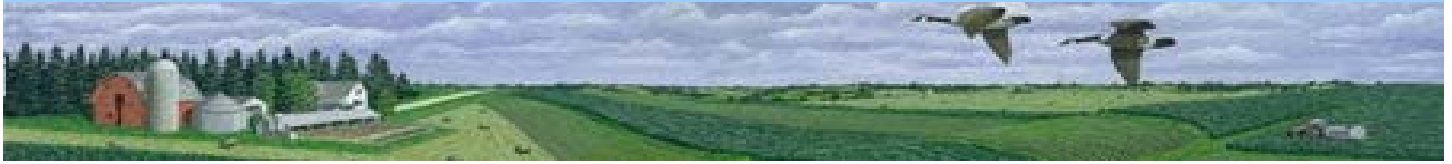


BLACK CREEK WATERSHED COALITION



Minutes of Black Creek Watershed Coalition
August 29, 2007
Genesee County Park and Forest

Attendance: Rochelle Bell, Dorothy Borgus, Joe Carr, Judy Spring, Nancy Steedman, George Squires, Pat Tindale, Lyle Warren, Larry VerWeire

Roles: Meeting manager - Larry; Scribe - Rochelle

Minutes of last meeting: approved with no changes.

Action items are underlined.

Announcement:

The League of Women Voters is having a bus trip with box lunch on October 4, 2007. They will visit Harbec Industries in Ontario. It is a "green business" with its own windmill and an entirely environmentally friendly business. The bus leaves Webster Park at 10:00 am. Open to the public. \$25.00 for bus trip and lunch. Reservations by 9/30. Ask Dorothy Borgus for additional info.

Friends of the Genesee County Park and Forest: George described the ACORNS as a group of 12-15 active volunteers who raise money to support activities at the park, including monthly public programs (the 2007 calendar was distributed). Judy trains the ACORNS, and then the ACORNS help with the Regional Envirothon, training school children (pre K to 12th grade; a brochure was distributed), adults and teachers. The school kids learn to identify plants and animals and the adults learn to use GPS to do geocaching.

The ACORNS visited the Buffalo Museum of Science's Hiscock Archaeological site in Byron. A good discussion of the site and the presence of mastodons ensued.

Village of Churchville: Nancy Steedman brought two large display boards with drawings of three of the six focus areas defined in the Charette. Two of the focus areas are along Black Creek. One is on the east side of the creek, where Lustercoate was located. This area has been purchased by Lotus Green, LLC, who intends to work with DEC to clean up the site and build high-density housing. The proposed plan mirrors the village's vision with a few exceptions; public access is proposed along the creek. This area will have to be rezoned to be included in the Central Business District.

The second focus area is on the west side of Black Creek. A walkway is proposed along the creek from the dam to the other bridge, by the park. So much silt has built up behind the dam that canoes and kayaks cannot get close enough to the dam to get out of the river and visit Main Street; building a boardwalk to the north would provide a place for canoes and kayaks to safely disembark. They also want to restore the mill history of that section of the creek.

The third focus area is the Village east connector along the old West Shore tracks: this would allow a lot of residents to get to the village via a trail.

The village is still working with the county on collaborative efforts in Churchville Park to keep the ice rink open and possibly build an amphitheater and community center.

The next steps in the Village planning process is:

1. Make code compatible with vision
2. Make drawings for other three focus areas
3. Put concepts into Comprehensive Plan
4. Work with the Rochester Regional Community Design Center

A new sidewalk will be connected to the school.

Kayak can be loaded below dam behind town hall

There is a USGS gauge below the dam on Carol Street.

Rochelle will send Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) information to Lyle and Nancy.

Map Guide: Christine Sevilla will be our consultant for the map guide. George and Rochelle are working with her on an agreement. We will need to decide what topics we want our text to cover, what pictures to use, and what data to include on the map.

Display Boards: Judy Spring did the new (large) display board and it is great. Larry took it to the Mill Seat Open House and George will take it to the FL-LOWPA conference in September.

Larry told us about the Mill Seat Landfill open house. It was very well attended and a great event – Lyle and Larry recommend we try to attend next year.

Website: Rochelle passed out copies of the web pages Carol has loaded on our website. Everyone should review these and send corrections and additions to Rochelle. For example: add Union Station and Ballantyne boat launches.

