

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Thursday July 22, 2004
Chili Town Library

Present: Ken Avery, Chili resident; Jennifer Balonek, Riga Conservation Board; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD); Robert Remillard, Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Larry VerWeire, Village of Churchville; and Bob Wilkins, Monroe County Ag. & Farmland Protection Board.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Meeting Manager: Dorothy; Facilitator & Scribe: Rochelle; Timekeeper: Bob

June 14, 2004 minutes approved.

Handouts:

- Black Creek Watershed section of the Rotating Integrated Basin Studies (RIBS) Water Quality Assessment Program, NY Statewide Waters Monitoring Program (February 2004).
- "Considering the importance of watersheds," in Town of Sweden newsletter by Kathy Harter, En. Con. Board Chair, about watersheds in general and the Black Creek Watershed in particular.
- "Definition of stream obstruction conditions" by the Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society.

2. Review Public Meeting

Those in attendance discussed the June 23rd Black Creek Watershed State of the Basin Report Public Meeting. Twenty-five people signed in, 4 were brand new faces. Everyone was well prepared and the event was well organized and well publicized. There was disappointment in the number of attendees, but location may have deterred attendance and that may be something we have to accept when we meet in the less populated areas of the watershed.

Whitney's presentation was very good. We should ask Whitney if we could take it on the road. The presentation was about ½ hour long. We were reminded that Whitney leaves after the first of the year for one year in the Netherlands. Can Whitney give us a script of what he said? Our presentation doesn't have to be exactly like Whitney's. Ken can move the program to PowerPoint so we can work with it.

Dorothy expressed disappointment that many government folks do not know the State of Basin Report is on file in their libraries and clerks' offices. Jennifer suggested asking the towns to provide a link to www.blackcreekwatershed.org from their websites. Jennifer will ask the Town of Riga (**DONE**) and the Village of Churchville to do this. Dorothy will ask the Town of Chili to do this. George will see if Genesee County and the Town of Bergen can do this. Rochelle will contact Dave Widger, Town of Ogden; Kathy Harter, Town of Sweden; Maureen Leupold, Orleans County; and Rick VenVertloh, Town of Wheatland, about adding the link to their websites.

3. Display Board

George has a tabletop display board that is used for Oatka Creek and said if we get pictures and maps that we could use if for Black Creek. The board can use three or five panels: one 2' wide panel in the middle and two 1' wide panels on each side. The board is 3½ feet tall.

Oatka Creek has eighteen 8½"x11" to 4"x6" foam-core mounted maps and pictures. The topics covered on their board include agricultural practices, best management practices, fishing, hydroseeding and a map of the watershed. Dorothy will ask Pat Tindale about pictures of the watershed. Jennifer will ask Jeff Matthews for pictures of river otters. Bob will talk to someone he knows about otter pictures, too. Rochelle will ask Margit and Charlie about stream monitoring pictures and Barbara Drake about Bergen Swamp pictures.

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others to draft a letter for Lion's Club, Rotary, etc. Lion's Clubs sponsor adopt-a-highway signs.

Robert mentioned the Waste Management charitable giving program. Their website is www.wm.com/WM/community/Giving.asp. Galyans and Birds Eye/Agrilink/Comstock(?) may also be sources of funding. Wegmans, BJ's, Tops, etc. may provide food, drink and paper goods for events. Again, a letter is usually a good way to approach them.

The importance of watershed signs was brought up. Signs would help advertise our group and get people thinking about watersheds and the bodies of water they cross. Rochelle will ask Charlie about where he obtained money for Oatka Creek Watershed signs. ***(N.B. Charlie said the signs were paid for with part of a grant received from the NYS Soil and Water Conservation District).*** Ken will talk to Jim Zollweg about the number of times a road crosses the watershed boundary or a water body. It will be important to consider whether the road is local, county, state or federal; Genesee discovered their regional NYS DOT office interprets the law to mean that it is not legal to put watershed signs on state roads.

6. Update on Great Lakes Commission and Environmental Protection Fund Grants

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council put out a Request for Proposals to find someone to do the riparian corridor study portion of the Great Lakes Basin erosion control grant. Rochelle, Dorothy, Caroline, George and Richard Schickler (Town of Chili Conservation Board) have volunteered to review the proposals (which are due July 30th) and ***meet with Dave Zorn to discuss them at 2:00 PM on Friday, August 6, in Conf. Room C, Monroe County Dept. of Planning and Development, Suite 8100, CityPlace, 50 W. Main Street, Rochester.*** Robert volunteered too, but he will be out of town during that period. There is such a quick turn-around on this because the consultant needs to get the fieldwork done during the good (!) weather.

Dave Zorn submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Fund to write Watershed Plans for the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds.

We should start looking at the FL/LOWPA Special Projects grant and be ready to respond to that when, and if (given the state budget), it comes out.

7. Next Meeting

Monday, August 23, 7:00 PM in the downstairs courtroom in the LeRoy Village Hall. Detailed directions and parking suggestions will accompany the meeting agenda.