



## **Black Creek Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes August 29, 2019**

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

**Attendance:** Chairman Dorothy Borgus, Chili Resident; George Squires, Byron Planning Board; Lyle Warren, Churchville resident; Julie Michalko Village of Churchville Board Member; Brian Ostling, Chili Highway Dep't., Kevin Donovan, Bergen Village Board

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by V. Chairman Kevin Donovan  
Meeting minutes of July 25, 2019 meeting were **approved as presented**

### **Willowbank Drive Project**

George discussed the email communication he received from Monroe County SWCD Executive Director Kelly Emmerick. She indicated they are currently "tag-teaming" leadership over the Willowbank Drive project with the current District Staff. She said they are still in design phase, but hope to still build it this year. They have hit a few issues with legal easements and permitting.

### **Black Creek Watershed website update**

George had an email communication from our webhosting service (Genesee Gateway of Rochester Free-Net) indicating they could no longer provide service. They have turned over the service to Server Pros Plus, PO Box 1729, Highland, CA 92346. **George will reach out to the new service provider to provide contact information.**

### **Citizen water quality monitoring**

Dorothy checked with Pat Tindale on the status of the monitoring kit. Pat said George Thomas picked up the kit and it was her understanding they are now monitoring at the DEC boat launch site. **We need to reach out to George Thomas for a program update.**

### **Black Creek Fish Kill**

George discussed and distributed a report on information he had collected regarding a report of large numbers of dead fish in Black Creek west of Churchville Park and west of the Route 19 bridge in Bergen. (See attached report) No apparent cause has yet been identified.

### **Next Meetings**

#### **September 26, 2019 in Chili**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Squires, Secretary

## August 2019 Fish Kill in Black Creek

Black Creek - dead fish  
BCWC  
flynnfive@frontiernet.net  
Mon, Aug 12, 11:44 AM  
to soilsquire

I am writing to express a concern about the condition of Black Creek.

As a frequent kayaker of Black creek I was very disturbed yesterday when I noticed a great deal of dead fish in the water west of Churchville park to as far west of route 19 as I could navigate. Is there any insight into the cause? Has the situation been explored.

Any insight would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Cindy Flynn

Riga NY resident and Conservation Board member

**From:** "George Squires"  
**To:** "[flynnfive@frontiernet.net](mailto:flynnfive@frontiernet.net)"  
**Sent:** Monday August 12 2019 12:06:17PM  
**Subject:** RE: Black Creek - dead fish

Hi Cindy,

Thanks for your email and concern. I have not heard of any fish kill reports or causes. I have forwarded your email to people in Monroe and Genesee County who might be able to help. You might also contact NYSDEC in Avon at (585)226-2466.

George Squires

**From:** George Squires [mailto:[soilsquire@rochester.rr.com](mailto:soilsquire@rochester.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2019 12:09 PM  
**To:** '[lent@frontiernet.net](mailto:lent@frontiernet.net)'  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Black Creek - dead fish

Hi Pete,  
Perhaps you could forward this to someone in Fisheries at DEC??  
George

**RE: RE: Black Creek - dead fish**  
**Peter Lent** <[lent@frontiernet.net](mailto:lent@frontiernet.net)>  
**Mon, Aug 12, 12:31 PM**  
**to Web, George**  
Hi Web,

George Squires sent this report on what might be a fish kill event on Black Creek West of Churchville. The following e-mail sting has the initial e-mail from the person observing the event. Have you heard of this ? Will it be looked I into ?

Thanks,

Pete

**Peter Lent <lent@frontiernet.net>**

**Mon, Aug 12, 1:48 PM**

**to Web, George**

Web, thank you for the quick response. Pete

**From: Pearsall, Web (DEC) [mailto:web.pearsall@dec.ny.gov]**

**Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 1:23 PM**

**To: Peter Lent**

**Subject: RE: RE: Black Creek - dead fish**

We have heard about it. Law Enforcement was out Sunday and going back today.

Fisheries is going out to today.

Water has been notified.

