

Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Minutes: November 29, 2011
Mill Seat Landfill

Action items are underlined.

ATTENDANCE: Brian Ostling (Town of Chili Hwy Dept), George Squires (Genesee County SWCD), Peter Lent (member at large), Judy Spring (Genesee County SWCD), Pat Tindale (Chili Conservation Board), Larry VerWeire (Riga citizen), Tom Ryther (Genesee Land Trust), Peggy Grayson (Town of Stafford, GLOW), Rochelle Bell (Monroe County Planning), Roberta Ames (Village of Churchville Planning Board), George Thomas (CEI, Center for Environmental Initiatives).

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28: Dorothy was complimented for her minutes and chocolate chip cookies. Minutes were accepted with adding a slash between “Stafford” and “GLOW.”

WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRESS: The November 3 PAC meeting was reviewed. The draft characterization report is being reviewed by NYSDOS. A public meeting will be scheduled when DOS approves the draft. Genesee Community College might be a good place to have the meeting; GCC has the technology to teleconference. Dave will be leading the process as far as we know. **Rochelle will ask Dave if DOS has approved the draft yet and when the next PAC meeting might be.**

Re: code review. Will the BCWC have a chance for input? That might be done entirely in-house now.

Peter passed out a CD with the draft watershed plans as well as CEI’s draft Water Quality Restoration Strategy (WQRS). *{The draft report is online:*
www.gflrpc.org/Publications/BlackOatka/Characterization/BlackCreekWatershed/index.htm.*}* Data collected and analyzed by Joe Macarewicz and Mellissa Winslow from SUNY Brockport will be incorporated during the public comment period.

CEI’s public meeting was discussed. **George just got the attendance list and will add e-mails from it to the BCWC distribution list.** The group discussed meeting at a different time so that Kim Zuber and Bill Maysick can attend and decided that 5:30 is the best time for BCWC meetings. **Rochelle will ask Tucker to talk to them about attending the Public Meetings and PAC meetings and following the BCWC via the minutes.** The farmers are wondering who makes the decisions about implementing the BMPs – it is important that everyone understands the BMPs are recommendations, suggestions, not regulations that are mandates.

George Thomas pointed out that the folks who did the WQRS had to use the model DEC recommended and that even though it has limitations it is still a valuable planning tool. George mentioned that being an EPA Restoration Initiative grant requires a “Nine-Point Watershed Plan” (which includes the quantification of benefits). The WQRS meets some of the elements of the Nine-Point plan. BCWC should be sure the current watershed planning process incorporates the WQRS and the 9-Point plan requirements to the extent possible. **George will send Rochelle a link to info about the 9-Point plan and Rochelle will talk to Dave about it.**

Upcoming events were summarized. George will send out summary before next meeting.

BANNER: Rochelle is working with Carol Culhane, artist and President of the Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council, on a banner. The group likes a banner with a picture in the background; there was no enthusiasm for the map design or for the plain design.

The group wants a 2-ft by 6-ft banner, 2-ft by 4-ft is ok. 3-ft is too tall.

We don't really need the banner until spring.

Larry will send pictures of the Chili Ave./Stottle Rd. restoration to Rochelle – maybe they are good photos for the banner. **Rochelle will work with Carol to find a picture that has high enough resolution to use.**

US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT: Poor farmland restored to original use – wetland {Wetlands Restoration Project (WRP)}. Farmer continues to own the land, the federal government paid for wetland restoration and has a 10-yr, 30-yr or permanent easement.

George will see if Anwar Karim, NRCS, can make a presentation about the project on Thursday, January 26, 2012.

DISPLAY BOARDS: One was brought to the meeting, one is at the interpretive center. The big one is at the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District. The blue background on the text slides clashes with the picture of the creek we like for the banner! Display boards should be freshened up – plan to have them ready when the watershed plan comes out.

NEXT BCWC MEETING: The December BCWC meeting is cancelled. The next BCWC meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2012.