

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Monday October 20, 2004

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Robert Remillard USDA NRCS Lakes Plains RC&D; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Luke Wenschhof, Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, GIS division; Jennifer Balonek, Riga Conservation Board; Larry VerWeire, Riga citizen; Pat Tindale, Chili Conservation Board.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

1. Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Introductions were made and Larry was welcomed and Luke was welcomed back. Robert Remillard managed the meeting for Dorothy Borgus, who was absent due to the Chili Town Board Meeting. Charlie Knauf was Scribe, and baseball fans agreed to watch the clock.

- 2. The Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) matrix of local laws** was discussed first. Dave Zorn had communicated to Rochelle that input to date looks good and will be incorporated into a draft. Final input for inclusion in the draft is due by 10/22/04. We should remember that the emphasis on this is on sediment and erosion control. The final draft will be distributed in early November for final comments due by November 30. From December through February, G/FLRPC staff will complete as much of the matrix on existing laws as they can, and then complete the rest through contacts with the municipalities. The fieldwork for the grant, which is being handled by Liu Engineers, will be completed by the end of October; supplemental work using aerial photos and Digital Elevation Model data to look at landuse changes and their impacts on streams will be done after the field season. Luke offered the use of the LIDAR data for the project. Rochelle Bell wondered if they were looking for debris buildups. Charlie Knauf explained that the starting point for the field work was the erosion surveys that had been conducted by the SWCD's, rather than a full stream survey, so unless the debris area was part of the erosion looked at earlier, it probably wouldn't be part of this. George Squires indicated that in Genesee County, he had been in the field with the survey staff, and the survey was not debris oriented, and that they had not located much erosion, although there were some spots that should be addressed. One product of the fieldwork should be engineering plans on how to fix identified problems. Dave Zorn also wants to meet with the Black Creek Watershed Coalition about the municipal meetings that will occur as part of the grant. He is available from November 1 to November 15 to meet in the evening or daytime after mid November. He is looking for involvement of a coalition representative from each town to assist in the municipal presentations. While Charlie Knauf indicated that at the Oatka meeting it sounded like he wanted a separate meeting from the regular business of the coalition, consensus was to make this the major topic of the November meeting and schedule the meeting earlier in the month to fit Dave's schedule. There was a question as to

who from the coalition should be there, and Charlie Knauf explained that for the OCWC, representatives from each town, who knew the Town or Village board, were instrumental in both scheduling the meeting and facilitating the presentations. Some of the names mentioned were Bob Eickenburg, Bob Wilkinson, Pat Tindale and Bob Patterson.

3. **Agricultural Non-Point Source Grant:** George Squires reported that the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District is submitting a grant package for the Black Creek, Oatka Creek, and Salmon Creek watersheds, with cooperation from Wyoming and Genesee Counties for Round 11 of this program to implement Best Management Practices on 13 farms. (A list of farms is available from George Squires). Total grant costs applied for are approximately \$945,000 of which approximately \$652,000 are NYS EPF funds. Cooperators are trying to reduce the projects, as the recommended funding level is \$300,000. Percentages funded vary, and more points are scored in rating system for higher landowner match. A 12.5% landowner contribution is required, with a 25% contribution recommended, and a high likelihood of funding with a 50% landowner contribution. County collaboration is also very important. George indicated that support from watershed groups within the project areas is also important for acceptance of the proposal. Rochelle made a motion, seconded by Pat, that the Black Creek Watershed Coalition support the application of the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District for funding through round 11 of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee's Agricultural Non-point Source Grants Program to support implementation of Best Management Practices on arms in the Black, Oatka, and Salmon Creek watersheds. The motion carried unanimously. Larry VerWeire asked what kinds of projects were included. George responded that a major BMP being supported is installation of Bunk Silo Leachate collection systems, which prevent the liquid generated by the compaction and storage of silage and hayage from entering adjacent waterways, where they are extremely deleterious to aquatic life. Barnyard runoff controls are another BMP with great benefits to nearby streams. A question was raised as to whether implementation of these controls is a requirement for agricultural producers. George answered that many of the larger CAFO's are required to implement these controls, and this program provides assistance to producers in meeting these requirements.
4. **Other Grant Issues:** The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee's mini-grant program was discussed. Charlie Knauf indicated that funding requests in Monroe County had to go through the WQCC, which would coordinate the full application and apply for the level 1 grant, which requires a presentation to the County Legislature. He also indicated that MC planning was discussing application for the level II grant for the Black Creek watershed, as this is the only stream segment in Monroe County that is listed as impaired, with the exception of the lower Genesee River. He said that this announcement had gone to the full WQCC and to the Stormwater Coalition for discussion of possible projects, but he was also interested in hearing ideas, especially for levels 4,5, and 6. The Monroe County Health Department on-site sewage section has jurisdiction over level 7 and had determined that the offering was too little money for too much work. Robert Remillard suggested

