

**Minutes**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Wednesday, 3/24/2004  
Chili Town Hall

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Maureen Leupold, GCC and Genesee County SWCD; Tom Nally, Watershed Resident; Robert Remillard, Lake Plains RC&D; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Pat Tindale, Town of Chili Conservation Board; Bob Wilkins, MC Ag. & Farmland Protection Board.

Guest speakers: Steve Schwartzmeier and Luke Wenschhof, Monroe County Dept. of Environmental Services, GIS Services Division

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions were made. Dorothy Borgus was meeting manager, Bob Wilkins was facilitator, Rob Remillard was timekeeper and Rochelle Bell was scribe. Two changes were noted for last month's minutes (pg. 1 "tow" should be "two" and, pg. 2, "Inventory" should be "Initiative.")
2. Steve Schwartzmeier and Luke Wenschhof gave an excellent presentation about the Black Creek Flood Notification project they are working on in Monroe County as part of the Disaster Recovery Initiative. The first part of this project involved obtaining LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) coverage of the watershed. It is sort of like doing aerial photography with a radar camera – the resolution is much much higher than with traditional aerial photography. Using data gathered during a flight last summer (and stored on **15** CDs) Luke created a highly accurate digital elevation map of the watershed. Luke demonstrated software that could trace the path a raindrop takes from its landing anywhere in the watershed to the mouth of Black Creek at the Genesee River. Steve described how they will be able to use storm data to project river level and how residents in areas that are threatened to flood can be notified and evacuated in a timely manner, if necessary. The software also has the capability to show things in 3D, from all angles, and remove trees for a clear view.

Steve and Luke patiently answered many questions from the group, and gave us time to pore over the many large maps they brought from their office.

We were all very impressed and very much appreciative of Steve's and Luke's time.

3. Subcommittee updates. None of the committees met formally. Rochelle said that she felt a symposium-style public information meeting was too much for the group to undertake. Robert said it made sense to do it later, after the grant money had been received. The group determined that this was good advice and elected to plan such a forum in the fall.

Rochelle reported on a conversation she had had with Whitney Autin where he indicated he would be able to make a presentation on the State of the Basin report on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was consensus that we accept his offer and follow his

presentation with a group discussion of what's good about the watershed and how to protect it, and what's wrong in the watershed and ways to restore it. This would be a Public Meeting in lieu of the June BCWC meeting. The group agreed to work hard to advertise the event .

The Public Meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> could be from 7-9 PM at the Gillam Grant Center in Bergen. Rochelle will call to see if the Center is available. **(It is.)** Refreshments will be provided.

It was determined that we should meet on May 13<sup>th</sup> in Riga; Rochelle will call to see if Sanford Rd. Park is available. **(It is, but there are baseball games going on and the noise might be distracting, so we're going to meet at the new Town Hall.)** We will go over Whitney's PowerPoint presentation at this meeting.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> we are meeting at the Byron Town Hall. Rochelle will bring a draft brochure and flyer for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Public Meeting for everyone to review. We will also talk about how to advertise the Meeting.

George will see if Jill Babinski will come talk to us about the Black Creek stream survey in Genesee County and Rochelle will see if Steve Locke and his students from Byron Bergen High School can give us a presentation soon, too.

George told us about the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee's meeting earlier in the week. He brought some copies of the Oatka Guide and we were all very impressed. We think it would be appropriate to use outreach grant money to prepare a similar guide for Black Creek.

4. The next meeting will be at the Byron Town Hall on April 21st at 7:00. Come and help plan our spring activities!