

Joe Carr, Larry Ver Weire, Chuck Rettig Bob Remillard, Frances Tucker, Pat Tindale, Bob Wilkins, Pat Tindale, George Squires, Charles Knauf, Dorothy Borgus, Dan Underhill- Town of Batavia,

Bob Wilkins- Manager; Robert Remillard- Facilitator; Charlie Knauf, scribe- Rochelle Bell- Timekeeper.

Agricultural Environmental Management in Black Creek- Frances Tucker of the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District made a presentation on this process as the Black Creek and Little Black Creek watersheds are slated for work in 2005-2006. This is a statewide program administered through the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The program allows whole farm assessment for such things as soil management, waste management, village issues, and assists farmers in assessing strategies with water quality in mind.

Components and stages include:

Tier III a. project oriented plan e.g. diversion of water to reduce erosion

III b. Concentrated Nutrient Management Plan

III c. whole farm plan- all potential problems addressed

Basically, a roadmap to how the farm is going to address problems over time

Tier IV- implementation phase

AEM doesn't fund, but participation makes farmers eligible for funding from other sources

Tier V- evaluation: how are projects functioning

The AEM process used to be competitive funding, but has more recently been non-competitive. The district was asked to meet deliverables of the planning process and try to incorporate district resources with other agencies. Individual Soil and Water Conservation Districts identify planning units, such as watershed boundaries, karst topography, wellhead units, and others, and prioritize them. Monroe County went with a watershed boundary system.

In-house assessment with a little WQCC input

Black Creek + Little Black creek are being done now.

-high number of farmers

-These watersheds are listed as documented on the NYSDEC Priority Waterbodies List(PWL) as places where agriculture is having an impact on water quality in receiving streams.

The AEM process involves identification of issues, development of plans to correct identified problems, and the implement solutions.

Monroe County has already done Tier I and Tier II and all CAFO's. CAFO's that are operations within compliance with a permit can pursue funding through the AEM process.

The District has also received a Genesee River Basin Implementation Grant.

1 farm in the Black Creek watershed, 1 farm in Little Black Creek, , and 2 in Black Creek in Genesee County have gone through tier I and II.

C Rettig asked about measurement techniques, Frances responded that it depends on participation levels, that once a number of eligible participants is identified they can set goals based on percentages.

Tier I consists of a pre-assessment

Tier II provides some detail through a worksheet which could be several pages of questions. Until they get those back, they don't know what they are assessing.

Larry Ver Weire- are there tests now indicating how these farms are affecting water in adjacent streams. Frances replied that the PWL lists indicate some of this information. These are based on "best use" of the receiving body and impacts to that best use. Often, they look at nearby agricultural sites and look for erosion.

Tier II + Tier III deal with impacts by examining the farm, then looking at water body for impacts and looking at possible causes. There are also outreach and follow through for farmers. In Monroe County, there are a few functioning farms and a lot of landowners who rent land to farmers.

Joe Carr asked about regulated farms. Frances Tucker said the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) program was defined by animal units, e.g. -1000 animal units=large CAFO, 1 animal unit = 1000 lbs of animal. The permit was changed in 2003 to look at primary production animal units. All large animal operations are regulated and all are water quality driven. An implementation schedule and inventory of problems were imposed on regulated farms.

AEM programs can be similar to CAFO, but voluntary. The thought is that all animal production farms will be included eventually.

George Squires said that a CAFO permit is a basically a general SPDES permit, and then individual farmers apply under the general permit. Technical assistance is provided by SWCD's in many cases. This regulation caused immediate business mgmt issues for farmers.

For the AEM process, the hope is that Watershed Coalitions and other agencies will help to provide information as opportunities arise.

Press release sent to Suburban News and other areas using a lot of outreach to get information to people.

Dorothy Borgus asked about the worksheets. Frances said that Tier I is a series of work sheets used to determine which parts of Tier II should be filled out.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has all the information on this program.

Frances said there is a high return of Tier I's, but it is harder to get Tier II cooperation for

farmers that do participate. Dorothy asked if all farms are contacted. Francis replied that they use land use layers in GIS, staff experience on who rents what land, aerial photos, etc. to identify participants and then initiate contacts.

Participation in the program can help with funding for the farmer and the district

Dorothy also asked how small is small, and Frances replied that an animal farm of two horses on a small lot could be a problem for a small receiving stream. She said planning boards in more municipalities want a IIIb for the waste- what is your plan to dispose of the waste?

