

# **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.

#### **2. Watershed Planning Update: BCWS Management Plan Review of the “Memorandum of Understanding for BCWS Municipalities”:**

- 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
  - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8-9<sup>th</sup> 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 G Squires 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.
- G Squires 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. G Squires received this information from Steve Gladding who is with the NYS D.E.C. Albany Division of Water.

#### **6c. Inland Waterways:**

- L Warren 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, L Warren believes it would help with 501 (c)(3) and grants.
- B Ostling asked if there's a higher standard of quality, G Squires 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?
  - G Squires said some homeowners may have a problem with trail going through their backyard.
  - L Warren said some of the land is County Land.
  - Agreement with landowners is needed if private property is to be interrupted.
- It is a state program with grant funding.
- G Squires mentioned we should write a letter of approval for the designation.
- **A.I. G Squires will send D Borgus 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:**

- D Borgus called a motion to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

