

Watershed Plan for the North Chili Tributary of Black Creek O-117-19-7

VIII. Public Involvement

A. Public Involvement Need and Purpose

1. Need for Public Involvement

Chapter 1 of this watershed plan documents citizen concerns about drainage problems and water quality in this watershed. This plan is being prepared, in part, to address those problems. In order for this plan to be effective, it is important that citizens have an opportunity to review the watershed plan and suggest changes to the plan that will encourage citizens in the community to work together to make positive changes. Developing a plan that considers all feasible methods of addressing drainage and water quality concerns is one important step towards progress. Insuring that the plan has the support of citizens is an important factor needed to insure that the plan will be put into action.

2. Public Involvement Purpose

The purpose of involving the public is to communicate the primary components of the watershed plan, and to invite constructive criticism that can be used to improve the content of the plan.

B. Public Involvement Strategies

1. Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on January 29, 2001. The meeting was publicized to citizens in the watershed through announcements in the Gates Chili Post and Suburban News newspapers, and was announced to all elected and appointed boards in the Town of Chili. The Town of Riga Conservation Board was also contacted regarding the meeting. The Town of Chili Superintendent of Public Works, Joseph Carr, made a presentation on the plan at that meeting, and copies of the plan were available to all in attendance. In addition, written comments were also accepted for thirty days subsequent to the public meeting. Twenty-one citizens attended the public meeting (including Town Board and Conservation members), as well as Carr and County representatives.

2. Response Summary

At the public meeting citizen concerns and questions were documented, and when possible, questions were answered. Subsequent to the meeting, watershed plan authors considered each of the issues identified by the citizens in attendance. If an issue could be addressed by changes to the watershed plan, those changes were made. A summary of ways in which the public comments were considered was prepared and published as a

response summary that was distributed to all citizens who attended the meeting or who submitted comments in writing. The response summary is attached as Appendix C.