

## **Black Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 31, 2009

**Location:** Genesee County Park & Forest Nature Center

**Attendance:** Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning & Development; Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford; David Lindsay, Town of Chili; Joe Richardson, GCC; 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. July minutes were accepted with one possible change Rochelle will check.
2. Map Guide Distribution. The maps are *still* going fast! Christine distributed 75 copies at the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiatives (LOCI) conference. Larry, Peggy and George, as well as the Town of Bergen and June Summers' wildlife rehabilitation group, distributed many Guides at the Mill Seat Landfill open house. Peggy will pick up more maps from the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District. Lyle and David will check the stock and outlets. Dorothy has part of a box left – she took some Guides to the Town of Ogden.
3. Canoeing and Kayaking on Black Creek. Christine informed George and Rochelle that she met someone who expressed interest in finding up to date canoeing and kayaking information on the web. Rochelle spoke with Carol Zollweg about the idea and was reminded that [www.blackcreekwatershed.org](http://www.blackcreekwatershed.org) has an interactive mapping capability and that we decided against including a blog-like feature on the website because it would take too much monitoring.

George did an internet search and shared the results with the group; he will email the links to Rochelle who will then ask Carol to post them on the website. One thing noted on the websites is that creek conditions can change rapidly – a few people talked of expecting a 4-hour paddle and ending up with a 7-hour paddle/portage adventure. The history of clearing debris from Black Creek was discussed.

George heard about a link between Little Black Creek and Black Creek. It was thought these are in two distinct watersheds – a possible link should be researched.

4. Agriculture in the watershed. George had a map, which he will bring to the next meeting, which shows that close to 50% of the watershed is in cropland. Most of the cropland is in Genesee County and in Riga in Monroe County. The map is based on FSA data.
5. EPF Grant/Watershed Planning. Second Project Advisory Group (PAG) meeting was on Monday, August 24. It was a good meeting and there is a lot of work ahead of us.

A process was agreed upon at the PAG meeting, and is supported by the BCWC, whereby the PAG sees the final draft of all documents going to the Department of State. It was noted that timelines must be communicated and followed for this to be a meaningful opportunity for BCWC PAG input.

Involvement by all members of the BCWC is strongly encouraged on the PAG committee. At least look at documents in terms of areas in which you have particular interest or expertise.

The project webpage is at <http://gflrpc.org/blackoatka.htm>. Documents, such as the Community Outreach Plan, can be found under the "Related Materials" link on this page. The Community Outreach Plan is the next deliverable to NYS DOS; once this is complete the watershed characterization process will begin – it could take a year to complete.

The next PAG meeting is on September 21 at the LeRoy Village Hall.

6. Great Lakes Basin Program Grant. The Town of Chili and the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District received a \$30K grant to stabilize a segment of Black Creek off Old Scottsville-Chili Road. A more engineered solution will be used than tried before at the same spot. Permitting will be done this fall, field work next summer. The project consists of \$28K in in-kind services.

The recently completed stabilization at Chili Ave. and Stottle Rd. handled the summer rains and floods well.

7. By-laws. Lyle, Peggy and Jennifer worked on the by-laws and will send them to the BCWC when they are ready for review. A question was posed about possible conflicts of interest for municipal officials assigned to the BCWC if we become a 501c3 and take money from municipalities. The title for George's position could be "Coordinator" or "Support Person."
8. Report on Display at Mill Seat Landfill. Larry, George and Peggy were at the event. It was very well attended and many people stopped and looked at the display and took a Map Guide. Many folks were observed looking at the map to find where they live or canoe.

Dorothy noted the landfill is getting very high and wondered how much higher it will get. Lyle will ask Cindy Jessop.

9. George discussed the FL-LOWPA conference on Tuesday, October 13 at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva. There will be two talks about Genesee County. George will attend the conference and take the display board. Rochelle, Judy and Tom may be able to attend, too, and will let George know if they register.
10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2009, 5:30, Lyle will see if he can reserve the Village Hall; he will call Larry if he can't. George noted that in his internet search he learned of a place in Churchville next to the dam, across the street from the village hall, that rents canoes and paddleboats. If anyone is interested they could meet there early for a paddle before the meeting.