

OATKA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 15, 2019
PLACE: Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy, NY
TIME: 6:30 PM
RE: Regular OCWC Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Lent, Maureen Leupold, Steve Leupold, Jim Seiler, Rick VenVertloh, Nikki Calhoun, and Lisa Compton

I. Call to Order and Welcome:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Approval of Draft Agenda for April 15, 2019

- There was discussion about changing the order of business to have all officers' reports, except for the Treasurer's report, after New Business. Lisa made a motion that the Officers' Reports and Announcements be moved to after New Business with the exception of the Treasurer's report. Nikki seconded the motion. All were in favor and the draft agenda was approved with changes.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes for March 18, 2019

- Maureen made a motion to approve the March 18, 2019 minutes. Pete had seen a few errors, and noted them on a printed copy of the minutes. *Lisa will make the corrections. Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Steve seconded the motion; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A. Treasurer (Jennifer) - Lisa reporting:
 - Transactions last month.
 - No transactions
 - Current Balance:
 - \$3,190.30
 - Maureen said that there had been a check received for what looked like the rest of the Facebook(FB) donations from her birthday fundraiser. Pete had deposited it. A question was asked about Amazon Smile donation payments and Pete said they come every quarter. Maureen said this differs from FB, which holds donations until \$100 is reached.

V. Old Business:

- A. **Green Infrastructure (GI) Champions Workshop:**

- The workshop is being organized by Jayme Thomann of Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Center (G/FLRPC), Shannon Dougherty of DEC, Josh LaFountain of Monroe County SWCD, and Andy Sansone of Monroe County. It is funded through the Great Lakes Commission. **Pete distributed copies of the updated draft of the workshop agenda.** He and George Squires (BCWC) participated in a conference call with the workshop development team on March 25th. **The next planning conference with the team will be tomorrow at 2:00PM**, so Pete recommends that now is good opportunity for any additional comments. He had already gathered comments from recent minutes and sent them, along with some of his additional thoughts, to Shannon and Jayme in a March 21 email; copying the OCWC board. He had also mentioned some of the comments during the conference call.
- The workshop team have developed topics based on our local interests, as it looks like it will include both rural and urban practices applicable to the range of communities in the watershed.
- The team sent a slide show that included suggestions for the site tour (Pete supplied images). The sites will most likely be located between Black Creek Park and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) campus. Rick commented after looking on the map, that they are certainly on the right track, as along Jefferson Road, you can see several types of GI practices in place (eg. bioswales, retention ponds, etc). The RIT campus itself probably has a number, as it was all previously wetland. He noted that a good cluster of examples of GI in the Black Creek watershed is where Rte 252 (Jefferson Road) crosses the Genesee River (Ballantyne Bridge area). There are four or five different practices that can be seen in the immediate area, and something is in place on all four corners. He is familiar with the projects there as LaBella did the design work for the NYSDOT. It is a bit of a drive from the workshop site but not too far away.
- Pete reported that **the team got our letter of support.**
- **The workshop agenda will be finalized with tomorrow's conference;** speaker slots will be filled. Jayme will send out notices using G/FLRPC contact lists.
- **Discussion and suggestions:**
 - It was suggested that **someone from Green Geneseee/Smart Genesee (GGSG) should participate.**
 - Pete would also **like to see discussion on what processes communities might use to implement GI projects**, or how they can be guided to do so. Maybe the community could look at stormwater management issues and inventory and prioritize them. Then they could seek grants for work. What other ways are there to go about it? Rick says problems for villages tend to be very similar, such as house storm drains going into sanitary sewers. Subdivision codes have requirements in them to avoid these issues now. He notes that the Watershed Management Plan recommends

- evaluating code, and an important issue to look at would be how storm water is managed in a municipality's subdivision code.
- Jim suggested it **might be appropriate in working with towns and villages in Wyoming County to emphasize techniques that you see on farms** like field borders, riparian buffers, filter strips, etc. Since we don't anticipate large attendance from Wyoming County at the workshop, he also said that we need to have more meetings in that county.
 - There followed a **general discussion on Green Infrastructure**: Rick says things like riparian buffers are not really considered GI designs in the strictest sense even though they relate to storm water. Things like retention ponds, porous pavement, green roof, bioswales, and underground retention systems, would more properly be considered GI. Field drains and sediment dams in ditches might very well be considered a GI practices, though. In addition to these permanent systems, there are also temporary practices (e.g. silt fences).
 - Pete articulated that he **would like to see broadening of the definition for our purposes, with a breakdown into natural GI and designed GI types** with an understanding that there is a place where the natural and designed meet. In towns and rural areas, he would like keep people thinking about what they have naturally that manages storm runoff, and that they need to protect and enhance it, and realize the need to stay away from critical areas when considering development. Jim sees the Village of Warsaw as focal point of OCWC work in Wyoming County, and noted that during the last rain event, he saw that debris and sediment washed into Rte 19. This sort of thing seems to happen frequently when they get 2-3 inches of rain in the Village. They also seem to be in the path for a lot of these types of events, as every year there is at least one time where there is sedimentation damage and flooding from storm water. People just downstream of Village have commented to him that after the addition of two large stores to the north end shopping plazas, they have seen a big difference in run off.

