

BLACK CREEK WATERSHED COALITION
Meeting Notes: September 25, 2012
Town of Riga

Action items are underlined.

Attendance: George Squires & Judy Spring, Genesee County SWCD; Peter Lent, interested citizen and Chair, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee; Peggy Grayson, Town of Stafford, GLOW; Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Planning; Roberta (Birdie) Ames, Village of Churchville Planning Board; Lyle Warren, Village of Churchville ZBA; Pat Tindale, Chili Conservation Board; Larry VerWeire, Riga resident; Brian Ostling, Town of Chili; George Thomas, Center for Environmental Initiatives, Fran Reese, Chili resident; Tucker Kautz, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Roles: Meeting manager & Timekeeper = Larry VerWeire; Scribe = Rochelle Bell

Review and approval of minutes: A few changes were noted.

Grants for Black Creek Map Guide: As reported at the last meeting, George has allocated \$2,000 from Finger Lake-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) for the next Map Guide printing. Peggy spoke with Suzanne Dunn from Wegmans corporate office about support: Suzanne suggested Peggy send a letter to her attention at Wegmans Consumer Affairs. **Rochelle will get some background information together and send it to Peggy on letterhead. Peggy will draft a letter and send it to George and Rochelle for review and then to Larry for signature.**

Rochelle looked into grant opportunities at L.L. Bean, Tom's of Maine, Burt's Bees, Fields Pond Foundation Inc. and American Express. L.L. Bean looks like a possibility; **Rochelle and Fran will draft an application.** Tom's of Maine funds children's dental services now. Fields Pond Foundation only funds printed material when it is part of a new trail or property acquisition. American Express is a long shot – its funding is channeled to specific locations and western NY is not one of them, but Rochelle knows someone locally who works for AmEx and so may try anyway.

George Thomas suggested Walmart as a source of money for the Map Guide. They have an active community grant program. It is best if the store is in the area and someone who works at the store is supportive of the grant application. Lyle has a neighbor who is an executive at a local Walmart and may be able to help; **Lyle will talk to him.** If that doesn't lead anywhere someone will take a copy of the Map Guide in to a the Walmart in Gates and talk to the manager.

In the meantime, we have a little 3-1/4 x 8-1/2" info card to pass out. **The card needs updating, though.**

Watershed Planning: Everyone had been instructed to review Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council's Black Creek Municipal Law Review, completed by G/FLRPC in 2006 as part of the "Controlling Sediment in Black & Oatka Creek Watersheds" project {www.gflrpc.org/Publications/ControllingSediment/Assessment/ReviewAnalysis.htm}. The report is currently being updated as part of the current watershed management planning process. The report contains a section for each municipality in the watershed. George looked at the section for Byron and found it was not covered in much depth, but that some of the basic suggestions were adopted. The group felt that the suggestions weren't tailored to each town and there weren't concrete suggestions or examples. The impression from Tom Kicior's presentation last month is that the update will be more specific.

There was a good discussion about riparian corridors and how a riparian corridor ordinance would apply to towns but not villages, or some towns more than others. We talked about methods of preserving riparian corridors, such as conservation easements (tax benefit) and EPODs (Environmental Protection Overlay Districts). We are wondering how other communities implement riparian corridor regulations; **Rochelle will ask Tom K. if he will be addressing this.**

Banner: The check is in the mail. Thank you to the Monroe County Department of Planning for paying for the banner. George would like a copy of the logo – **Peggy will get the logo file from Terry Z. and send it to George**

Black Creek Corridor Trail Feasibility Study: Draft Black Creek Corridor Trail Feasibility Study is completed. The trail would connect the Genesee Valley Greenway and the West Shore Trail. The proposed trail is 15 miles long, goes through five parks and crosses 15 bridges. It does not cross private property, although there are two property owners still considering allowing the trail to cross their property. ATVs would not be allowed on the trail, per DOT regulations. Snowmobiles would be allowed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 25, Chili. **(Pat will confirm location with Larry, who will confirm location with George).**