

Minutes
Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Thursday, January 26, 2006

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Robert Remillard, USDA NRCS Lakes Plains RC&D; Bob Wilkins, Monroe County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board; George Squires, Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District, Pat Tindale, Town of Chili Conservation Board; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Lyle Warren, Churchville Zoning Board of Approvals; Jeff Van Skiver, Town of Bergen.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes. R. Wilkins managed, Lyle Warren kept time, R. Bell facilitated and C. Knauf and Pat Tindale scribed.

Minutes from the December 21, 2005 meeting were approved with the addition of underlining of the action item that appeared on the last line of the first page as follows:

As an action, the group suggested that Charles get the tri-fold board from George Squires at the next Oatka Creek meeting.

The agenda was changed to remove discussion on the Greenway until another time when Ken Avery was present.

Pat Tindale brought information on the Black Creek Study done by the Chili Conservation Board. They were awarded a \$3,200 Ford Foundation Grant in 1973 to develop a master plan for Black Creek.

Black Creek Park Wetland Project: Weather conditions have impacted the scheduling of this project. The USACE and the NYSDEC have visited the site and recommend a more gradual slope on the tree island. The distribution of the acreage may change to accommodate a more gradual transition.

Charlie Knauf reported that no park culverts would be flooded by the backup of Black Creek into that stream even by a >500 year flood projected in the USACE flood study.

A volunteer event will be scheduled for planting the emergent wetland. The geese problem may be alleviated by the use of broken neck dead duck decoys that when moved frequently discourage the geese from landing for fear of predators being around. Pat Tindale indicated that Roger Brandt had used swans for this purpose at his wetland mitigation bank in Chili.

Pat also inquired about the work taking place on the south side of Paul Road at the end of the airport. There was no information available on this, but East Airport Road will be rerouted to a tunnel that is being built at the east end of the airport to enhance safety and to facilitate the landing of large planes on the E-W runway (#28).

Grant Updates: There will be no further solicitation by G/FLRPC of other towns even with the 6-month extension on the grant period due to time constraints. Municipalities participating are limited to Bethany, Riga and Sweden.

Great Lakes Basin Program Grant: The new GLC Erosion and Sediment grant opportunity was discussed to determine if we should apply for a stream mitigation project. Three areas where the entire Black Creek watershed were scoped in the Lu Engineers report. The estimated costs for these three sites were \$11,000, \$26,000 and \$165,000. George Squires indicated that the two in Genesee County might be doable. George will check with the landowners, but there is a time crunch, as the application deadline is March 15, 2006. Robert Remillard indicated he could help with the writing of the grant. Rochelle Bell and Charles Knauf detailed the process of the 25% match requirement. We will need Caroline Meyers and Joe Carr on board. Robert Remillard stated we need an advocate to move the project forward. Dorothy Borgus offered to call Joe Carr regarding this.

EPF grant: No news. Susan John has a request into the Assembly. We should know the answer next month.

G/FLRPC will have a draft of the local laws assessment for our review at the next meeting.

Map Guide - There were questions from the last meeting regarding the map guide and the watershed signs. Rochelle Bell said we submitted to FL-LOWPA for this. Bob Wilkins indicated we needed to have a package for the map guide so that if we find the funding it is ready to go. George Squires stated that the information is in the State of the Basin report and that we just need to identify what is wanted. Robert Remillard said we have this in applications for FL-LOWPA, Rose Foundation and RACF. Rochelle asked if this should be put on next month's agenda for about 20 minutes. Next month focus will be on what we want the emphasis of the guide to be. Bring State of Basin reports to next month's meeting. Rochelle will make a copy for Robert.

Display Boards: Chili Town Hall will display boards again in May. Pat will bring them to Chili Library to see about displaying them there. C. Knauf will get the big boards from George S. for RAP meeting.

Greenway: Ken Avery had a grant application for the Greenway. Pat T. has received inquiries about the double-arched culvert over Black Creek and has referred them to Jerry Kunselman and Dave Herring at the New York Office of Parks and

Historic Preservation at Letchworth Park. A field trip is tentatively planned for our April 26th meeting date. If that date doesn't work it will become our May meeting date.

Bergen Swamp Preservation Society: No one was able to make the Bergen Swamp Society meeting. Rochelle will send a reminder about the February meeting.

Churchville: Lyle Warren reported that Churchville has contracted with the Rochester Regional Community Design Center (www.rrcdc.org) to conduct a design charette for their village on Saturday, May 6. Friday, May 5 Thomas Hylton* will speak. Participation by the BCWC is strongly encouraged. Black Creek should be a focus area.

Other: George S. reminded the group of our letter of support for a salt storage facility for the Town of Bergen and reported that the facility has been funded.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 27, 2006 at the LeRoy Village Hall.

* From <http://www.saveourlandsaveourtowns.org/tomhylton.html>:

Thomas Hylton, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is author of a color coffee table book called Save Our Land, Save Our Towns. The book is a plea for comprehensive planning to save our cities, towns, and countryside.