Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2015

Location: Churchville Village Hall
23 East Buffalo Street, Churchville NY, 14428

Attendance: Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili; Kevin Donovan, Village of Bergen; Thomas Klafehn, MCSWCD & Town of Riga; Julie Michalko, Churchville Resident, Co-Owner of Lighthouse Canoe and Kayak Rental; Ron Michalko, Churchville Resident, Co-Owner of Lighthouse Canoe and Kayak Rental; Brian Ostling, Town of Chili Highway Dept; Chuck Rettig, Chili Resident; George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Dena Van Curran, City of Rochester; Lyle Warren, Churchville ZBA; Kim Zubar, Churchville Resident.

1. Introductions:
   - D Borgus called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.
   - Changes were added to the agenda.
   - Minutes accepted and all in favor.

   - G Squires said there is nothing new to mention except the fact that we need to get municipalities in agreement at some point.
   - Dave Zorn did not hear back from dept of state yet, therefore no new news.

3. Application for 501 (c)(3):
   - L Warren: In process with application for 501 (c)(3), he finished the state portion. Julia Garver is still working with us.
   - Three more follow ups to be completed once registered with NYS.
   - In 60 days we should receive federal filing after the 3 follow ups are completed; federal filing is funding for 2014 and will give us the ability to move forward for grants/funding etc.
   - Julia Garver took care of the filing fee, L Warren reimbursed her for the filing fee of ~$400.00
     o J Garver has been extremely helpful, a generous thank you note and gift is needed so we can show our appreciation. Next meeting we will come up with gift ideas.

4. Black Creek Canoe and Kayaking:
   - Julie and Ron Michalko are the owners of Lighthouse Canoe and Kayak Rental, Julie gave a short presentation on their business and why they believe it’s a great asset to BC.
Main purpose of their business is to allow people to enjoy BC by supplying them with watercraft (canoes and kayaks), sunscreen, drinking water, PFDs, fishing accessories and bait.

Family, kids and various parties as well as church groups utilize Lighthouse’s services.

Can rent by the half day or up to a week.

Eurasian milfoil was causing some issues with paddlers.

Contact info for Lighthouse is 585-489-9867.

They are affiliated with Ogden rec center.

Brings consumers/public to Churchville to other small businesses.

Great price points mentioned compared to competitors.

People can launch below the dam but most people launch above the dam (recommended).

There are tree hazards—falling into creek; they give caution to route 19W, wait until high water to canoe and kayak in.

Good fishing by the bridge and park ave extension and by the base of dam in springtime.

They have a total of 13 kayaks and 3 canoes available.

Can find a link to Lighthouse on Facebook.

They have been in business for 8 years.

5. Annual Report:

G Squires discussed the highlights.

The 2nd Annual Genesee River Basin Summit has been postponed.

BC fishing site is done and has accessibility for all that need it.

A.I. G Squires will plan a field trip and get some pictures of the new fishing access site.

6a. Upcoming Events 2015:

Churchville Lions County Fair wants BCWS to return and have a new booth. Goal is to bring a larger crowd: tractor pulls, NYS Lumberjack competition etc.

Susan Bailey is the contact for the vendors.

Dates are Sat and Sun August 8-9th 2015.

BCWS will hand out maps, sets up back board displays; will change boards up a bit, maybe have a print up of watershed plan.

Millseat Landfill is alternating so no open house this year, this year the open house will be held at High Acres Landfill.

Cool Kids date is April 11, 2015 at GCC Batavia Campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. BCWS will have a back board, will hand out trees. Oatka and Tonawanda Creek will have displays as well.

Churchville Walk-About begins in early June and is held on Thursdays from late afternoon to evening.

A.I. L Warren will check who is coordinating it.
• Pick-Up-The-Parks is April 25, 2015, we may host the cleanup at a park but GSquires has a conflict with the date.

6b. BC TMDL Update:
• Meeting was held on Tues Feb 24, 2015; presentation was on Oak Orchard Creek for TMDL.
• GSquires was under the impression that BCWS TMDL report was finished in NYS and sent to the EPA for approval, and documentation of the P problem in upper BC and Bigalow Creek, but it has NOT gone to the EPA for approval. It is tied up in the D.E.C. GSquires received this information from Steve Gladding who is with the NYS D.E.C. Albany Division of Water.

6c. Inland Waterways:
• LWarren received a letter from Village of Churchville Mayor Nancy Steedman that BC would be considered an Inland Waterway—a walkway to the park near the dam would be developed.
• Mayor Steedman believes it would enhance community and recreational activities.
• In process of drafting.
• Mayor Steedman is asking BCWS if we have any interest in being designated?
• As far as any downsides to this, LWarren believes it would help with 501 (c)(3) and grants.
• BOstling asked if there’s a higher standard of quality, GSquires does not see any reason not to have BC as a designated waterway.
• K Donovan asked if it would be the entire length of the creek?
  o GSquires said some homeowners may have a problem with trail going through their backyard.
  o LWarren said some of the land is County Land.
  o Agreement with landowners is needed if private property is to be interrupted.
• It is a state program with grant funding.
• GSquires mentioned we should write a letter of approval for the designation.
• A.I. GSquires will send DBorgus a letter of support for the designation of being an Inland Waterway, NOT the project.

7. Next Meeting:
• Monday March 30, 2015 at 5:30pm in Bergen.
• A.I. K Donovan will check availability for Bergen.

8. Adjournment:
• DBorgus called a motion to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.