originally formed from municipal and agency representatives, and has no citizen component, while the BCWC is a mainly citizen group looking to get more municipal involvement. Another question was asked about the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) involvement with the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee (OCWC). Dave Zorn answered that G/FLRPC is helping OCWC go to the municipalities to ask them to participate in the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) process, and asking them to pass a call for cooperation. About half the presentations are complete, and about half of the municipalities that have been contacted have passed a resolution calling for cooperation. The next step in this process is to bring the municipalities to the table and move them through directed agendas into discussion of the elements of the WMP. This is similar to what was done in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. A municipal organization was formed, and this is key because implementation will require a municipal apparatus.

Dorothy Borgus asked what level of the municipal organization is most appropriate for representation. Dave Zorn answered that the Town Board is the best level to involve as many municipalities don't have a Conservation Board, and the Town Board is more direct, and has the authority to take actions. Dorothy commented that it might be best if you could get individuals from both to attend. Robert Remillard then indicated that the administrative subcommittee was also in the process of identifying possible funding sources, and had decided that realistically, the public information meeting might come at the end of May or early June.

There was some discussion of locations and activities for a public meeting and continued community involvement. One idea involves using the Agriculture Best Management Practice demo project, but George Squires said that this project will only start in the spring, and will not have a whole lot to show until the riparian buffer plantings are established. Rochelle Bell has talked to Tom's of Maine and the Rochester Area Community Foundation about funding. There is the possibility of using grant money to fund meals at the symposium or information meeting, or to hire G/FLRPC. Robert Remillard indicated that the announcement is out for the Five-Star grants, and that they are looking more at watershed grants in the southeast, and community projects. Maureen Leupold asked Robert if he had a copy of the letter of support that would be needed for 5-star grants to use as a model. He replied that he would e-mail a copy to Maureen Leupold and Bob Wilkins, and send to Rochelle Bell for inclusion in the minutes.

Technical: Charlie Knauf provided copies of the draft outline, and a quick summary (**SEE ATTACHED**). The Technical group has not met formally yet, but will look to meet in early January. Dave Zorn commented that the road salt work indicated as first priority in the Public Works section is ongoing by G/FLRPC as an update to work originally done in 1998, and prior by the Monroe County Environmental Management Council. He also indicated that Karen Paris Touri of the Monroe County Health Department was doing similar work. Joe Carr indicated G/FLRPC is doing a survey on the amount of salt being used, and the number of lane miles being salted, where Karen is doing Best Management Practices related to snow and ice control; although her survey does ask what types of deicing compounds are used, it doesn't look at quantities. The two efforts are complimentary. Dave Zorn said that G/FLRPC study looks at all the counties in the region, and does look at some aspects of Best Management Practice implementation as it takes into account the different needs of different areas in terms of things like micro-climates and amount of hilly terrain.

George Squires asked Charlie if he had incorporated comments sent via e-mail; **Charlie responded that he missed inclusion of these but would check his files and add these comments to the draft outline.**

Joe Carr questioned the impact of small dams, indicating that the Churchville dam was the only in-stream impoundment of which he was aware. Dave Zorn indicated that in the Oatka and Tonawanda flood studies recently completed by G/FLRPC, impacts of small dams were assessed, and many have a significant potential impact in that they were built with Pittman Robertson funds that paid for construction and maintenance for a period of time that is expiring. He also indicated that there may be many small industrial or local dams. George Squires also commented that in the Black Creek Watershed there are a number of dams on small tributaries. DEC inventories will also include pond dikes and wildlife marshes. Dorothy Borgus commented on old mill dikes at Morganville and Chili Mills. **Bob Wilkins offered that he has an outline that he will send for the agricultural group to use.** He questioned whether public and community input would be appreciated for this group. Charlie Knauf said it would be best to get as many people involved as possible so as not to overlook anyone's interest. If the farming community in the watershed can be contacted, they may want to get involved in that more specific activity. George Squires suggested tours of some of the farms that could highlight some of the agriculture products. He said that while it is hard to get the larger farmers involved in a general committee activity because their time is so heavily required for their farming activity, if the BCWC approaches with a specific request, they may want to be involved. Charlie asked about contacting the Farm Bureau, but Bob and George said that they have similar problems getting their membership out due to the demands of the farms. Pat Tindale wondered if farmers might do the tours, and George mentioned a student recently elected Dairy Princess who lives on a farm in the watershed and might be able to arrange a tour. **George Squires will contact her to see if she will attend a BCWC meeting to discuss a farm tour.**

Policy: There was some discussion on what would be the committee policy on Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) and Infiltration and Inflow (I and I), and septic system surveys. Dave Zorn asked if these were really documented problems. Joe Carr indicated that on-site septic systems are a Health Department issue. The committee role will be in quantifying the problem and developing and interface with the Health Department. Rochelle Bell asked about Wayne County, which has a grant program to assist homeowners in replacing failing septic systems. Dave said that Cayuga County has a septic inspection program, either as a part of public health law, or as a part of watershed rules and regulations.

Beyond the Town ordinances it gets fuzzy who has responsibility. George Squires indicated that where comprehensive plans exist they tie a lot of this together, along with the drainage issues.

Education and Public Outreach: Rochelle Bell asked that if you have ideas for updating the website, you let her know, and this information can also be included in grant applications. She also said that she added the BCWC into the EPA adopt a watershed page. She is drafting a letter to the municipalities updating the contact list; this will be completed after January 1st, when newly elected people have taken office. Rochelle asked if, in light of the concern over the Links in Chili project, it would be appropriate to try to get some of the developers involved in discussion at the committee. Dorothy Borgus reported on getting a student/researcher collaboration going with a student at Byron-Bergen High School. The group also discussed doing a public access survey to publish a list of locations where the creek can be accessed. Pat Tindale reported that the Town of Chili has all the information on access points in the town. Compilation of this information could be very valuable in applying for grants. George Squires said that Genesee County Planning is working on similar information, similar to the Oatka Guide that was just finished. A current list of committee projects is attached.

4. **Other Business:** Heidi Bogner reported that she had spoken to the NYSDEC Watershed Coordinator, Tracy Tomajer, and she is interested in attending a meeting and has a lot of information useful for watershed work. Rochelle will add her name to the database, and perhaps we can line her up as a speaker for the spring event, as other watershed groups in the area may be interested. Heidi volunteered to get the contact information to Rochelle.

Rochelle spoke about the Agricultural Non Point Source grant discussed at the prior meeting. The grant supported by BCWC was for a combination of projects in both the Black Creek and Oatka watersheds, and applied for \$15,426, with \$8,876 in grant funds matched by the remainder of the work as in-kind. This was a planning grant that would look at 31 farms in the watersheds. Also applied for was an implementation grant for \$489,244 in grant funds to be matched by a landowner contribution of \$167,390 for 3 farms. 3 million dollars in total project costs have been identified for implementation of plans. Paula Smith also applied for nutrient management grants, and Joe Carr has been looking for funding sources.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 28, 2004 at the Chili Town Hall or Library. Check the meeting notice for details.

A discussion was held after the meeting about the Links in Chili Project, and an appropriate position for the committee. General consensus was that as there is not an adopted plan to reference, and we do not have official standing at this point, the Committee should not make any statement, although members are free to reference their membership on the committee in making individual statements. There was also at least some sentiment that it would be good to see the whole plan and hear the developer's part of the story.