



# *Department of Planning and Development*

Monroe County, New York

**Maggie Brooks**  
*County Executive*

**Terrence G. Slaybaugh**  
*Director*

## **MINUTES** **Black Creek Watershed Coalition** Monday, February 27, 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; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Lyle Warren, Churchville Zoning Board of Approvals; Jennifer Balonek, Riga Conservation Board; Charles Rettig, Chili citizen, Tom Klafehn, Town of Riga; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Roger Rouse, Town of Byron; Betsy Johnson, Bergen citizen; and Don Hoyt, LeRoy CAC.

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

**Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes.** Dorothy Borgus managed, Lyle Warren kept time, Rochelle Bell facilitated and Charlie Knauf scribed.

Minutes from the January 26, 2006 meeting were modified as follows:

Change "Beahan" to "Paul" Road.

Clarify tunnel construction, service road.

Change dates of Thomas Hylton's presentation to Friday, May 5; Churchville Design Charrette on Saturday, May 6.

These changes will be made and the minutes will be posted on the website.

**Black Creek Park Wetland Project:** Area north of haul road will not be excavated until fall. Area south of haul road will be excavated and planted this spring. There will be a ½ to 1-day volunteer planting event. No date yet, but probably a Saturday.

Chuck Rettig asked about changes to tree islands. There will be a gradual slope from the upland tree area to the wetland.

**Grant Updates:** No update from G/FLRPC on existing Great Lakes Basin Program grant. The Town of Riga e-mailed Rochelle a copy of their resolution to participate in the BCWC and to confirm that Jennifer Balonek & Thomas Klafehn are official representatives. We will ask George Squires for an update on Elba and Bergen at the next BCWC meeting.

Great Lakes Basin Program grant application due March 15: Rochelle spoke with Caroline Myers and Caroline spoke with Joe Carr. Joe thinks the creek segment that swings toward Chili Road, north of Union Station Park, is a good candidate for a stream restoration project. The other sites in the stream corridor report are not as good candidates as this site. Caroline and Vyt B. think the project can be done for much less than the Lu Engineers report indicates.

The project would be pretty easy with large riprap (200-pound stone). Joe will talk to the Town Engineer about the project and will work with MC SWCD to finalize the application. Charlie pointed out that the project timeline should include time for NYSDEC permitting. There were arguments in favor of at least partial public expenditure on public land. Robert and Rochelle can help with the application.

**Map Guide** – Roger had copies of the *Oatka Guide* and the *Guide to Ellicott Creek* (Erie and Niagara counties) for the group to look at. Rochelle shared Bob Wilkin's thoughts with the group: 1) we need one person who can run with the effort (no one volunteered!); and 2) the text of the guide should be 1/3 history, 1/3 points of interest/recreation access and 1/3 ecology and environmental education. The mills at Churchville and Stewart Road are good pieces of history to focus on.

Lyle Warren suggested we add something about public involvement; demographics from the website, and references to the State of the Basin Report and website.

It would be useful for users to have actual symbols on the map (e.g. fishing rod at fishing access point).

Places of interest = parks, boat launches, trail heads.

Be clear about points of access, especially about Bergen Swamp; get input from Bergen Swamp Preservation Society about this.

Include picture of otter; archaeological references; contact information: towns, societies, etc.

Discussed introduction, RIT/SUNY Brockport research.

We get a lot of ideas from looking at other map guides. Everyone should look through their files and on the internet for other guides or ideas and bring these to the next meeting. As information is collected keep our website in mind because the information we collect can go there as well.

Rochelle will assemble a brainstorm list.

**Display Boards:** Jennifer Balonek reported that a display board is circling the Churchville Chili science classes. Another display board is in the Chili library, it is getting quite a bit of feedback. Charlie will check with Todd Stevenson and Karen Paris Tuori about displaying a board at the Stormwater Conference on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the RIT Inn and Conference Center.

**Greenway Bridge:** Pat Tindale went to a meeting at Letchworth Park where she saw Dave Herring who vehemently insisted that flooding upstream of the Greenway bridge is predominantly the result of upstream building in floodplains. There is still the issue of protection of the structure. Joe Carr said he has a 5 or 6-page report on the construction, and divers found the bridge is a timber structure. Dave Herring told Pat he thinks Bergmann will be doing a study on the area and the structure, and will need grant funding to do that.

Robert asked where the BCWC fits in when dealing with this issue. There are some grant sources, but should the BCWC take the lead, or should the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway ([www.fogvg.org](http://www.fogvg.org)) take the lead? The state owns the land at that location. The bridge carries utilities (gas, sewer, water) as well as the trail. There are a number of interested parties, listed below, could be why it is so hard to take any action on this project.

Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway  
BCWC  
NYS DOT  
NYS DOS (?)  
NYS DOT  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation (“State Parks”)  
Thruway Authority  
USACOE

**Bergen Swamp Preservation Society:** Don attended the last meeting and found it very interesting. Rochelle will talk to the BSPS about the BCWC taking a field trip in May or June.

**Other:** Robert Remillard/Mike Greer distributed information on the Great Lakes Fisheries Ecosystem Restoration program. They are collection projects for possible funding.

**Get feedback on the website (suggest updates, links, etc.) to Rochelle by the April meeting; she will combine and consolidate them and get the ideas to Carol Zollweg.**

**Charlie, e-mail stormwater conference info to Don Hoyt.**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28 in Riga.