

**Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Minutes from Meeting
October 27, 2011**

Location: Chili Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendance: Larry VerWeire (Riga citizen and *Chair*), Tom Ryther (Genesee Land Trust, Brookdale Preserve), Lyle Warren (Churchville ZBA), Tucker Kautz (Monroe Co. SWCD), Brian Ostling (Chili DPW), Roberta Ames (Churchville PB), Peggy Grayson (Town of Stafford /GLOW), Peter Lent (interested citizen), George Squires (Genesee Co. SWCD and *Facilitator*), Dorothy Borgus (Chili resident and *Scribe*)

Changes to this agenda:

Agenda item #4 was moved to #3, and a request for a letter of support for a Churchville grant was added as item #5(a).

Action Items are underlined.

Introductions were made, roles were assigned, and September 28 meeting minutes were corrected and approved.

Watershed Planning Progress: George announced that Brian Slack is taking a position with the Ulster County Planning Dept. There will be a joint advisory committee meeting on November 3 to discuss the impact of Brian's leaving and set procedures for going forward in his absence. Jayme Breschard may be assuming Brian's responsibilities. The final draft of the Black Creek Watershed characterization should be on the G/FLRPC website. Per Brian, he has sent this draft to the NY Dept. of State and notified the Project Advisory Committee. The next phase will include an inventory of municipal regulations. There needs to be a fair amount of discussion how to proceed with the 30-page document and the unlikely prospect of all municipalities taking part. A PAC meeting would be a good place to discuss BCWC's participation in code evaluation. George will locate the Black/Oatka Creek Municipal Law Review, completed in 2006 as part of the "Controlling Sediment in Black and Oatka Watersheds" project and see that we have a copy since it includes compiling of some municipal codes. Tom Ryther again emphasized the need to have a data base of riparian corridors in place to better approach municipalities and getting cooperation with their codes.

Upper Black Creek Water Quality Restoration Strategy (formerly TMDL): Several BCWC members attended the WQRS meeting on November 25th in the Village of Churchville where a draft of the Upper and Lower Black Creek Watershed –Water Quality Restoration Strategy Reports was presented. At our meeting BCWC members expressed concern regarding the nutrient standards utilized as criteria in CEI's model and the questionable conclusions reached. Old data, information gaps, and minimal sampling have contributed to BMP's that are unrealistic for

implementation. Tucker said several local farmers attended and were very concerned about further regulations being placed on them and their ability to farm all of their land. George will add these names to our email distribution list so they receive our meeting information. The draft study is out for review with a deadline of November 18th for receipt of public comments.

In speaking with DEC representatives Peter Lent has learned that the department is planning to include Black Creek as a part of a pilot study next year to evaluate the biomonitoring assessment methods for development of nutrient criteria for phosphorus.

Banner: Rochelle Bell has spoken with Carol Culhane (Lake Plains RC&D Council Chair and artist) who will assume our banner project. Rochelle will send her our thoughts on banner size and print. Committee members re-affirmed our individual financial commitment to increase the current \$60 funding if necessary to get a good product.

Display Boards and Future Outreach Activity: Tom Klafehn has located a small display board. George will e-mail him so he brings it to our next meeting. We need to consider updating our display boards. A suggestion was made to approach Monroe County Planning to request introduction of our display boards in their ongoing planners' training sessions. This would increase awareness of watershed committee activities on local Planning Boards and increase cooperation.

Letter of Support – Churchville Grant: Churchville Mayor Nancy Steedman has requested a letter of support regarding a NYS Parks and Recreation grant for the area around the former Fire Hall. The grant will assist in funding development of the area near the creek bank, creating an overlook area and picnic pavilion with accessible paths. The grant will be combined with a Green Innovation grant to eliminate storm water runoff that flows directly into Black Creek. Tom Ryther made a motion that we endorse the grant request with the provision that the village include the BCWC in their final plans; seconded by George Squires. There was a unanimous vote taken. Lyle will write the letter of support, Larry will sign and deliver to Nancy Steedman.

Next BCWC Meeting: The next BCWC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2011. Lyle will contact Cindy Jessup to see about meeting at Waste Management offices and let George know.

Tom and Tucker suggested that we consider changing the meeting time to expand attendance to include farmers and other stakeholders who find 5:30 PM inconvenient. Discuss at next meeting.