

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition

Tuesday May 24, 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; Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen; Bob Wilkins Agricultural Protection Board, Roger Rouse, Town of Byron, Joe Carr, Town of Chili, Jennifer Balonek, Town of Riga; Don Hoyt, Town of LeRoy;

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Introductions were made. Bob Wilkins managed the meeting, Rochelle Bell was facilitator, Charlie Knauf was Scribe, and Don Hoyt agreed to keep time. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Meeting with Susan John. Rick Nan Vertloh, Chair of the Oatka Watershed Committee, Bob Wilkins and David Zorn met with Assemblywoman Susan John on May 5. They had a one hour meeting oriented toward development of a watershed management plan and the costs associated with this. The group agreed that the two watershed groups should work together, and she agreed to offer an Assembly bill for GFLRPC to do a watershed management plan for both watersheds, in the neighborhood of \$250,000. She asked that the two groups also seek support from a representative in the Senate, and it was thought that Mary Lou Rath might be the best person to approach. G. Squires has also suggested several other lawmakers who might be appropriate to talk to. Bob Wilkins suggested that representatives of the two committees from Genesee County would be best to talk to Mary Lou Rath. Esther Leadley was suggested as a good candidate for this meeting. Dave Zorn also received an additional phone call from Susan John's office about this, so there is enthusiasm for getting it done. There was some discussion of whether this is an action that can get funded this year or next year, and agreement that it is a process of reaching folks in the right order. It was reported that Dave Zorn reported to the Oatka Watershed Committee that Terry Slaybaugh will get a letter together in support of this effort from Maggie Brooks to Susan John. G. Squires commented on Esther's roles as a member of the Oatka group, a Genesee County Legislator, and Chair of GFLRPC. We do need to be careful about who we talk to first in terms of protocol. George didn't feel that he should be a representative to the meeting as he is an agency person. There was also not consensus that Esther would be the best representative. Joe Carr made the point that Bob Wilkins, Rick Van Vertloh, and Dave Zorn will carry a consistent message, and feels Bob should go. Bob indicated that would depend on Esther. Rochelle will tell Dave Zorn that Bob will attend for Black Creek and he'll call back when the meeting is set.

Great Lakes Commission Municipal Meetings

All presentations are done except Clarendon. Maureen Leopold was going to go, but may not be able to attend in June. Many volunteers have been helping with the meetings.

Stafford and Middlebury met in May, but have not signed the Call for Cooperation yet. 6 new representatives have been indicated by the towns. G. Squires says Bethany signed the Call for Cooperation and designated John Glidden as representative. If no Call for Cooperation has been signed, we should try to complete. Dorothy Borgus said it is important to get all towns to sign in terms of the Susan John line item. G. Squires said Elba and Stafford will be problems, but he'll call the supervisors. For some of the towns with very small parts in watershed, it may not be worth effort. Charlie will contact Phil McMahon to see if he would be interested in representing Bergen, J Balonek will talk to her dad about representing Bergen. Rochelle Bell distributed a list of representatives from those municipalities who have designated one. It was suggested that maybe we could get a person who is not necessarily official but can get information from the committee meetings back to the Town or Village Board. Rochelle Bell will call Kathy Harter as a potential representative from Sweden. Whitney Autin was also suggested when he returns from sabbatical. Charlie will contact Rick VanVertloh to see if he can find out about the Call for Cooperation in Wheatland. Even if the town can't send a representative or designates someone who can't come to meetings all the time, at least we need to get a point of contact. Getting the call signed is important, and in contact with a municipality it should be emphasized that the call is important, meeting is not as important.

Don Hoyt made the point that the communication can be hurt if the town is not in the loop or if a representative indicates to the politicians that they don't have information that the official is seeking because it was not communicated by the Committee.

G. Squires suggested that Dave Reckhan has just moved to Middlebury- he may be the person that they designate. G Squires thinks they will sign Call for Cooperation.

GFLRPC is into the local laws portion of the Great Lakes Commission Erosion and Sedimentation grant.

Newsletter: get comments to Robert Remillard ASAP within 2 weeks. It will get mailed by the end of June, comments to Robert by June 13th. Because the minutes maybe not be out in time for notice to reach all members of the Black Creek Watershed Coalition, attendees at the May meeting will comment.

Display Board: Robert showed a mock up that could be provided to libraries for them to use and retain, which makes it less necessary to keep going around and retrieving the good board. Don Hoyt recommended a dual board showing both watersheds. J. Carr says he realized he hasn't seen the Oatka watershed boundary. G Squires said that if there are festivals coming up where a board is needed, let him know and he will work out arrangements for the group or individual to get the board. OatkaFests {LeRoy in July, Scottsville in August} have used the board before. Dorothy Borgus indicated that the Chili fest would be a good candidate. We need to get dates, times, what has to be done to reserve space. Rochelle will do master schedule, the individual indicating a function for attendance will be contact point. For display materials, contact Robert Remillard or Rochelle Bell. We also need to document what goes where for grants. Jennifer will contact Riga Library about the display board and Rochelle will get more maps made.

Other Matters:

Rochelle Bell got an email from Robert Remillard concerning the Wilson Foundation and their grant program. There was a discussion of grant issues.

Dave Zorn will go forward with submitting a NYSDOS application under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Request for Proposals to be funded from the Environmental Protection Fund. He submitted this last year, and has received at least some indication that DOS will consider it as part of the Genesee Watershed, which is listed as eligible in the NYSDOS materials.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 29th Genesee County Park - Bethany- 5:30
Bring a dish to pass optional.