Dorothy asked what if a municipality doesn't have any guidelines in place? Frances responded that the municipality needs to have thresholds.

In Chili, up to 3 horses/ 5 acres is allowable, over that will require a greater level of planning to be in place
Responsibility to have ordinance and do assessment of standards but SWCD's help new farms with standards.

The AEM can be an asset in development of ordinance to assist with zoning or define a gap in knowledge base. Frances Tucker has horse farm assessment sheets.

Are any of these on AEM or other website? not all yet (horse is draft)
worksheets are still under review.

(check on riding in Black Ck Park –a lot of complaints re: manure and no mgmt in place for this material CLK action)

Bob Wilkins- asked about progressive nature of grant- scribe didn't get the response.

Meeting with Mary Lou Rath

Rochelle Bell reports Dave Zorn says no meeting has been set yet, she doesn't want to meet yet, and Dave is still in contact with Susan John.

Grant update:

EPF watershed grant submitted again-
-150K/watershed –if obtained requires \$150,000 match/watershed
-could get \$75,000 match in in-kind
CLK suggests costbase + prioritization as per discussion at Oatka Meeting earlier in the week.

Bob Wilkins asked if we have cost figures for projects. Rochelle Bell asked if we have prioritization. Robert Remillard indicated that we have the grant application for the full Watershed Management Plan process.

The GFLRPC Municipal outreach will be done once Clarendon is met with on Aug 9th. Then all the municipalities will have been contacted.

Meeting grid for tracking representatives has been mostly filled.

George Squires has tried to call Stafford.

Elba has had a change in representatives

Bergen –new contact is Deputy Town Clerk, Linda Bryant

GFLRPC is still working on the local laws assessment

The Black Creek Watershed Newsletter was sent out

Public handout: Why can't this get condensed into a handout

If a draft handout can be done prior to 7/20, George Squires can present to the Genesee County WQCC for potential funding of printing

Chili fest July 17 (Sunday 15,16,17)

Display –one went to Riga, another in Chili

Wheatland would be interested in having the board for a while

At Chili fest –common tent, doesn't have to be manned all the time.

Paul Richards presentation:

SUNY at Brockport won a National Water Resources Institute (NWRI) grant to test a model developed in Michigan. It is a landscape Phosphorus based model used to prioritize stream segments for buffering. It has been used in 3 TMDL areas, but has not been tested. The Grant supports model development in the Black Creek watershed. Phosphorus numbers are based on land use, and then the model uses topography to say where the Phosphorus is going. It is an older, curve number based model that uses curve number approach for pervious areas, e.g. 100% imperviousness for roads.

They recently went to as many first and second orders streams as they could, did discharge measurements and collected water samples for analysis for Phosphorus concentration. They also identified spots to do field work, where they can look at different topographies. They are also looking at places where there are a lot of road intersections, where in the spring, water backs up and floods, as these may be depositional areas that later become sources.

They are running Total Phosphorus, Soluble Reactive Phosphorus, Nitrogen constituents by Ion Chromatography, and trace metals, Chloride and Sulfate by ion chromatography, Specific Conductance, Turbidity, and Temperature. BCWC participants are asked to let them know about places of concern or any other places where they may profit from inclusion of an area into their model. Contact Prichard@brockport.edu.

This information could have great importance to the Nutrient Management planning efforts, will help identify priority areas for buffer creation, will identify areas where buffers won't necessarily help.

They have students and some money for chemical analyses if there are sites of interest.

Dr Richard also indicated that while the language of nonpoint source runoff usually indicates that these loads are originating ubiquitously, he thinks that much of the phosphorus that ends up in streams is not NPS and diffuse, but that it concentrates and follows microtopography from small point sources. Also he says we are looking at residual loads from earlier sources , some possibly as old as the pre-phosphate detergent ban, that have been stored by topography and are still gradually being released during larger events

Also, we are seeing effects of residual loads from earlier areas.

Mill Creek / Blue Pond

Pat Tindale reported a concern that the Blue Pond water level is high. She wondered if this could be related to the Frankel property being developed for a new golf course with a lot of ponds. She also said that Mill Creek by Wheatland Ctr. Rd. just before intersection is very low. Charlie Knauf will check pictometry to try to identify the outlet of the pond.

Charlie spoke briefly about a meeting he had with David Klein of the Nature Conservancy to discuss a modeling effort that would involve the Black Creek watershed. Charlie will provide more detail at the July Meeting.

July meeting will be at Chili Library July 28 5:30.