

Black Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes

Date: July 29, 2009

Location: Sunnyside Lodge, Black Creek Park

Attendance: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning & Development; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Ramon Cipriano, Town of Bethany; Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford; Tom Ryther, Genesee Land Trust – Brookdale Preserve; George Squires and Judy Spring, Genesee County SWCD; Larry VerWeire, Riga Resident, Lyle Warren, Churchville Zoning Board of Appeals.

Action Items Underlined

1. Introductions were made. Welcome to Ramon Cipriano, the new representative for the Town of Bethany. April minutes and May minutes were accepted.
2. Map Guide Distribution. The maps are still going fast. Peggy will pick up more maps from the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District. Christine is using them at a class she is offering at the Rochester Community Darkroom. She is directing her students to find a place on the MapGuide that is new to them and to go there and take pictures.
3. RIBS. George told the group about DEC's Rotating Intensive Basin Study (RIBS). The DEC will study the Genesee River basin, including a number of streams (Bigelow Creek, Spring Creek) and ponds (Mill, Blue, Godfrey's and Horseshoe) in the Black Creek Watershed. The sampling will occur for three years (DEC initiates a sampling program in each basin every five years). Past monitoring reports are on the DEC website; for more information go to www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23848.html.
4. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a program by the EPA to provide a very large amount of money for projects that positively impact the Great Lakes. Funded projects must fall into one of five categories: 1) Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships; 2) Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration; 3) Invasive Species; 4) Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source; and 5) Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern (see www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri). There are still many unknowns: Will the bill pass the Senate? How much money might our region see? What is the proposal process? etc.

Groups are going to have to collaborate in applying for a grant under this program because the EPA wants to award only LARGE grants. The Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) and the Oak Orchard Watershed considering applying.

It was noted that the Great Lakes contain 20% of the earth's drinking water, and the Great Lakes Region, taken as a whole, is one of the largest economies in the world.

George will forward everyone in attendance tonight the presentation being made in Rochester regarding this program.

5. EPF Grant/Watershed Planning – George, Rochelle and Maureen (former BCWC member, current OCWC member) met with Dave Zorn, Brian Slack to have a scoping meeting via conference call with our NYS Dept. of State Division of Coastal Resources representatives. The first step in this process is to form the Project Advisory Group (PAG). There will be a meeting for anyone interested in being on the PAG on Monday, August 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Wheatland/Scottsville Town Hall.

George will forward the invitation e-mail from Brian Slack to the BCWC.

George distributed a list of elected officials in the watershed and asked for necessary corrections. Lyle made the observation that some officials will change in November. Corrections should be forwarded to George.

Dorothy told that group that the new Director of Planning and Zoning in the Town of Chili, Chris Karelus is interested in joining the BCWC.

6. By Laws – The group discussed whether to adopt by-laws that would be adequate for a 501c3 or a set of simple by-laws that do not satisfy 501c3 requirements. By consensus the group decided on simple by-laws, with the idea that if the BCWC decided to apply for 501c3 status in the future the by-laws could be expanded at that time. The by-laws subcommittee will work on a set of simple by-laws for the BCWC's review, comment and adoption.
7. Mill Seat Open House, July 30, 3:00 – 7:00 pm. Larry will have a table with the large display board, the Map Guide, brochures and newsletters.
8. Next Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2009, 5:30, Genesee County Park and Forest.
Menu: George – pizza; Larry – soda and ice; Judy – cups; Lyle – napkins, plates, chips; Peggy – famous chocolate cookies and eco plates (she'll let Lyle know if she has them then he won't bring plates); Dorothy – famous chocolate chip cookies; Tom – green salad; Rochelle – plastic forks.