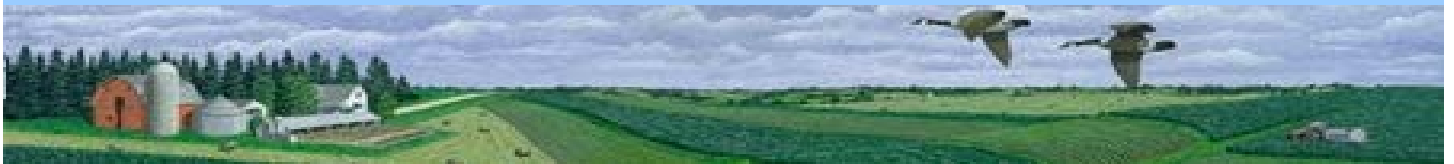


# BLACK CREEK WATERSHED COALITION



## MEETING MINUTES: 10/30/06

Attendees: Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Roger Rouse, Town of Byron; George Squires, Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; Jennifer Balonek, Riga Conservation Board; Betsy Johnson, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville; Nancy Steedman, Village of Churchville; Larry VerWeire, Riga resident; Don Hoyt, Town of LeRoy; Robert Remillard, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development; Joseph Carr, Town of Chili; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

M: L. VerWeire

TK: Lyle Warren

SC: Charlie Knauf

Action items are underlined in the Minutes.

There were no changes to the minutes for September 2006. C. Knauf suggested that a few minutes of the agenda be devoted to a short discussion of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Environmental Protection Fund grant.

**Village of Churchville Design Charette:** L. Warren presented a handout of information from the joint Village of Churchville-Town of Riga Comprehensive Plan that deals with Black Creek. J. Balonek said Riga currently has an index of open spaces, and after the Comprehensive Plan is adopted they will first work to bring the subdivision ordinances into compliance with the plan, and then, ideally in 2008, will deal with open space issues. Comments can be sent to Lyle Warren at [Lyle.Warren@westgroup.com](mailto:Lyle.Warren@westgroup.com).

Much of this is on a rough timeline with completion of the Comprehensive Plan the priority now. A public meeting will be held on 11/29/06 to provide information; this will be followed by the SEQRA process, approvals by the Town and Village and the official public hearings. This plan is an update of a 1988 plan. The Town and Village have appropriated funds for the Westshore Railroad Right of Way trail development, and the Village has applied to the Genesee Transportation Council for roads and trails work. A consultant will look at the feasibility of continuing the trail through the village. L. Warren said the other section of the plan that mentions the creek deals with drainage, which has been a touchy subject in this process. J. Carr commended the group for how they are approaching the plan, that it is well organized and very deliberate. N. Steedman said it has been a lot of work, but it has involved a lot of people and there has been good discussion and a great deal of dedication. J. Balonek indicated there is a lot of emotion around many of the issues dealt with in the plan, and that a challenge has been getting the emotion and the politics out, and still getting a good plan.

On the trail, the eastern terminus is now at the approximate western boundary of the village, and that while the village owns some parts of the old Right of Way in the village, other parts are in private hands. The village hopes to be able to obtain additional parts of the old Right of Way when land changes hands in the future. C. Knauf suggested that the village could also use existing public Right of Way's like sidewalks and streets to link the trail with the parks in Churchville, as was done in the Irondequoit Bay Pedestrian Access Plan. J. Carr pointed out that over time, public Right of Way's can be restored, and access becomes less of an issue for landowners or neighbors. N. Steedman said that one good thing is that there have been no buildings built on the Right of Way yet. D. Hoyt suggested using care to identify places where adjacent landowners may be using the Right of Way to access land and working out ways to accommodate that access.

**Map Guide:** R. Remillard sent a letter to Mapworks to see if they would be willing to undertake the project, but has received no response; he called them and they are too busy right now. Robert received comments in GIS format from P. Tindale, G. Squires sent a number of comments, and P. Osborne of Genesee County Parks also sent comments. R. Bell sent an e-mail to the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network to let them know about the Environmental Protection Fund grant, hoping that will help to leverage funding for the Map Guide. R. Remillard suggested that we need to have a meeting soon to decide what kinds of things will go on the map, but he is also striving to capture everything for the maps on the website. R. Bell asked if anyone had started working on text. R. Remillard says we have the materials from the SOB report and from a few minor locations, and again we will have to decide what goes in. If anyone has any narrative they want in, please get it to R. Remillard.

There was some discussion about the key to the main map, and R. Remillard says view this as a work in progress that will improve as more information is collected and decisions get made about what goes where. G. Squires reminded folks that there will be another Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance Special Project RFP coming up in January, and we should know about the other grant by then. G. Squires indicated that there are parks in Bergen that are not on the map, and the Westside RR trail also needs to go on. R. Bell will check with the Genesee Transportation Council about map information.

**Fund Raising:** R. Bell said that D. Borgus' daughter is a professional fundraiser, and has some comments on the draft letter. R. Bell has been working on the mailing list, and has 3 main categories in her database, currently 422 names including 1 law firm, 1 realtor, a number of engineering firms, and Adventure Calls Outfitters. P. Tindale has suggested and sent a contact for the Gates Chili Chamber of Commerce as a source of business addresses in the watershed. R. Remillard has a list of foundations. Waste Management has a grant program, and Rochester Area Community Foundation is another possible source. R. Bell wondered if the letter should mention some target dollar amount. B. Johnson offered some suggestions such as bolding and changing typefaces in different sections to highlight sections and draw in the reader. R. Bell will incorporate Dorothy's daughter's comments, B. Johnson's suggestions and send out a second draft. It was suggested that we may want to put the donor list on the Website to spotlight those who contribute. A press release was also suggested. R. Rouse suggested that all the information generated should be kept even if a decision is made to exclude some of the categories from the funding appeal, such as schools that may not have funds. R. Remillard said he checked and donations are tax deductible. Get information to R Bell ASAP if you want it included in the letter or the mailing list. It was decided that this needs to go out before the end of the year, so the next meeting will involve envelope stuffing at the end of the meeting.

**Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Grant:** R Bell indicated that Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council received an award of \$149,000 from NYSDOS for development of Watershed Management Plans for Black and Oatka Creeks. This is a 50-50 match grant, and each watershed group might need to raise cash to support this grant – how much cash is unclear at this point. The question was raised as to whether the Chili and Wyoming projects funded by the Great Lakes Commission could serve as match. R. Bell said that D. Zorn has indicated not to worry about match, it will be found.

**Display Boards:** G. Squires has the big one and took it to the recent Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance workshop where a number of people looked at both the Oatka and Black Creek displays. One of the small displays is in the Churchville Village Hall, Pat Tindale has one, and the other is at the Churchville HS. Rochelle will talk to Dave Zorn about displaying the large boards at his local government workshop in November.

**Other Business:** Karen Cox of Monroe County Department of Transportation contacted Rochelle to inform her that the Attridge Road Bridge in Riga will be rebuilt in 2008. There may be a possibility to get some enhancements like a canoe launch included in this reconstruction.

R. Remillard asked that we get either a link to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council website for the completed Erosion and Sediment reports for the Great Lakes Commission or we get pdf's that could be built into the Black Creek website. Rochelle will investigate. (done)

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday November 21 at 05:30. Rochelle will investigate getting the Chili Town Hall as this would be conducive to the envelope work after the meeting. While this meeting is earlier than usual, the December meeting is December 13, and if the November meeting is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, there would be only 2 weeks between meetings.

*(The meeting will be held in the Chili Library Multipurpose Room.)*