

**Minutes**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Monday April 25, 2005

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Robert Remillard USDA NRCS Lakes Plains RC&D; Bob Wilkins Monroe County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board; Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Steve Locke Byron-Bergen Central School District; Elizabeth Niles, Byron-Bergen High school student; Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville; Donald Hoyt, CAC LeRoy; Larry VerWeire, Town of Riga citizen; Bruce Gerould, Town of Batavia; Roger Rouse, Town of Byron

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

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

Introductions were made. Bob Wilkins managed the meeting, Dorothy Borgus was timekeeper, Rochelle Bell was facilitator and Caroline Myers was scribe. The March 2005 minutes were reviewed and corrections were noted.

R. Remillard requested that any information, news articles or press releases for the next BCWC Newsletter be given to him within the next 2-3 weeks. He also mentioned that the "Saving New York's North Coast Conference" has posters and announcements available if anyone is interested.

**Correspondence:** The group was emailed a copy of a letter from Susan John congratulating the group on their efforts and an offer to assist the group with their endeavors. D. Zorn had met with her before about the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee. R. Bell announced that the group is scheduled to meet with her on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at her office on University Ave. in Rochester. A meeting will be held prior to this to discuss what to ask for and what should be discussed. J. Carr recommended asking her ahead of time if there was any information she was particularly interested in hearing about. R. Bell mentioned that the Director of the Planning Department recommended that the group request \$150,000 from her at this meeting. B. Wilkins indicated that the RC & D was also planning to request \$150,000 from her for watershed planning. G. Squires suggested sending representatives who live in her District to meet with her. The group agreed to not send more than 4 people to this meeting. The group discussed reaching out to other State legislators whose District's also lie in the Black Creek watershed and combining these efforts with the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee. This would be efficient because much of what the 2 groups do are similar and Susan John's District lies in both watersheds. G. Squires mentioned that State Assemblymen Charles Nesbitt and Dan Burling are also aware of the BCWC and Oak Orchard watershed Committee efforts and thought he might also be supportive of the groups' work. It was agreed that for now we would focus on the meeting with Susan John because her letter specifically offered to assist the group with their efforts.

**Other Correspondence:** The BCWC submitted a letter of support for a grant application for a salt storage structure in the Town of Byron.

**Presentation:** Steve Locke and his student Elizabeth Niles from Byron-Bergen Central School District gave a presentation on a water quality sampling project in Black Creek that is conducted each year by high school science students. Beginning in 2000, Steve Locke with the assistance of Gary Neuderfer from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) developed water sampling protocol similar to DEC's as a project for science students to study water quality at different sites in Black Creek. As a result, students were able to conduct water sampling using DEC equipment. In 2002 the school received a grant to buy its own sampling equipment for this project and each year students measure abiotic and biotic parameters at each site. This data is used to rate the water quality of different sites on Black Creek.

**Great Lakes Commission Grant:** Copies of the Black Creek portion of "Identification and Analysis of the Riparian Corridor in the Black & Oatka Creek Watersheds" report that was supported by the Great Lakes Commission grant were distributed. This report classifies highly erodible areas in the watersheds and identifies ways to correct these problems. This way when grant money becomes available the group will have a prioritized list of projects to submit for funding.

**The Display Board:** R. Bell will draft a letter and send out to local libraries to determine if they are interested in exhibiting the Display Board.

**Other grants:** R. Bell suggested that Fred Scott would be a good contact for obtaining more information about Kodak grants. D. Borgus contacted the Rochester Area Community Foundation about their grant program and was told to look on their website, which does not provide a lot of detail about the program. R. Remillard mentioned that the 2005-2006 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), from the Department of State has a request for proposals out by unfortunately Black Creek was not in a priority area and would not be eligible for funding, he mentioned he would check for any updates.

**Other Items:** D. Borgus asked how the presentations to local municipalities had been going. R. Bell stated that to date all presentations have been very well received and as a result 3 new people had attended tonight's meeting. There are only 3 or so presentations left to do. G. Squires mentioned that he attended an Earth Day event in the Genesee County Park with the Display Board and suggested creating some sort of handout to go along with the display board with some contact information if people wanted to know more about the group. It was mentioned that the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee has a fact sheet with this information and that the group could copy this format. A suggestion was made to make more copies of the foldout watershed maps of Black Creek. The group agreed that this was a priority once they could obtain funds for additional printing. R. Bell mentioned that there were additional copies of the State of the Basin report for new members if they would like them. D. Borgus mentioned that it would be beneficial if all the towns in the watershed with websites had links to the website. R. Bell will

contact M. Knoll from SUNY Brockport about any current studies and project updates they may have.

**Parking Lot Items:** The group reviewed the list and R. Bell mentioned that she would review the BCWC work plan with Susan John when they meet. A suggestion was made that the “trip with local officials” be made once the group established connections with more local politicians.

The next meeting will be held on May 24, 2005 in Byron.