



Department of Planning and Development

Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Terrence G. Slaybaugh
Director

MINUTES **Black Creek Watershed Coalition** Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development; Lee Blair, Bergen Swamp Preservation Society; Joe Carr, Town of Chili; Bob Eichenberger, Town of Byron; Don Hoyt, LeRoy CAC; Robert Remillard, USDA NRCS Lakes Plains RC&D; Roger Rouse, Town of Byron; George Squires, Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District; Pat Tindale, Town of Chili Conservation Board; Jeff Van Skiver, resident, Town of Bergen; Lyle Warren, Churchville Zoning Board of Approvals; and Bob Wilkins, Chili citizen and Monroe County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes. Bob Wilkins managed, Roger Rouse kept time, Rochelle Bell scribed.

Minutes from the March 28, 2006 meeting were approved with one change. The approved minutes will be posted on the website.

Black Creek Park Wetland Project: The public planting date is Saturday, June 3, 2006, 9:30 – 3:00. No rain date is scheduled yet. Bob Wilkins said he was at the wetland: it looked dry and no sediment was leaving the site.

Activities on and near the airport were discussed.

Grant Updates:

1) Great Lakes Basin Program in Erosion and Sediment Control

Rochelle reported that G/FL had not met with the Town of Clarendon yet. The BCWC reached the conclusion that when Dave is done with responsibilities related to the grant deadline in June we would like him to continue to try to meet with Clarendon.

The local law review will be on their website, www.gflrpc.org, very soon. Rochelle will let everyone know when it is posted.

2) Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network

There was a follow-up question to the grant application Robert submitted to GLAHN for the map guide relating to the BCWC annual budget. Decisions on the grant recipient are expected at the end of May.

3) Environmental Protection Fund

We have applied for the grant for the last two years. Should we ask Dave to apply again? The grant application is due May 26th; it won't be much work to apply since the application is the same as last year's. The grant requires a 50-50 match. For example, if we get a \$150,000 grant, we would have to match it with \$75,000. It is unlikely that we could accumulate more than half of that, or \$37,500, in in-kind support. Where would we raise the other \$37,500? And what if we can't raise it, what would the ramifications be? Possible sources of money include a member item, FL-LOWPA, Rochester Area Community Foundation, fund-raising, etc. If we can't raise the money in time, and there is quite a bit of time, then we would simply turn the grant money back.

4) Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

FL-LOWPA Special Projects Fund is opening up soon, we could apply to them for the Map Guide.

5) Brownfields

Lyle Warren brought up Larsen Engineers' work on the former Luster Coat site in Churchville. Susan John is interested in helping the Village obtain money to clean up this brownfield. There is a lot of money for brownfields cleanup. Are there any other brownfields in Black Creek Watershed? are waiting for the completion of the NYS budget process to see what happens with Susan John's member item to fund our Watershed Action Plan. The budget is expected to be done on time.

Map Guide

Robert spoke with Whitney. Whitney is willing to help with the Map Guide project and they will meet to discuss the project when they can find time.

Rochelle sent Lyle a Word document with the history section from the State of the Basin Report and Lyle is working on it. Pat has a lot on information from Black Creek Park; Lyle will talk to Pat. Bob and Beth Wilson are the Byron historians; Roger will talk to them. Lee Blair has lots of historical information on the Bergen Swamp and Jeff has information on Black Creek; they will share it with Lyle.

Bob Wilkins showed us a Mapworks map for the Town of Chili.

Joe mentioned Connelly printing. Robert said BOCES said the map is too big a project for them, but they are interested in doing a brochure for us. BOCES gave Robert names of designers. Most in the group agree we need a professional designer and that the more leg work we do in conjunction with the designer the better.

Chris Tortora, G/FLRPC, prepared a large map of the watershed and an 11x17 map of the watershed. The group was very pleased with the map and thinks it will be ideal to work off of and would like an 11x17 map of their own. Rochelle will bring a dozen 11x17 Black Creek watershed maps to the next meeting.

It was agreed the map should be rectangular shaped.

For our next (June) meeting:

- Robert will bring copies of pictures
- Bring your own pictures of the watershed

- Look at State of the Basin maps: what features would you like to see on the map guide? What features should be on the map guide but aren't in the SOB? Look for history, points of interest, etc.

Display Boards:

Big Board: George will give Lyle the board after the meeting for Lyle to use at the Churchville Arbor Day Festival and the Charrette.

Small Boards: 1) Churchville Chili science classes; 2) Pat has one in her office that was at the Chili library -- she will see if Wegmans or Bill Greys will display it; 3) George or Jeff will move the board at the Gillam Grant Center to the Bergen library or the Byron museum; and 4) Joe will give the one that was in Scottsville to Lyle for the Riga library.

Other:

Churchville Charrette May 5th. Lyle passed out a guide for the Black Creek and Recreational Land Use Focus Group.

Bergen Swamp. Annual pilgrimage is on 5/20. White lady slippers (an orchid) may be visible. The Black Creek Watershed Coalition hike will be in lieu of the next meeting. Meet at Hessenthaller Road and then we'll regroup at Pocock Road and hike from there. Wear hiking boots. Odd are, they will get muddy.

2006 Schedule. The June 26th meeting is on a Monday, so we'll meet in LeRoy. We will do the Greenway trail on Tuesday, July 25th. Wednesday, August 30th will be our annual picnic at Genesee County Park.

Bob Eichenberger invited the group to join him at Trestle Park after the meeting to take a short walk. In an e-mail on 5/2/06, Pat Tindale described the park to Rochelle:

The park is entered from "... a large bridge that had originally carried trains from the West Shore Branch of the New York Central Railroad over Black Creek. Its present use is a trail for the snowmobilers who have rebuilt the bridge to make it safe. It is also used by ATV's, hikers and bicyclists. Parts of this trail, however, are privately owned, but the owners have allowed the snowmobilers the use of it. The town has purchased (approximately 50) acres of land at this site. A manmade lake fed by small streams has been built and it is surrounded by woods and fields that house hiking trails. There is a picnic area and parking lot at this location and I believe ...you could fish here. This location should definitely be written up as an access point on Black Creek for canoes/kayaks in the brochure on Black Creek. I would strongly suggest looking into the fishing aspect before listing it.

Review action items and plan next meeting

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

The May meeting will not include a hike on the Greenway Bridge, as previously stated; rather, we have been invited by the Bergen Swamp preservation society to attend a guided hike. Contact Rochelle Bell at 753-2034 or rbell@monroecounty.gov if you are interested in going on the hike; it is important to have a fairly accurate count so that Lee can arrange enough guides for us.