

BLACK CREEK WATERSHED COALITION



MEETING MINUTES: 3/27/07

Attendees: Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public Health; Roger Rouse, Town of Byron; George Squires and Judy Spring, Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District; Lyle Warren, 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 Council; Joseph Carr, Town of Chili; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development, Pat Tindale, Chili Conservation Board; Frank Perry, Jr. and Jim Gamble, Chili Drainage Board; Jeff Van Skiver, Town of Bergen.

Meeting Manager and Timekeeper: Larry VerWeire. Scribe: Charlie Knauf

Action items are underlined in the minutes.

There were no changes to the minutes for February 2007.

Newsletter: Larry VerWeire distributed copies of a draft he had generated by cutting and pasting articles transmitted to him by Robert Remillard. If folks think this is acceptable, Rochelle Bell will generate labels, and Robert will get the mailing done as part of the in-kind to the DOS EPF grant. Rochelle suggested that the mailing go to the basic mailing list rather than the full fundraising list. Rochelle has a sort column in her database that will allow this. Robert indicated that Rochelle should be sure to weigh the paper with label and staple or other fasteners to insure that total newsletter weight is less than 1 oz so as not to exceed postage rate. Lake Plains will do the assembly and mailing. It was also suggested that if additional articles are to be included, an article should be obtained from David Zorn concerning the Watershed Plan grant and process so that we can get as much watershed involvement as possible.

Watershed Plan: Rochelle met with Dave Zorn and Ed Doherty, former City Commissioner of Public Works, who is now associated with the Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF), to discuss funding, as the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee (OCWC) received some funds in the past. Rick VenVertloh of the Oatka Committee has also recently met with Mr. Dougherty to discuss funding. Mr. Dougherty was pessimistic about the Foundation as a funder at first, and thought it would be necessary to get one of the grantors to RACF to consider this. However, once the discussion turned to getting the localities involved, he thought there might be a better fit for their goals, and they discussed a challenge grant so that RACF might match the municipal contribution. This would fall under their civic engagement grants, which will be announced by June 4.

Rochelle indicated that the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) won't do much more on the EPF grant until the funding is confirmed in the NYS budget; this may happen within a few weeks. Charlie Knauf reported that he had discussed the match with Dave, and Dave was emphatic that at least some small municipal contribution should be sought to insure that there is ownership in the process and the plan on the part of the municipalities. Charlie also pointed out that the OCWC membership was less than enthusiastic about the process

of requesting funding from the municipalities, as in the original outreach to municipalities accomplished before G/FLRPC came on board, they had been told by most of the municipalities that while they would support the effort, they could not offer financial support. There is also a feeling that some of the municipalities are already contributing, i.e. LeRoy Village Hall as meeting space. Finally, there is concern that many of the headwaters municipalities have low acreage, but are in both watersheds, and formulas for payment that have been discussed to date are too heavy on these municipalities and may involve “double charging.” Rochelle said no municipality will be double charged. Someone suggested that it might be possible to approach the counties for a contribution, and it was pointed out that the IMA’s are in need of renewal.

Charlie also indicated that one of the OCWC members who is on a Town Board for an upstream municipality had offered the criticism that in his two years of coming to the meetings nothing had been accomplished. Charlie pointed out that during that period our input to the G/FLRPC erosion document had been generated and significant legwork had been done on attempts to secure funding for the watershed plan, and while these were not brick and mortar projects they involved a fair amount of work. Rochelle mentioned the erosion control projects funded by the Great Lakes Basin Program that will be carried out this spring. Joe Carr indicated that he felt there had been significant progress, and that BCWC is in a lot better place than it was a year prior. George Squires indicated that it was not possible to move forward until the contract is in place.

Don Hoyt wondered about the timeline for the plan, which is not defined yet because it is dependant on receipt of funds from NYS DOS. Rochelle said things should click once the contract is in place. According to Dave Zorn, the presentation to the municipalities will detail the process and what the committees and municipalities will need to do. This may involve one extra meeting per month for some BCWC members, and the presentations to the boards will go quickly, generally no more than 10 minutes up front in a meeting, and will depend on the liaison with the board.

It was suggested that a thank you to the municipalities for help received in the past be added to the newsletter, and Rochelle Bell was going to send this to Larry VerWeire for incorporation. Then the draft should go out to the attendees at the meeting via e-mail for review.

Churchville Dam: Jim Gamble asked who had the responsibility for control of how much water was going over the Churchville Dam, and Lyle Warren and others indicated that this is a fixed dam, so the amount of water going over it is totally dependant on the an amount of runoff. Charlie Knauf reported that Black Creek had been a foot over flood stage during the snow melt event.

Display Boards: The large board will be going to Genesee County Park and Forest for the Earth Day event. Riga would like to use it for Arbor Day. It was suggested that towns who are members of the Monroe county Stormwater Coalition might possibly provide some of the brochures for use at these events. Robert Remillard pointed out that the displays need to be updated as they mainly speak to the State of the Basin report. He has printed some new slides, and will create new panels for the boards. There is currently one small board at Chili, one at Churchville-Chili High School, one at a Bergen school; Lyle Warren will check at the Churchville Village hall for the other small board. The large board is at the Genesee county Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Black Creek Park Wetland: Rochelle Bell reported that despite less than ideal conditions much of the soil was out, and planting was to be done on the weekend of Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th. J. Carr asked about the schedule for completion of the Morgan Road work, and Rochelle said she would check on that.

Survey: The group has been contacted by a PhD candidate from the University of Phoenix in Denver, Colorado, requesting participation in a survey about leadership in the BCWC. Some who have responded said it took only about 20 minutes.

FL-LOWPA grant: This was to be announced at the full board meeting the following Thursday. Scribe Note: The full amount applied (\$5,500) for by Genesee County was awarded for development of the Black Creek Watershed Map and Guide and the update to the website. Congratulations to all and thanks to George, Robert and Rochelle for their work on preparing the grant for submittal!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 25th, Waste Management Facility on Brew Road in Riga at 5:30 PM. **NOTE: MEETING LOCATION CHANGED TO RIGA TOWN HALL.**