DeWitt Recreation Area should be removed – it is not in the watershed

Genesee Greenway Trail should be Genesee Valley Greenway Trail
West Shore Railroad trail in Bergen should be added.

Categories yet to add:

- Fishing access points (include Spring Creek, it is stocked with trout)
- Project locations (Chili Road Stabilization project)
- XC ski trails

- Birding locations
- Hand-carry boat access points

Bergen Swamp will be moved to a new category: National Natural Historic Landmark—privately owned. George reported that the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society would like us to contact them whenever we mention the Bergen Swamp, especially is showing location of the property.

The differences between launches for trailered boats and hand carried boats were discussed. Should these be two different categories?

We should consider adding boat etiquette training to our website and map guide. We want to encourage boats coming from another body of water to Black Creek to wash their boat and waders to limit the spread of undesirable species.

Is there a boat and motor size restriction on Black Creek? (*N.B. No.*) Though the creek is self-limiting, no one has heard of a regulatory restriction.

Everyone should e-mail their descriptions of each point in the handout to Rochelle. These will be used to populate the web pages.

Everyone should identify places not already listed on a map and bring it to the next meeting. Rochelle will bring maps to the next meeting.

Newsletter: Rochelle passed out a template/very rough draft of our next newsletter. Comments: Page 1 – Is it ok to use picture with a sign reading, “Bergen Swamp Wildlife Area?” Page 2 – Change “Bergen Swamp” to “Getting Out and About,” combine field trip pieces into one longer piece (last page?) What should we call the Churchville initiative -- Village of Churchville Plan? Churchville Waterfront Development Plan? Greening Churchville? “Genesee Greenway” should be “Genesee Valley Greenway Trail”

Page 4 – Dr. Paul “Richardson” should be “Richards.”

Add pitch for contributions.

Rochelle: talk to Charlie about boating and fishing. *N.B. Charlie said that DEC is espousing a clean boat/clean wader policy. If you’ve been in some other body of water within three (3) days or your things are still wet go over them with bleach. Charlie is not familiar with HP restrictions on Black Creek. Regarding fishing points, Charlie said access is a big problem. Except for County parks and boat launches there is no other public access. The whole creek is good if one is fishing from a boat – the area upstream from Churchville Park might be exceptionally good, or it just might be busy (and thus appear to be a good fishing spot) because people can get there. The fishing may not be as good above Bergen Swamp – the stream is narrow and shallow, there is little water and the water level is too variable.*

Rochelle will work up better draft and we’ll discuss more thoroughly next meeting.

RACF grant: The Black Creek Watershed Coalition and the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee were awarded \$10,000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation as a matching grant for the watershed planning grant we got from the NYS Dept. of State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

EPF grant: The leadership meeting that was tentatively scheduled for September 7th is postponed. Things are starting to move with DOS and the contract. Rochelle, Larry, Rick VenVertloh (chairman, OCWC) and Dave Reckhan (OCWC) are meeting with Dave Zorn next week to discuss the project scope and budget in detail.

Town of Chili erosion control project: Joe explained that the Army Corps of Engineers approved the proposed project, but the NYS DEC issued an objection. He explained that the Chili Road erosion is not as bad as originally thought, the Stottle Road bridge erosion is worse than originally thought, the proposed remediation and DEC's preferred remediation method. Caroline Myers and the town engineer (Dave Lindsey, Lu Engineers) are working with DEC on a solution.

Speaking of Caroline and the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation Service: Betsy Johnson contacted Rochelle to let her know that she is resigning from the MCSWCD to pursue graduate work in Library and Information Science. Betsy will be working part time for a while, but will not be attending BCWC meetings. She will be sorely missed. Her input on the fundraising letter and process was extremely helpful, and she had good ideas about the Map Guide and Website. We wish her the best of luck in her new career.

BCWC account:

Another \$125.00 was donated to the BCWC in honor of Aaron Fodge and Margit Henischel's marriage. A resolution was proposed regarding an estimated budget for the account for 2007 – 2008 as follows:

\$180 Three years of web hosting (Genesee Gateway)

\$200 Support watershed leadership meeting

\$600 Map Guide printing and/or other costs to round out FL-LOWPA grant

\$120 Miscellaneous (newsletter printing and mailing, website maintenance)

\$1100

Dorothy moved we accept the estimated budget; Joe seconded and the resolution was passed unanimously. Rochelle will draft a letter for Larry to send to the Treasurer of the Lake Plains RC&D to that effect.