

Black Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2011

Location: Churchville Village Hall

Attendance: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning & Development; Brian Slack, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning; Peter Lent, interested citizen, Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford; Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville Zoning Board of Appeals; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Tom Ryther, Genesee Land Trust, Brian Ostling, Town of Chili, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Roberta Ames, Chair, Village of Churchville Planning Board; Ray Cipriano, Town of Bethany Planning Board; Tom Hryvniak, interested citizen.

Guest: Mellissa Winslow, SUNY Brockport Masters Candidate

Action Items Underlined

Introductions, assignment of roles, changes to the agenda, review and approval of minutes: Introductions were made. The May 23, 2011 minutes were approved.

Watershed Planning Progress: Characterization plan will be done this summer and then PAC will review. There will be a summary of responses to each PAC member's comment.

A method for local law assessment in the watershed will be developed by the end of the summer.

The Local Law Review will be an update of the work done in 2004. It will focus on first order stream protection, stream buffers and wetland protection. It will cover things municipalities can do that the state doesn't already do. Towns will be involved in the process as it unfolds and concludes. Will county codes be reviewed, esp. with respect to septic systems? Peggy knows a LOT about the counties' protocols. Other applicable county plans and codes: Ag plans, etc.....

Mellissa Winslow's (AMAZING) presentation: Mellissa Winslow, under the direction of Dr. Joe Makarewicz, did one year of extensive water quality sampling (stressed stream segment analysis) in the Black Creek watershed and is now using the data to calibrate the SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) model.

Intermediate results indicate the (Stafford) limestone quarry is a significant source of SO₄, Ca, Cl and Na; the Bergen Sewage Treatment Plant has a significant impact on water quality (P & N) (it is possible the Plant has been upgraded since stream samples were taken; that segment should be re-sampled); and bare farm fields in Chili are a significant source of TSS during spring floods.

Recommendations will be made based on the output of the SWAT model.

There are four people working on the SWAT model. One is sampling Oatka Creek, one is sampling the rest of the Genesee River basin and one person is working in the lab.

USDA and EQIP funds – An informational meeting on cost-share funds available for Genesee County farmers was held on June 24th at the Byron Fire Hall. USDA-NRCS is accepting

applications (until July 1st) for special EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) funding for conservation practices in the Oak Orchard, Black, and Oatka Creek watersheds. George also explained funding available from the Black and Oatka Creek Sediment Reduction Grant. Genesee, Monroe, and Wyoming County SWCDs are accepting applications for the cost-share of erosion and sediment control projects in the Black and Oatka Creek watersheds until August 1st. The funding source for both programs is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Three farmers showed up. George was interviewed on YNN.
(<http://rochester.ynn.com/content/548035/farmers-encouraged-to-apply-for-great-lakes-grant/>).

Events: Bergen Park Festival was on June 11. Peter's aquatic macroinvertebrates were a big hit!

At the Churchville walkabout Cindy Jessup handed out the Black Creek Watershed MapGuide.

The Chili Fest is on July 14. **Brian O. will call Mike Curly about the BCWC having a display table and then call Tom H. w/ details. Tom H. will contact George to get the board.**

Mill Seat Landfill Open House on Thursday, July 28 (conflicts w/ scheduled BCWC meeting, so move BCWC meeting back to Tues. July 26.). **George will e-mail flier to BCWC.**

Churchville Country Fair, Aug. 20 – 21. Lyle and Roberta may be available to display the board.

Banner/Signs: Tim Ruffin's friend can make us the banner for \$60 and signs for an additional fee. We need \$100.00, but we don't have it. **Rochelle will ask the RC&D Council to fund the banner and signs.**

Rochelle distributed brochures about caring for septic systems. **Rochelle will ask Charlie Knauf for more septic system brochures.**

MapGuides: This printing is going FAST. Tom has done a lot of work distributing them. Thanks, Tom! There are about 2-1/2 boxes left. Some should be saved to be on display with the board. There are lots of Watershed Care brochures left – they aren't as popular as the Map Guide.

Proposal for Black Creek Trail feasibility study: An RFP is going out soon – **let Lyle or George know if you would like a copy.** The project has an Advisory Committee of which Lyle is a member. The challenge will be getting the cooperation of numerous private residences.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011, at 5:30 at the Town of Chili Department of Public Works