

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Wednesday 4/21/2004
Byron Town Hall

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Health Department; Bob Eichenberger, Byron; Whitney Autin, SUNY Brockport; Bob Patterson, Byron; Maureen Leupold, GCC/Genesee County SWCD; Ron Sloat, GCFGPA/ Godfrey's Pond; Bob Wilkins, AFPB Monroe Co.; Tom Nally, Chili.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Dorothy Borgus was Chair, Charlie Knauf was scribe, Maureen Leupold agreed to type the minutes and Bob Patterson was timekeeper. All were facilitators. The March minutes were accepted without changes. Time was added to the agenda for Whitney Autin's presentation.

2. Up coming meetings and publicity

May 13th meeting has been moved to the new Riga Town Hall on Buffalo Road. Two presentations are scheduled: Steve Locke's Students on their work in Black Creek (*Update: Steve had to cancel*) and Jill Babinski, graduate student at SUNY Geneseo and. intern with Genesee County SWCD, on her stream bank erosion inventory and assessment. Jill completed the Black Creek assessments in Genesee County. George reported that some areas where riparian buffer was gone were identified, but Black Creek overall looks better than Oatka in terms of erosion. There were not a lot of logjams in the areas she saw.

There was a discussion of Little Boston, Rattlesnake Pete. Whitney Autin asked if there were any archeological surveys of the area. Meeting members did not know of any. A history map, like the one produced for Oatka Creek, was briefly discussed.

June 23 meeting location was discussed. Gillam Grant Center would cost \$75.00. Alternate locations could be Black Creek Park or GCC. (*Update: GCC site was confirmed since the Black Creek site was not available*) Rochelle thought about 30 people would attend. A discussion of which location would be most central and of where and how to advertise the meeting ensued. Dorothy Borgus suggested that the mailing to the attendees who to the Symposium in March 2001. Whitney Autin said that it would be good to locate the meeting in the original site of the symposium at Black Creek Park. Bob Patterson said that we want to reach Planning Town and Zoning Boards. Whitney Autin said this might require individual outreach to each municipality.

Stafford Historical Society has numerous presentations coming up; there is a lot of action this time of year. Tom Nally said to send the information and involve the folks at Cooperative Extension to get greater participation from the farm community. Bob Patterson said a town hall would work for the location. Black Creek Park looks like the 1st choice and GCC 2nd choice.

Rochelle will distribute flyers to everyone in the current database. A discussion of changes needed to be made to the brochure followed. Bob Patterson said if he could get copies he will distribute them at his upcoming meetings. Rochelle said she could send fliers to municipalities officials and ask them to publicize and assign attendance.

3. **Whitney Autin's Presentation was discussed.** Whitney has started generate slides from the State of the Basin Report for the June 23rd meeting. A 30-minute presentation was suggested, not too technical, but covering some technical issues where necessary. He has about 80 slides ready and needs an end section concerning recommendations. He is preparing this as a *.pdf file. Rochelle asked if he will "plant" some questions and if we should have a second presentation.

Whitney suggested a small brief panel of 2-3 people to do impromptu status reports in the technical areas (what has been done since last July).

Maureen Leupold suggested that breakout groups for the different subcommittees could be formed after the presentation. Attendees could find out more about what they feel strongest about and identify things that may have been missed in the report.

Tom Nally suggested a 20-minute report, 15 minutes on committee reports, and 40 minutes in breakout sessions.

A question was raised as to whether it would be profitable to offer to present to town and village boards. Charlie Knauf commented that Oatka CWC has done two rounds to municipalities and they are very willing to have reports done at their town halls as long as it's relatively short.

Discussions about publicity followed. Dorothy Borgus asked about having an interview with the Gates Chili paper. George Squires will talk to the Batavia Daily Newspaper. Whitney Autin will get a draft to Rochelle by 5/01/04 so that he can get feedback by the next meeting (May 13th at Riga).

4. **Upcoming Events**

George Squires suggested that photos etc. for a tabletop display be put together since there are a lot of opportunities to get the message out. Tom Nally suggested that a display could be rotated throughout different libraries in the watershed. We have some pictures and Ron Sloat offered some others.

Bergen Swamp Hike: May 22, 2004. 9:00 AM or 1:00 PM. You must sign up if you want to go by calling Barbara Drake (585-548-7304). The Bergen Swamp Preservation Society sponsors this hike.

Caring For Creeks: June 2, 3, 5, 7 & 10. The June 7th activity featuring Great Lawns/Great Lakes will be in Genesee County. Site will probably be at the CY farm on Byron/Elba Town line Road (North Byron Road and Transit). The brochure for the workshops should be out soon, *(a follow-up call to Genesee Co. SWCD provided how to get more information: Contact Monroe SWCD 585-473-2120 extension 3 or go to the Water Education Collaborative website at www.thewec.org).*

International Coastal Cleanup Event: September 18, 2004. We can be involved and work our watershed. We need to identify sites where we will conduct the cleanup efforts.

5. Other news

Godfrey's Pond: Ron Sloat mentioned that Godfrey's Pond is using grass carp and barley straw to control algae.

CREP Grant: George Squires reported that the goal is to do 2 farms in the Black Creek watershed. The problem in getting this underway has been the eligibility requirements in terms of buffers. It has to be cropland without a preexisting buffer.

NYSDEC: Heidi Bogner has been talking to Tracy Tomajer, Watershed Conservation Coordinator, NYS DEC, Albany. Tracy will be in Rochester on June 23.

MC-SWCD: Bob Wilkins asked about Caroline Myers, Executive Director, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District.

NRCS: a replacement for Jo Beth Belanca has been hired.

SUNY at Brockport: a PhD watershed hydrologist has been hired and Whitney hopes to get him "pointed towards" the Black Creek watershed. The future may hold some student projects.

Tom's Of Maine Grant: We did not get this grant. Reason: there were so many great applications and there is not as much money this year. We are waiting on three other grant applications: two at RACF one with Great Lakes Basin Program with OCWC. Dave Zorn is writing EPF application for OCWC and will include Black Creek, too.

6. Next Meeting: Rochelle will coordinate with Steve and Jill on the presentations and also review Whitney's presentation for any last details for 6/23.