

Black Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2016

Location: Churchville Village Hall, 23 E. Buffalo St., Churchville, NY

Attendance: Dorothy Borgus, Chili Resident; Brian Ostling, Chili DPW; George Squires, Byron Planning Board; Kevin Donovan, Village of Bergen; Peter Lent, OAWC Chairman; Lyle Warren, Churchville ZBA; Chuck Rettig, Chili Resident; Greg Tessmann, Genesee Co. SWCD; Julie Michalko, Churchville PB Chair; Kim Zuber, Churchville farmer

Meeting was called to order at 5:43 PM by Chairman, Dorothy Borgus.

Meeting minutes of November 19, 2015 meeting, were approved as written.

We welcomed Julie Michalko from the Churchville Planning Board and Greg Tessmann from Genesee County SWCD. There was discussion on coalition representation from municipalities and agencies. Brian has contacted Andy Sansone from Monroe County DES; Lyle had discussion with the Town of Riga Supervisor; Kevin has left messages with the Town of Bergen. Greg Tessmann will contact Monroe County SWCD; George will contact the Town of Stafford. There was discussion about the proposed meeting dates and locations. Consensus was to try the proposed meeting schedule and continue to move the location around.

George discussed the conservation easement for Mill Seat Landfill. It appears Monroe County is attempting to transfer the conservation easement to the Town of Riga. Black Creek Watershed Coalition has been asked if we would consider holding the easement. There was much discussion on details and responsibilities of holding a conservation easement.

George talked about the Great Lakes Tributary Modeling (GLTM) field reconnaissance that took place in early December. US Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District staff, Peter Lent and George toured the watershed, stopping at bridge crossings, to collect data to input into the model. George circulated information he collected about the project.

Peter Lent and George discussed the plan for our joint watershed committee meeting to be held on February 22, 2016 at the Town of Riga Town Hall. Discussion will be centered on the next steps for implementing the watershed management plans in each watershed. We will attempt to jointly contact municipalities that share both watersheds to update them on progress and solicit their involvement.

George discussed and circulated information received from Kim Falbo (Wyoming County SWCD) on the Trees for Tribes Program.

Kim Zuber talked about conservation measures (such as cover-cropping) that farmers can use in the watershed to improve water quality and soil health. He expressed concern that the financial incentives to implement conservation practices were not sufficient. He mentioned conservation tillage practices (no-till, strip-till etc.) that were also effective but underfunded. Greg Tessmann mentioned the Soil Health Workshop recently held in Genesee County. Kim Zuber expressed concern with NYS regulations that apply to farmers. He asked the coalition for a letter of support for his initiative to seek adequate funding for implementation of effective conservation practices. Consensus was to provide a letter of support. Kim Zuber agreed to provide the coalition with some detail to incorporate into the letter.

Next meeting – Monday February 22, 2016 @ 6:00 pm, Community Room at Town of Riga Town Hall, 6460 East Buffalo St., Churchville NY

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, George Squires

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