

**Minutes**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Wednesday March 16, 2005

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; Larry VerWeire, Riga citizen; Pat Tindale, Chili Conservation Board; Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen; Mitchell C. Rakus, Sr. Chili Citizen; Dennis P. Cialini, Chili Conservation Board; James C. Gamble, Chili Drainage Committee; Chuck Rettig, Chili Resident.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

**Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes**

Introductions were made. Larry VerWeire managed the meeting, Rochelle Bell was facilitator, Charlie Knauf was Scribe, and Dorothy Borgus agreed to keep time. The Minutes were accepted as presented.

**Municipal Meetings Update:** Rochelle reported that Dave Zorn indicated there has been a good response so far. New representatives we should see on occasion include Stan Underhill, the Town of Batavia Councilman; Dave Widger, DPW Commissioner in Ogden; and Joe Carr, DPW Commissioner in Chili. It was recommended that we set meeting dates for the remainder of the year to allow planning for these new participants. A conflict for George Squires for the Village of Bergen meeting was resolved when Bob Remillard volunteered to staff the meeting. There was an involved discussion of who would staff remaining meetings. Robert will do the Village of Bergen, George the Town of LeRoy, and Rob Patterson will do the Town of Bergen. Rochelle reported that the Lu Engineers phase of the G/FLRPC project is completed, and that the local laws assessment is starting in early April. Information transmitted by the watershed groups is on the GFLRPC.org website, under current projects along with the Oatka Creek Watershed Steward report. Dorothy reported that Dave Zorn did a great job in Chili, answered all the questions that were asked. An article appeared in the next day's D+C and also another in the Chili Post. Bob Remillard repo

grant opportunity from Kodak; Larry VerWeire will investigate. Someone mentioned checking Birdseye, as they have a plant in Bergen. George Squires and Caroline Myers reported that the Agricultural Non-point source grant was funded, and will deal with 22 farms, many in the Black Creek watershed. Robert Remillard asked if quotes about the importance of letters of support in getting funding for grants could be obtained for the newsletter. He'll be looking for articles around mid-May.

The schedule set at the meeting for the rest of the year was:

April 25	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	Riga Town Hall
May 24	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Byron or Bergen
June 29	5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Genesee County Park
July 28	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Chili Town Hall
August 31	5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	to
September 29	5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	be
October 24	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	determined
November 29	5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	at
December 21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	upcoming meetings

Meetings will run from 5:30 until approximately 7:00 PM

Other Items: The Resource Conservation and Development Councils have been hit with a 50% budget cut over what was appropriated in last year's budget. This year's budget removes support for councils older than 20 years. Lake Plains will still be funded but at a reduced level over last year. The remaining councils will be stretched thinner, and have larger areas to cover. Rochelle Bell read a draft letter written in support of funding restoration; group support of the letter was moved, seconded, and passed to send the letters under Larry VanWeire's signature as acting chair.

Charlie Knauf reported that a training session had been held for the Marsh Monitoring Program, and a number of bird and amphibian surveyors had been recruited in the Black Creek watershed.

A discussion of the embankment and bridge on Greenway Trail by the creek ensued. Charlie Knauf reiterated what he had presented in summary of the USACE study of the area: the RR Embankment caused some backwater, but that enlarging the opening could also have impacts downstream of the bridge. Chuck Rettig said that sediment that has accumulated under the arches could be excavated and this would allow greater flow. Pat Tindale said that she has been told that removal of the sediment could jeopardize the structure. Jim Gamble said these were cement caisson construction, and also mentioned excavation for storage that had been done east of the Greenway. Charlie Knauf suggested letters to Buffalo USACE, Canal Corp and US Office of Parks. Rochelle Bell also suggested that Mark Noll at SUNY Brockport should be asked about the area.

George Squires mentioned that Steve Locke's students will be presenting their sampling project on sites on Black Creek at the next meeting.