**MyFishFinder Forum** *from Pete Lent – Maureen Leopold*

**MFF US Northeast => New York => Topic started by: LP Steve on Aug 12, 2019, 06:21 PM**

**Title: Major fish die off**

**Post by: LP Steve on Aug 12, 2019, 06:21 PM**

So went fishing/kayaking at black Creek in Bergen yesterday. Launched at rt 19 and immediately saw some dead sunnies. Started heading west towards fish and game club and started seeing hundreds, thousands of dead fish. Mostly sunnies and bluegills but also lots of pike from 3' long to 2" lots of 1m bass and rockies. Suckers carp bull head. Every fish in the place is dead. Even a deer carcass in the water. Called Dec and reported it. I could hear a farm tractor up [stream](#) so maybe farm related? Really heart breaking as I love that stretch and will probably be a few years before anything can live in that water again.

**Title: Re: Major fish die off**

**Post by: trapper2000 on Aug 12, 2019, 06:38 PM**

wow LB that's awful if you hear any more be sure to post it

**Title: Re: Major fish die off**

**Post by: Rugburn on Aug 12, 2019, 07:45 PM**

low oxygen?

**Title: Re: Major fish die off**

**Post by: legler on Aug 13, 2019, 10:41 AM**

i also went and launched at 19 uester which is my favorite place to fiah. i went east and seen all the carnage. i went upstream towards the rod and gun club and it was actually a little better but still horrible. Got into the

truck and went downstream the the falls and it doesnt look like it reached there. The first thing i noticed when launching was how clear the water was. Bergen rod and gun club posted the DEC are investigating and asked about manure. This is so sad to see. We still caught a very small bass and a rock bass but this is heart breaking

Title: **Re: Major fish die off**

Post by: [Mac Attack](#) on **Aug 13, 2019, 11:11 AM**

someone reported on FB that a truck was pulled out of the creek recently.  
nobody is sure if this was the cause.

**From: Bergen Rod & Gun Club Facebook page**

Good Afternoon Everyone, I followed up with the DEC today about sudden fish die off in Black Creek that I posted about last week. Since reported the DEC have checked the water for pollutants and PH concerns and found no issues. As of this afternoon they cannot conclusively determine the reason for the fish dying off. The DEC representative did say that the creek is clear for all water recreation. Thanks for sharing the info! The DEC did receive many calls about the creek and no doubt it was due to everyone's diligence and interest in protecting our creeks and wetlands. John

**BATAVIA DAILY NEWS ARTICLE**

**Unknown cause of fish dying off in Black Creek**

By [MALLORY DIEFENBACH](#)

[MDIEFENBACH@BATAVIANEWS.COM](mailto:MDIEFENBACH@BATAVIANEWS.COM)

PUBLISHED: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019 AT 5:15 AM

BERGEN — Until an issue where many fish are dying in Black Creek in Bergen has been identified, the Bergen Rod and Gun Club has recommended to residents to refrain from fishing or letting their dogs swim in the creek.

On Friday, the Department of Environmental Conservation responded immediately to a report of a fish kill in Black Creek Watershed. There was evidence the event likely occurred Thursday or Friday.

“DEC responded to additional reports of the fish kill in the Black Creek Watershed throughout the weekend and into this week,” said a spokesman from the DEC. “Based on the degree of decomposition, the kills appear to be from the same event.”

DEC Region 8 Staff from the Fisheries, Water and Law Enforcement divisions continue to investigate the situation and no further information is known about the event or cause.

Black Creek is a Genesee River tributary which runs from Middlebury to Chili in Monroe County. It's 46 miles from start to finish.

**RE: Black Creek fish kill**

**Wed, Aug 28 2019 10:13 AM**

**From: "Pearsall, Web (DEC)" <web.pearsall@dec.ny.gov>**  
**To: soilsquire@rochester.rr.com**

George:

Thank you for your e-mail.

At this point, we do not know what caused the die off.

Whatever the cause, we believe it is no longer affecting the stream which has showed evidence of restoring itself.

Web