that Paula Smith had developed a retrofit project in the Petsmart plaza in Brockport, which is in the Salmon Creek Watershed, but that the project never got off the ground due to lack of funds. He also mentioned a ditch next to the Walmart in Brockport. Pat Tindale indicated a similar ditch in the K-mart plaza in Chili. George Squire said that the Genesee County Health Department was not too keen on level 7, also due to the low level of funding in relation to the large amount of work that would be required. He said that NYSDEC Division of Water was influencing these grants to be heavily structured toward Stormwater issues, and most impairment sources for Genesee County are agricultural. The request for proposals had just been communicated to the rest of the Genesee County WQCC, looking for ideas. Robert Remillard also mentioned a small park in Brockport just north of the campus, along the canal where he said there is significant erosion.

Discussion then turned to the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOPWA) Special Projects Fund solicitation. There has been some discussion of submitting a combination of a Water Education Collaborative grant application that was submitted last year with some changes to include some of the ideas for the Black Creek group, but there is also the possibility of submitting a separate application from Monroe County for the WEC project, and one from Genesee County for funding to support activities in the Black Creek watershed. Ideas mentioned for this application included watershed signs and implementation of some of the high priority erosion areas identified in the G/FLRPC erosion project. George, Rochelle, and Charlie will attempt to craft a proposal that meets the FLOWPA criterion for the Black Creek Watershed before the December 15, 2004 deadline.

Finally, Robert Remillard commented that he had heard from some of the NYS people that there would not be a lot of support at the State level for his Forestry Innovation Grant because of a lack of Forestry in the watershed, when compared to areas in the Finger Lakes and the Adirondacks.

5. **News Item:** Rochelle circulated an article from the local newspaper indicating that Steve Locke of Byron Bergen High School, who attended the original symposium, had been named Chemistry Teacher of the Year by the Rochester Chapter of the American Chemical Society.
6. **Display Board:** Rochelle Bell displayed a copy of a watershed map generated by J. Zollweg, and printed by County Planning on photo grade paper. Consensus was that the fonts needed to be increased; a NYS reference map showing the location of the watershed in the state would be useful; the Greenway should be included on the map as a park area; and identification of Counties and County lines should be included. George wondered if this could be done in time for the FL-LOWPA fall conference in Geneva on November 3rd. Robert Remillard showed attendees a phenomenal set of sheets he had put together for the board, explaining mission and vision, summarizing findings of the State of the Basin, indicating roles of the subcommittees and also showing the watershed in a photographic record. Robert Remillard will reduce this to fit the board and get to George in time for the conference.

7. **Signage:** Rochelle indicated that progress was made on determining how many signs would be needed, as the original number is much too high. George Squire said that watershed signs would be unlikely on 490 and the Thruway, and NYSDOT would not install on state roads in Genesee County.
8. **Greenway Bridge:** Charlie Knauf distributed copies of the flood plain map and flood profiles for lower Black Creek, taken from the USACE study of the creek done in 1969. It was clear on the profiles that the embankment and bridge were causing an increase in water surface elevation upstream of the bridge in both a 50 year and 100 year event, but Charlie pointed out that the area downstream of the Greenway is also indicated on the floodplain maps as subject to flooding, and any action that alleviated the higher stage upstream would have to be justified in terms of not increasing problems downstream of the Greenway. Pat Tindale said that the creek had been re-routed in this area, and a return to the natural channel might alleviate some of the flooding. Robert Remillard asked if FEMA monies could be sought to do a detailed study of the area. RB suggested checking to see if Mark Noll or other faculty at SUNY Brockport might see value in doing a hydrology project to evaluate the effects of the embankment. There was also discussion that the bridge is up for listing as a historic structure by NYSOPRHP. Charlie will check with Amy Kahn of NYSDOT about whether she or Steve Buvey (sp?), indicated as the NYSDOT Engineer on the Jefferson/Scottsville Road project, might know who holds title to this section of the Greenway, and could come to a BCWC meeting to talk about the structure.
9. Luke Wenschhof attended the NYS GIS conference and indicated that NYS is re-mapping floodplains in conjunction with FEMA. There was a short discussion of pictometry and its applications and availability.

The Next Meeting of the Black Creek Watershed Coalition was set for Monday November 15 at 07:00. Larry VerWeire is checking on the availability of a building in Riga for a meeting place. **(Meeting time and place confirmed.)** It is vitally important that municipal representatives from throughout the watershed attend this meeting to assist in developing the municipal presentations