Appendix C
Response Summary to Public Information Meeting
Watershed Plan for the North Chili Tributary of Black Creek
January 29, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
North Chili Community Center, 4400 Buffalo Road

Agenda

7:00 – 7:10 Welcome, introduction

7:10 – 7:30 Presentation

7:30 – 8:25 Questions and Comments

8:25 – 8:30 Next steps

Attendees

Carole Beal, Monroe County Health Department
Dorothy Borgus
Jerry Brixner
Gary Brown, Monroe County Health Department
Joseph Carr, Chili Superintendent of Public Works
Carolyn DeHority, Conservation Board
Paul Dobelstein
Louis Faust
Jill Fornarola, Conservation Board
Natalie Hansen, Gates Chili Post
James Hetzer, Monroe County Department of Environmental Services
Larry Lazenby, Conservation Board
David Mundie
Beverly Neder
John Neder
Carol O'Connor, Town Board
Margy Peet, Monroe County Health Department
Patrick M. Quinn, RIT student
Charles Robinson, Conservation Board
Richard Schickler, Conservation Board
Michael Slattery, Town Board
Paula Smith, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District
Bill Steimer, Conservation Board
Jim Tindale
Pat Tindale, Conservation Board
Jay C. Widener
William W. Wilcox

Questions and Comments

(Note: No written comments or questions were received after the meeting.)

<u>Watershed Boundaries</u>

1. *Who identifies the watershed boundaries?*
   Response: The boundaries are based on topographic maps, including U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps.

Town Boards/Watershed Planning Process

2. *The Conservation Board is here tonight. I'm disappointed that the Planning Board is not also represented. Please identify the Town officials who are here.*
   Response: Joe Carr introduced the Conservation Board and Town Board officials that were present.

3. *Has the Planning Team included the Chili Conservation Board or Planning Board? Will it? Close communication would be valuable. Where does the final watershed plan go?*
   Response: The plan will go to the Chili Town, Planning and Conservation Boards, and it will be incorporated into a plan for the entire Black Creek watershed. It is intended that this plan will be used as a tool by the Planning and Conservation Boards and Town and County staff. We intend to meet with the Planning Board and Conservation Board before the plan is finalized.

Wetlands in the Union Square Area

4. *What wetland mitigation activities have been done so far? Federal regulations are less stringent than State regulations. Is there any opportunity to seek help to improve sediment filtration on the remaining wetland at Union Square?*
   Response: No work has been done in that wetland to date. The new facility seems to be working well. The Town will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to open the ditch, yet protect the wetland.

5. *When might meetings between the Town and the Army COE occur?*
   Response: Joe Carr will make those interested aware of meetings.

6. *Would permission be required from property owners to gain access to the wetland between Union Street and the Union Square development?*
   Response: Yes.

7. *Does that wetland flow to the pond at the south end of Union Square?*
   Response: Yes.

8. *Does it flow to this tributary?*
   Response: Yes.

9. *What is the Town involvement to manage flow in that area?*
   Response: Within the developed Union Square area, the Town maintains storm sewers and drainage courses where drainage easements have been provided.

10. *How will new development impact the wetland north of Union Square?*
    Response: The facility was designed to handle the entire development. Erosion control is frequently checked at construction sites.

Sewers/Overflows

11. *The King Road sanitary sewers were supposed to alleviate overflow, but one can still smell an odor by Parkway and Union Street.*
    Response: This location was a previous site of by-pass pumping activity. Since 1997, when the new King Road trunk sewer was put into commission, there has not been an overflow problem or a need to pump anywhere within this basin. The installation of the trunk sewer did in fact provide more capacity, but did not eliminate the ongoing inflow problem. There are many unauthorized connections to the sanitary sewers that need to be addressed. The Town may need to first evaluate its storm sewer infrastructure.

    ** Note: To report any suspected sewer odor complaints within this watershed, please call the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services at 760-7600 and press 1, if using a touchtone phone, for an operator.

