

Black Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes

Date: February 22, 2011

Location: Bergen Village Hall

Attendance: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning & Development; Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford representative and GLOW Recycling; Tucker Kautz, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District; Peter Lent, interested citizen; Tom Hryvniak, Water Enthusiast; Thomas Klafehn, Town of Riga Highway Superintendent; Steve Lewandowski, CEI-LOCI; Brian Ostling, Town of Chili, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Tim Ruffin, Trustee, Village of Bergen; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Tom Ryther, Genesee Land Trust; and Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville Zoning Board of Appeals.

Action Items Underlined

Introductions, assignment of roles, changes to agenda, minutes: Introductions were made; Peter Lent described his idea about getting a collector's license and collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates, which generated a lot of interest from other members. Lyle led the meeting in Larry's absence. Rochelle scribed. The January 2011 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Watershed Planning Update: George, Rochelle, Felipe and Art met with Brian before BCWC meeting to discuss draft characterization report. A lot of work has been done but there are missing pieces (info on CAFO's and Ch. 7); Brian expects to have the missing pieces to the BCWC by the end of the week. The issue about subwatersheds and HUC codes was discussed; USGS 12-digit HUC code watersheds are defined by nodes along the mainstem, not topographically delineated subwatersheds. The characterization is based on these divisions and federal and state grants use these divisions.

George will e-mail link to the watershed characterization report to the BCWC.

GLRI Erosion and Sediment Control grant status: The kick-off meeting will be on March 31, 2011 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Sunnyside Lodge, Black Creek Park. BCWC will receive postcard invite via snail and/or e-mail. Other invitees include the media and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. George would like the BCWC and OCWC display boards up and a volunteer to stay with it--bring MapGuides. Refreshments will be served.

Display Boards: The large board is in the Genesee County SWCD office. Lyle needs the board for the Arbor Day festivities in Churchville. He will let George know the exact date. We think the small boards are at the Town of Riga, Churchville-Chili High School (**Tom K. will check**) and the Genesee Park Nature Center (**George will check**).

MapGuide: The MapGuides are printed and look good. **Rochelle will take maps to Tom R. before the next meeting. George will put "MapGuide Distribution" on the March meeting agenda.**

Watershed Monitoring: Mellissa Winslow, student at SUNY Brockport, called George with questions about spikes at two points along Black Creek. George passed out map and water quality summary. Mellissa's results are consistent with Steve's results.

Steve L. reported that CEI-LOCI is done w/ the Black Creek Project. The basic conclusion is that there is high loading of nutrients in the upper watershed, which is intensely agricultural. CAFOs appear to account for >40% of the phosphorus loading. The Bergen Swamp and the lake behind Churchville Dam

do a lot of good for water quality – phosphorus and sediment settle out. A public discussion of the monitoring results and the results of the model will be planned. Lyle asked if Steve would do a presentation for the Town of Riga and Village of Churchville – Steve said yes, after the work for DEC is completed.

Brian’s excellent report on Town of Chili construction site inspections and what a concerned citizen in should do if they are concerned about what they observe: Brian described his years-long involvement with development in 40 towns across the northeast. He noted that while some codes and application processes are more difficult than others, Chili’s seems pretty normal. No town has every possible eventuality written down so that they have latitude with each unique site.

In Chili, the process is to submit an application, go to the design review committee, then the planning board, then the architectural review board. Each project is reviewed to be sure it follows Phase II Stormwater regulations. There is a pre-construction meeting, the Town takes a letter of credit and are then authorized to precede – the applicant then applies for a building permit. The developer’s engineer has to be onsite; the Town’s engineer makes periodic visits to look for and follow up on non-compliance issues.

Steve asked Brian if Chili uses “call backs,” where the developer pays for an engineer to report to the town; this practice is not uncommon in other towns on larger projects.

The town should look into fill permits very closely. In the case of a recent problem site, Greenwood Estates (?), there was a problem with carrying out phasing correctly.

If you have a construction complaint, call the town. MC Soil and Water Conservation District offers assistance to MS4’s (Chili, Churchville, Riga, and Scottsville) -- anyone can call the MCSWCD at 473-2120 with a construction complaint. On the weekend or after hours call DEC at 1-800-847-7332 (1-800-TIPP DEC.)

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2011. **Lyle will see if the Village of Churchville meeting room is available. If it’s not, Lyle will call Tom K. who will see if the Town of Riga room is available. Lyle will let George know where a meeting room is reserved.**