

Black Creek Watershed Coalition

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2017

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

Attendance: Dorothy Borgus, Chili Resident; Brian Ostling, Chili DPW; George Squires, Byron Planning Board; Lyle Warren, Churchville ZBA; Josh LaFountain, Monroe Co. SWCD; Pete Lent, OCWC Chair, Molly Cassatt, Genesee Co. SWCD; George Thomas, Genesee RiverWatch; Julie Michalko, Churchville Planning Board; Kevin Donovan, Village of Bergen Deputy Mayor

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Chairman, Dorothy Borgus

Meeting minutes of January 26, 2016 meeting were **approved as written**.

Coalition Treasurer Lyle Warren informed us he had completed annual filing for charitable organizations with both NYS and the IRS. He provided copies of the filing for attachment to the meeting minutes.

Combined WS Committee meeting with Dave Zorn – follow-up

Pete Lent discussed the joint watershed committee meeting with Dave Zorn that took place on February 16, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with Dave Zorn (G/FLRPC) our strategy for municipal outreach regarding the watershed plans. Pete mentioned the municipal summary documents which the committee hopes to create. More work needs to be done on the summary documents. Pete distributed some “samples” he had worked on. A joint watershed sub-committee meeting was planned for March 22, 2017 at 2 PM in the Genesee Co. SWCD (USDA Service Center) conference room in Batavia.

Further discussion with Dave involved correction of errors in the (on-line pdf) documents. Dave indicated that if people send him the corrections he will make the necessary corrections

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Bigelow Creek water quality monitoring results by the Genesee County SWCD

Molly Cassatt gave a power-point presentation on the SWCD monitoring results at points along Bigelow Creek – a tributary to Black Creek in Genesee County. Molly indicated that the monitoring results indicated some “hot spots” which could be targeted with conservation practices. She further mentioned that some farms in the watershed had recently taken advantage of a “cover-crop” cost-share program to help reduce sediment in the field runoff.

IMA revision

George discussed the process of the IMA approval and the fact that he had distributed to all four counties. There was some additional discussion on the process, particularly in Monroe County. George indicated that both an agency (DES) representative (Andy Sansone) and County Legislator Steve Brew received the IMA revision. George distributed the revised IMA to the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the other three counties (Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming). We will need to track the progress at our future meetings.

Zuber Farms grant application

George discussed an agricultural waste management (enhancement) project that Eric Zuber from Zuber Farms in Byron discussed at the joint watershed committee meeting. Molly Cassat offered more details and handouts on the project. She indicated that the Genesee Co. SWCD was in the process of completing applications for Agricultural Non-point Source Reduction grants from NYS Dep't. of Ag. & Markets. Zuber Farms is potentially one of those applications. Zuber Farms currently uses a methane digester to recover energy from its "ag. waste" (manure, milk house wash water, etc.). The enhanced portion to be added (through this project) would remove manure contaminants using a chemical and mechanical process from the discharge waters of the CAFO. The system focuses on reducing solids, phosphorous, potassium, ammonia, and nitrogen. The produced water would be available for use on the farm and the semi-solid portion would be available as a valuable fertilizer product.

Eric Zuber requested a letter of support from the Black Creek Watershed Coalition. Julie Michalko **moved** that such a letter be written for the Chairman's signature and forwarded to the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District. The **motion was seconded** by Kevin Donovan and **approved**. Molly Cassatt provided a sample support letter.

Next Meetings

March 30, 2017, @ 5:30 pm – Village of Bergen meeting room

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George Squires, Secretary

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