12 *If the wetland between Union Street and the Union Square development were cleaned out, would it lessen sewer overflows?*
    Response: The cleaning of wetlands does not affect sanitary sewer overflows. They are not related.

13. *Is a pump station necessary to extend sewers south on Union Street?*
    Response: Yes.

14. *Where will it be?*
    Response: It is in the lowest point of the topography, which is south of the CSX main rail line near Byrne dairy.

15. *The City of Rochester has combined sanitary and storm sewers. The contribution of inflow to the sanitary sewers in Chili must be less than storm discharge to a sanitary sewer in the City.*
    Response: The City of Rochester's combined sewer system (one pipe conveying both storm and sanitary sewage) dates back to the mid-1800s. Overflow points were established within the system to relieve overloaded conditions during rainstorms and to prevent sewage from backing up into homes. These discharge points directed a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater to the Genesee River, Irondequoit Bay, and the Barge Canal. Although there was continuous improvement in the methods of treating and disposing of sanitary sewage, by the 1960s, most of the County's water resources were affected by pollution. Having to deal with the existing combination system, and knowing that the separation of combined sewers was prohibitively expensive, Monroe County decided to construct a deep rock tunnel storage/conveyance system that could capture and hold major stormwater runoff until it could be conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant to be properly treated.

    In contrast, the Gates-Chili-Ogden Sewer District was actually the first County sewer district and was formed in 1956. The overall district design called for separate storm and sanitary sewers, with the storm system being maintained by the respective town, and the sanitary system by the County district. Separate sanitary sewers are based on design standards typical throughout the U.S. An 8" main-line sanitary sewer will typically service at least 200 homes.

This allows for the sewer to flow only 1/3 full at average dry weather flow, with an allowance for peak and wet weather flows. If a number of unauthorized sump pumps were connected to this sewer, the capacity could easily be exceeded. It is not appropriate to treat stormwater when there are designed systems to keep it separated. In the City, this is not an option because of the original design of the combination system.

16. *What funding assistance is available for those who are correcting an unauthorized connection to the sanitary sewer?*
    Response: There is no answer yet. One option would be to seek grant money. Another option would be to share the cost between the Town and homeowner.

17. *I suggest that the Town share the funding burden by giving the homeowner a tax credit.*
    Response: Towns cannot enact exemptions from taxes unless there is a State Law giving them the option or permission to do so. Chili has not been authorized to do so.

Inflow Survey

18. *How effective was the inflow study? Why keep improving sewers when people are creating some of the problem?*
    Response: The survey was successful. But some people did not let inspectors in.

19. *A lot of homes were missed in the inflow survey. It's important to understand that some people have no adequate place to direct the sump pump water.*
    Response: We recognize that this is a difficulty for some homeowners. The intention of the inflow survey was to take a proactive approach and gather relative information regarding the magnitude of improper connections, and identify any correlation as to why sump pumps are not connected properly or have been disconnected. With this baseline data, the Town and County would work cooperatively towards formulating a stormwater plan for redirecting improper connections towards a new or existing stormwater conveyance source.

    During the survey approximately 1100 notices went out to homeowners, followed up with door-to-door solicitation in person. If anyone was missed, the County would be willing to continue the process and conduct the survey now. Residents can contact our Operations Supervisor, Bill Putt, at 760-7610, ext. 7068 to schedule an appointment.

    The survey area was bound roughly by Westside Drive to the north, Union Street to the west, King Road and Route 490 to the south, and Golden Road to the east. A complete listing of streets is as follows: Daisy Lane, Snapdragon Circle, Spring Flower Drive, Freedom Pond Lane, College Drive, College Green Drive, Watchill Drive, Brian Drive, Sand Pebble Drive, Woodside Drive, Evergreen Drive, Stillmeadow Drive, West Forest Drive, Emerald Point, West Cannon Drive, Mapleton Drive, Pleasant Drive, Springbrook Drive, Gilead Hill Drive, Orchard Street, Brentwood Drive, Hunt Point, Ronnie Lane, Parkway Drive, David Drive, Iva Mae Drive, Slate Drive, Irvington Drive, Wesley Avenue, Sunnyside Lane, Berry Lane, Miller Avenue, Keith Terrace, Ramblewood Drive, Hubbard Drive, Hilltop Drive, Attridge Road, Pleasant View Drive.

