

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Wednesday 2/25/2004
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; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; David Zorn, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council; Pat Tindale, Town of Chili Conservation Board; Mary Arnold; Ken Avery, Chili; Bob Eichenberger, Byron; Steve Trenton, Clifton

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Ken Avery chaired as Dorothy was late, Charlie Knauf was scribe, and George Squires was timekeeper, All were facilitators.

The December minutes were accepted without changes, but noting that the January meeting was cancelled due to dangerous weather.

2. Subcommittee updates:

Administration: Rochelle Bell, Robert Remillard and Dave Zorn met on 1/16/04 to discuss grant funding and collaboration with the Oatka Creek watershed Committee (OCWC). Dave Zorn says OCWC sees value in collaborating and sees the watershed management plans as complimentary. A proposal was sent in to look at local ordinances. G/FLRPC is working with OCWC on municipal presentations, and has issued a call for cooperation. There are still 2 presentations to do, but at this point 14 of 17 municipalities will be sending representatives to a meeting of OCWC on March 22. Robert Remillard spoke to options and opportunities to look for funding. An application was submitted for both groups for funding under the Great Lakes Basin Opportunity for Soil and Erosion Control. Joe Carr said the collaboration between groups was a good thing as both are involved in the same general effort, and share common goals, and there could be a benefit from more folks working for the same things in both watersheds. A motion was made, seconded and passed to support collaborative efforts with OCWC.

Robert Remillard also submitted an application for funding to Tom's of Maine for \$10,000, and met with Woody Green of RACF and submitted tow grant applications with them for Outreach and Education Initiatives. Ken Avery asked when it would be known if grants were received. Dave Zorn answered that the Great Lakes Erosion and Sediment grant would be announced at around the end of April, and the timeline included in the grant for it to start around the end of July was set that way because the grantor asked for that timing. Rochelle Bell acknowledged the amount of work that was done by Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Office on these three grants. George Squires indicated that Genesee County had completed closeout on the FL/LOWPA Special Projects grant and would be able to apply again in the fall.

Rochelle Bell asked how to deal with grants, and someone answered that when a particular need is identified and an opportunity comes along, you have to go for it. C. Knauf mentioned the idea of having projects fleshed out in terms of scope and costs, and then doing the final work to make them fit the grant announcement requirements. George Squires mentioned that Genesee County will have an intern doing erosion analysis of the Genesee County area of Black Creek, similar to the project already completed on Oatka Creek.

Rochelle Bell indicated that 7 member surveys had been received, and that they indicate that a lot of folks would like to be doing something rather than talking, and that money shouldn't dictate the actions. Ken Avery asked if we could get a list together of what the needs are for when funding opportunities become available. Rochelle Bell said this is coming together from both ends- the committees set priorities and identify gaps, at the same time that we start knowing where the opportunities are. There is also some feedback on need for public education and information, a follow-up to the first public forum. Rochelle Bell indicated that they just need people to make presentations, get a place, order food. Funds are available for this purpose from Genesee County and Monroe County Planning. A lot of the items in the parking lot could be resolved this way. As an example, Rochelle Bell talked to Paul Schenkel for MCDES and they could do a presentation on the LIDAR project, which they have been using for **Disaster Relief Inventory** in Monroe County. Members in attendance indicated they would like this presentation at a meeting before it is done for a watershed forum, and Rochelle Bell will try to set it up for one of the next two meetings. Ken Avery asked if this was separate from the meeting planned for municipal officials to highlight the State of the Basin report and start the watershed plan process, and Rochelle Bell indicated that is separate and will occur if and when we get grant funding. George Squires indicated that this would be to get the larger group back together and hopefully reinvigorate the process, and could be held as early as April. Another suggestion was to shoot for early to mid May on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and have 3 topics and breakout sessions, and use pre-registration as a planning tool for food and space.

Policy: Paula Smith will stay on the BCWC but will not always be able to attend and wants to step down as chair of the policy subcommittee. Rochelle Bell says expect more activity in this committee if the grant money comes through.

Technical: Charlie Knauf indicated that he had again been unable to get a meeting together of this group and suggested that members meet after the main meeting to set a time and place (which did not happen). George Squires said that GC-SWCD had submitted an application to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and are currently ranked number 56 for Oatka and Black Creek AEM" and will be doing all the Tier I and Tier II plans for the rest of the farms in Genesee County. He asked C. Knauf to add this to the Agricultural part of the Tech list.

Education and Outreach: It was indicated that a representative is needed from Riga as Dave Mundie has moved out of the watershed. Also, the mayor of Scottsville has been appointed to a position in the Monroe County administration, and the deputy mayor is handling the mayor's duties. Finally, Bob Eichenberger indicated that Richard Glazier is the new supervisor of Byron. Rochelle Bell told people to mark their calendars for September 18, when the International Coastal Cleanup will take place, and we should plan on doing something with Black Creek sites.

3. **An update on the 5 Star Grant** highlighted the Caring for Creeks workshops. George mentioned the Conservation Reserve Program in Genesee County, which will plant buffer strips along streams in Genesee and Monroe County. An update on the Monroe County part of this project is needed from Dan Weykman of Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District will be obtained by George or Rochelle. Other Caring for Creeks activities include a canoe trip into the Irondequoit Creek wetlands. The events are tentatively planned for the first week and weekend of June in the afternoons and evenings.
4. **Updates on other projects:** Rochelle Bell suggested that we develop a monthly update from people doing work in the watershed, especially if they don't come to meetings regularly. The update would serve as a quick summary of things that are going on within the watershed and speed things up at the meetings. One possible area for the tech group to acquire would be an update for Kim Romeo on Community Water Watch teams in the Black Creek watershed. This would provide her with another way to get out information, and would keep us up to date both on what was happening and where there might be needs. Another area indicated was getting information from Ron Sloat about his watershed.

As time was running out, another meeting was set for March 24 in the Main Meeting room in Chili, to include a presentation by Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, GIS Division, on the LIDAR project. A meeting was also set for April 21, location to be announced, but possibly in Byron. (Byron location was later confirmed.