

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Thursday, July 28, 2005

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning & Development; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Robert Remillard, USDA NCRS Lake Plains RC&D; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen; Bob Wilkins, Monroe County Agricultural Protection Board; Joe Carr, Town of Chili Commissioner of Public Works; Jim Gamble, Town of Chili Drainage Board; Charles Rettig, Town of Chili resident.

Action items are under lined throughout the minutes.

Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes: Introductions were made. Bob Wilkins managed the meeting. Rochelle Bell was facilitator. Dorothy Borgus was scribe, and Joe Carr agreed to keep time. Minutes from June 29, 2005 meeting will be approved at the August meeting.

The Nature Conservancy: Charlie has met with David Klein of the Nature Conservancy. They are in the process of building a model, or tool, which assesses the impact of stresses that impair the watershed. Their study builds on a previous GLPF grant and uses layers of GIS data to locate and identify such things as flow alteration, dams, roads and culverts, specific nutrient presence, toxics and sediments. Their goal is to measure the entire estimated stress load for the watershed and its probable sources. Some of the stressors may be the result of farmland practices. Collection of this information will allow for generation of BMG's. As a group we would like a demonstration of the tool to assess its present status, and the Nature Conservancy would like to have a modeler present at one or more of our meetings to get answers to some of their questions. They are looking for parallel cooperation from other groups such as ours. Our State of the Basin report may be very helpful in their study since our maps and inventory are already completed and could be a big assist

Charlie will check with the Nature Conservancy to see about their availability for our August 31 meeting; otherwise we may have them come in September. It was decided to invite our SUNY colleagues to whatever meeting is chosen; they could be a huge help.

Update on scheduling meeting with Mary Lou Rath: Bob Wilkins, Dave Zorn and Rick Van Vertloh will drive to Buffalo for an August 15 meeting at 10:30 AM with Mary Lou Rath. George Squires, or another constituent in Rath's district, may also attend. Dave Zorn has been in touch with Susan John with a compendium on what we've done. She is ready to submit bill to benefit BCWC.

Grant Updates: EPF grant submitted 6/30/05. Great Lakes Basin Grant: one meeting left on August 9 (*moved to September 13*). Dave Zorn will be there, as will Maureen or Rochelle. Dave will take two members of the Great lakes Basin group on a tour and show them some of the worst sites in Oatka and Black Creek watersheds as verified by the Lu Engineering sedimentation survey. Wilson Foundation: Robert Remillard has submitted grant application. Charlie Knauf reported from a WQCC meeting that a modest amount of money will go to watershed signs for BCWC.

Liaisons Appointed & Calls for Cooperation Elba: new Town Supervisor will be liaison when she takes office. No response yet from Stafford. Middlebury: no response; Rochelle will contact Middlebury Supervisor. George will contact Village of Bergen. Rochelle will call Bob Patterson re: town of Bergen. Elba has passed Call for Cooperation, but no form received. George has sent replacement form since first was misplaced. Fred Perrin will be Sweden liaison

Display Boards: Robert brought two additional display boards: Joe Carr will deliver one to Scottsville Library, George will deliver one to Bergen Library. The large display was at the Genesee County Fair last week per George Squires.

Correspondence to BCWC from Geoff Briggs: Rochelle shared letter regarding proposed wind turbines in Bethany, Stafford and LeRoy. Geoff Briggs wanted to know if these conflicted with our mission. Charlie Knauf will check with groundwater experts to determine possible vibration effects. After discussion it was decided that there was no evident impact on topics in our mission (water quality and quantity); we could act as a conduit for information but not take a position. It was agreed that our group is not in a position to offer expert opinions and that the SEQR process should identify impacts and determine if they are significant. Rochelle will answer G. Briggs letter with this decision.

Wetland Mitigation in Black Creek Park; The FAA wants the Greater Rochester International Airport wetlands filled in to discourage birds and wildlife which are a danger to aircraft. Extension of runways, taxi strips and service roads requires the airport to mitigate the filling of wetlands on the airport with a similar size wetland elsewhere. Monroe County is considering substituting a wetland in Black Creek Park. This would require creation of a 13.02-acre wetland in the current park. Fill excavated would be moved to the southern part of the park near Morgan Road creating ballfields. The FAA will provide the funds for the mitigation. The project would be managed by Monroe County with all construction carried out by Monroe County employees. The County has determined that there is no negative impact on Black Creek. During construction phase, an erosion sediment control plan will have to be taken seriously as per discussion by the Coalition. On August 18 there will be a Parks Advisory Committee meeting from 3 to 4 PM at the new lodge (Sunnyside) in Black Creek Park. Construction would begin mid-September .

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 31, 5:30 P.M., meeting location to be announced with agenda.