Fill and Excavation Permits

20. *In section V.B.3.g (Town of Chili Fill and Excavation Permits section), there are five recommendations. The Town has been trying to deal with these issues. This is important. The Town has talked about this. The filling issue is important. We have created some of our problems. The Town shares in the blame, and needs to address this issue.*
    Response: It is agreed that this issue should be reviewed by the Town Engineer.

Stream Corridors

21. *What do you have in mind for the subwatershed for stream corridors?*
    Response: One ditch has been talked about so far. For new construction, we need to ensure re-silting does not occur. We do need general erosion control.

22. *Is a work easement needed to clean out the waterway behind the greenhouse?*
    Response: Yes. It would involve two properties. The work will depend on negotiations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Springs as Drinking Water

23. *Is there any thought of utilizing water from the springs for drinking water? The water quality is pretty good. The water has been used in the past.*
    Response: Drinking water is not an issue addressed in this plan. It would not be practical. Springs are a good source of quality water but are very hard to maintain and protect. For more information, the handbook *Rural Water Supply* is available from the Monroe County Health Department by calling 274-6057.

Road Salt

24. *I have a well water concern. What is the effect of road salt?*
    Response: The watershed plan does not address well water. In a Penfield study several years ago, heavy road salt was found to affect wells. If you are concerned about a well, call the Bureau of Water Supply and Swimming Pools at 274-6057. All wells need to be protected from surface water contamination. If the road salt is getting into a well, the well would also be subject to bacterial and other contaminants.

25. *What controls are in place for road salt?*
    We need to intensify sensible salting practices and change expectations for road conditions. The Town of Chili uses improved equipment now and we have reduced salt usage in Chili. There's an ongoing discussion about it. Currently, salt is the best alternative for road deicing.

26. *Couldn't we use sand on the country roads?*
    Response: We would still end up using salt and would have to make extra trips. Sand does help traction. We can't use sand where it would plug up storm sewers.

27. *Is the liquid produced as a waste in the beer-making process useful for road deicing?*
    Response: It is expensive and not much better. The material has a high oxygen demand in waterways.

Septic Systems

28. *How many septic systems are there in this watershed?*
    Response: The watershed plan identifies the locations where septic systems are prevalent. We don't know the specific number. See the map "Areas Served with Sanitary Sewers" in the watershed plan.

29. *How do you know if there are problems with septic systems?*
    Response: Usually there is a complaint made about odor or visible leakage. Signs of system failure include: 1) wastewater back-up in plumbing fixtures; 2) wastewater flow upon the ground surface; or 3) wastewater flow into water courses or ditches. The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) will investigate to determine if a problem exists. If a problem/violation is found, then the property owner will be required to correct it. The MCHD must approve a permit before construction of the repair and will inspect and approve a system before backfilling.

30. *Who would do septic system maintenance education?*
    Response: The County Health Department. If many septic systems are failing in one area, extension of sanitary sewers would be considered also.

    The MCHD distributes an educational pamphlet on septic systems. The pamphlet is mailed out with MCHD reports of septic system inspection for new homes and for replacement systems. Questions can also be directed to the MCHD office at 274-6055.

31. *Do people resist inspection for septic systems?*
    Response: People are generally cooperative when MCHD staff conduct inspections during a complaint investigation or sanitary survey.

Questions involving areas not in North Chili Tributary watershed

32. *What do you think about filling the lower part of the Creek and blocking the Creek? I'm concerned about closing in the lower part of Black Creek at Ballantyne Road.*
    Response: This plan does not address that. A plan for the full Black Creek watershed would deal with that.

33. *What is the proximity of Ramblewood and Hubbard to the study area?*
    Response: This area is not in the watershed.

34. *What is the proximity of Hillary to this watershed?*
    Response: It is not in the watershed.