

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition

Monday, October 24, 2005

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen; Don Hoyt, Town of LeRoy; Jeff Van Skiver, Town of Bergen; Dave Reckhan, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, Robert Remillard, USDA NRCS Lakes Plains RC&D; Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville; Larry Ver Weire, Riga Resident; Betsy Johnson, Town of Bergen; David Zorn, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes

Introductions were made. Larry Ver Weire managed the meeting, Lyle Warren was timekeeper, and Charlie Knauf was Scribe. The minutes for August were corrected to reflect that the second section is Black Creek Park Wetlands Creation, and some references in this section to the west boundary should be the east boundary. The September minutes were changed from "outlet structure will be installed" to "outlet structure may be installed". "...in compensation for wetlands to be filled..." was changed to "... in compensation for wetlands that were filled." R. Bell also offered qualification the statement about not using volunteers to plant the wetland -- they may be able to use organized groups of volunteers like scout troops. Caroline Myers should be listed as present in August.

Mitigation wetland to be constructed in Black Creek Park. R. Bell said they have received their USACE permit. Vyt Burkanis of MC SWCD came out and looked at the site. He has some concern that if excavation occurs while the ground is too wet, the soil will become compacted and a pond will form instead of a wetland. There was a discussion of soil types and amendments. R. Bell had asked Vyt why so many created wetlands fail, and he indicated that compaction was a big part of that. There was also some discussion about the need to relocate the cross-country course, which currently runs right through the area to be excavated. Dorothy Borgus asked about differences between the minutes and the newspaper article. R. Bell said that the paper was right; this wetland is being built as mitigation for filling already done at the airport from 1999-2002, that FAA funding is not in hand yet, and that a portion of the project will be paid for from other airport funds. The work is not being done under a violation. There may be a need for as much as 70 additional wetland acres in the future, as further expansion occurs at the airport.

Meetings with Political Representatives: David Zorn reported that he has met with Mary Lou Rath, along with G. Squires, B Wilkins and R. Van Vertloh of the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, with George Maziarz and his environmental staff person, Sue Senecal; and that meetings will occur with Dale Volker and Jim Alesi in November or December. He is also in contact with Susan John on a bi-weekly basis. He expects some good news soon from Susan John.

Controlling Sediments in the Black and Oatka Creeks - GLC grant: There is only one municipal presentation left to do, in Clarendon. The report is done on the problem areas, and approved by the Great Lakes Commission. Two of the commissioners went out with people and visited a site in Wyoming County and a site in Wheatland, both on the Oatka, when they were in town for the Soil and Water Conservation Society convention this summer. They will look for funding to physically accomplish the projects. The third item in the project is the analysis of Federal, State, and local laws. The Federal and State laws are done, and Brian Slack is doing the municipal work. Interviews with DPW and Code Enforcement folks are happening. When the assessments are done, we will assist in development of prioritized lists, which can then be included in toolboxes. The last task is to provide assistance to the municipalities in revising their local laws to mitigate erosion and sediment problems. The only respondents for this assistance were Bethany, Warsaw and Riga. G/FLRPC will work with these municipalities to review what the gap analysis says and what they want to revise. Once G/FLRPC agrees to do the work, they want to see it through to completion, and adoption of ordinances. Dorothy Borgus asked if there had been followup with non-responding municipalities, D. Zorn said there had not been, and the only way additional municipalities could be added now is if there is another call to all the municipalities, which will only happen if the Great Lakes Commission gives G/FLRPC an extension.

WQCC Level II grant: Discussion between Rochelle David Zorn and Todd Stevenson indicates that much of the work that would be covered by this funding has been completed by the Stormwater Coalition for the MS4 towns of the Black Creek watershed in Monroe County. C. Knauf indicated that if a change of scope will be sought, it will be necessary for the involved parties to generate the language, and then he can submit for state consideration, but that this should happen somewhat quickly as the review time at the state level could be long.

Nature Conservancy: No new information to report

Other: David Zorn circulated informational brochures for the G/FLRPC workshops, one being held the Wednesday after the meeting, and the other the regional Local Government Workshop being held Friday November 18 at the Genesee Conference Center in Mt. Morris New York.

Agenda: A question was raised as to whether we need to keep The Nature Conservancy on the agenda: it was agreed to add it to the parking lot. The Great Lakes Erosion grant will stay on the agenda since we will need to be involved in the prioritization

Suggestions made for next meeting agenda items included Subcommittee activity, a presentation by Barbara Drake about the Bergen Swamp (R. Bell will contact), and a presentation of the DEC approved assessment tool.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11/29/2005 at 5:30 p.m. Larry Ver Weire will try to get the Riga Town Hall. (*confirmed*)