

**Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2012
Town of Chili Offices**

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), Peggy Grayson (Town of Stafford, GLOW), Roberta Ames (Village of Churchville Planning Board), George Thomas (CEI, Center for Environmental Initiatives), Lyle Warren (Churchville ZBA), Chuck Rettig (Chili), Dorothy Borgus (Chili), Anwar Karim (USDA-NRCS).

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2011: Minutes were accepted (Motion made by Pat Tindale, seconded by Judy Spring) with correction of spelling of “input”, “Winslow” and “tool”. An addition of “Upcoming Events” was made (6a).

WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRESS/PUBLIC MEETING: The public meeting is scheduled for February 7 at the Town of Byron Fire Hall on Route 262, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Oatka Creek is on February 9 in Pavilion, also from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend one or both. The last draft characterization is on Genesee Finger Lakes Planning website (www.gflrpc.org/Publications/BlackOatka/Characterization/BlackCreekWatershed/index.htm). They have made corrections. The Department of State hasn't come back with comments. The feeling is we can go ahead. We will also be getting more information from Brockport State.

NRCS WRP (Wetlands Restoration Project)PROJECT NEAR ARCHER ROAD: Anwar Karim told about his professional background, as well as the mission of NRCS. He noted that funding is via the Farm bill on private land and that there are field offices in most counties in the country. He noted that there is a new focus on energy. Plans on farms included technical and some financial assistance. **Archer Rd.** The goal is to revert wetlands back to their natural state. Archer Rd. is 27.6 acres and has a history of flooding. Anwar detailed eligibility requirements for the program and noted that biologists and others are brought in to formulate and implement the plan. The owner continues to own and pay taxes on the property. There are 12 factors in ranking a project. A cultural resources review is required and owners have to abide by DEC wetland requirements. There are permanent easements and NRCS covers 100% of the cost. Over time the site can become a DEC or Federal wetland. The site will be seeded and hopefully will attract a variety of wildlife. The project is expected to be finished next year. George Squires noted that SWCD is doing some monitoring of sites in the counties. Hunting on these project sites is acceptable but elaborate tree stands are discouraged. Landowners interested in the program normally contact NRCS. They usually find out about it by word of mouth.

BANNER: George Squires received an email from Rochelle. The banner person can't put the image we want on a banner, due to the complexity of ink on vinyl. The consensus was to table it and check to see how it can be done. Members should send any ideas to Rochelle.

9-POINTWATERSHED PLANNING: The planning outline was distributed. Our Watershed Plan should include these 9 points to be eligible for future EPA (and perhaps other federal) funding. It looks like we are in good shape on this front, but our plan is not done yet.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Eco Fest at Genesee Community College is Saturday April 14. Churchville has its Arbor Day Festival coming up. Saturday, June 9 at Mendon Ponds Park, beach area is an all day event sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club. Black and Oatka Creek have been invited. Oatka seems committed. Members are asked to give it some thought. A discussion of the number of map guides we

still have ensued. The possibility of doing a reprint will take place at the next meeting. In the meantime members are asked to do an inventory of what they have.

NEXT BCWC MEETING: The next BCWC meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2012 at either the Village of Churchville or the Town of Riga offices. Lyle will make the arrangements.