B. County Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA)/ Joint Planning/Outreach efforts:

- Pete did not yet get an opportunity to give Maureen the documents that she needed (a copy of the IMA, and the county WMP booklet) when she met with Livingston SWCD. **Maureen reported that she will be going to a board meeting on Monday in Livingston County, so actually it would be perfect timing to deliver the documents there.** Pete has been experiencing some technical problems with some charts running off the page of the WMP booklet, so he needs to print it on larger sized paper. Jim reminded everyone that Batavia Legal has all the files, and could probably print the tables easily. Regarding getting the four counties together for a meeting, ***Pete still has to a draft letter to county planning departments and SWCDs** asking them to support the effort

and to forward the IMA to the appropriate legislator and to also invite them to attend a meeting where all Counties and agencies can get together to talk about what Counties can be expected to do vis-a-vis the IMA. It will be a chance for them to discuss and agree on any changes they want to make to the agreement. It is also hoped that there will be discussion about what county agencies will/can do. All the counties are at different stages regarding the IMA at this time. Pete had given it to Wyoming County SWCD District Manager, Allen Fagan. The meeting is envisioned to be an opportunity to sit with County personnel to answer questions. OCWC's hope is that they will help promote the WMP and help their supervisors and mayors to know about it.

C. Presentation in Scottsville:

- Rick already has the WMP booklets. *He will schedule and present at the Scottsville meeting. Possible dates are May 14th and June 11th.
- Pete is getting other booklets together for printing (i.e. the Village of LeRoy and Village and Town of Caledonia. *He needs to prepare the electronic files and get them to Shannon. Pages need to be combined and put into PDF booklet format. It is hoped that in the next three months we will do those municipalities. The goal is for the end of June or July.
- Regarding Village of LeRoy - Jennifer, Nikki and Lisa have been emailing information back and forth. Lisa extracted pertinent info from the WMP on the Village for them to review. When the booklet materials are ready, we hope to schedule a meeting with the Village Board. Issues that the Village is now dealing with are the Waterfront development feasibility project, the DePaul Mill St. housing development, the water quality impairment change between Pavilion/LeRoy from slight to moderate (Pete says they can find information on that in the Water Inventory update on DEC's website. Do a search for the Genesee River), the Village also has a WWTP upgrade project; to see permits on this, a FOIL request is necessary, but even though it wouldn't be too much of a hassle if you wanted to look at it, you would have to go see it in person and it is probably not necessary at this point. The Village still experiences erosion issues on the creek bank. If we know details on some of those things, that is great, but Rick does not think that a lot of research should be required as a prerequisite for the meeting, and does not recommend spending too much time on it. It is not our objective to have details at this point. Pete suggested that the subbasin information that covers LeRoy in the WMP gives enough details. The topics and concerns aren't going to be much different from other towns and villages. More detailed information would be good when going to any follow up meeting. Stressed was the importance of getting a designated 'champion'. Also, presenters can say "The plan recommendations are in the booklet, and we would

be interested to get back and you can tell us what changed since that time". The grant sheet from Shannon is great information to have. The drawings from Jayme's workshop for professionals might be interesting for them, and get them thinking on possibilities for the central creek area. Comments from the Wheatland talk was that the maps and grant information were really helpful. Rick recommends updates to municipalities on a semi-annual basis.

VI. New Business

- **DePaul Project and Upgrades to Mill St. Park:** There were some questions regarding both the storm water management plan for the apartment complex development and also about the project to 'upgrade' the park across the street. Re: storm water management plan for the development: Rick says county planning doesn't usually do too much with it, mostly it is the decision of the local planning board and of the developers; though typically, developers want to go straight from roof drains right to creek. If the Village code doesn't have anything specific in it, then it is up to the discretion of developers to suggest something, and it will typically be a pipe to a water outlet. There is more oversight if the area is over an acre. If it is over an acre, they would have to look at quantity as well as quality. Note: In the WMP, most impervious surfaces in the watershed are located near the creek.
- As far as Mill St. Park, Pete took a look at the site and says there are two or three benches that seem to be positioned for a view of the Creek (i.e. there are no trees in front of them). The bank is steep with two or three varieties of retaining walls. There is a lot of brush, mostly honey suckle, so he supposes that other invasive species are also present. One suggestion was having a landscape architect come see us and/or the DePaul group to discuss what DePaul has planned. Pete says that just taking brush out is not a particularly good option; there has to be something there so water doesn't eat away at the bank, perhaps a low cover of some sort? *Lisa will find out what is happening there. We know there were variances permitted for the development. Perhaps there was a public meeting? If the concept is only for cleaning out brush, then there is probably no plan for plantings. Is there a maintenance plan? Rick advises to not go in like something is wrong.

VII. Officers Reports & Review Action Items & Announcements:

A. Chairman (Pete):

- He attended the recent Genesee County Water Quality Committee meeting and met new Genesee County SWCD District Manager, Brad Mudrzynski. The **SWCD has 24 active projects that they are working on; most are BMPs**

they're putting on on farms. There is also some stream work being done in part of the Genesee River Basin. The coalition of SWCDs is getting grant money to support that work and can probably use those funds as a match for state non-point source EPA grant money. There was not any detail of what the projects were. It was noted that concerning the State AEM program, that previously the money went to planning. It is now being used for implementation of projects. Maureen says a database that will tracks programs and projects was being developed for SWCD use in Pennsylvania. The Genesee Coalition is moving in that direction also. **It has contracted to get a database program developed that is modelled after the Susquehanna River Coalition. The have hired interns to input all data on practices into a database for districts to use.** It will not be publically available. Pete says that Derik Kane, Senior Planner at **Genesee County Planning offices, reported that they were doing a three year review of the Green Genesee/Smart Genesee Program**, and this year they will be focusing on the eastern half of the county. (ie. Black & Oatka watersheds). Previously, the western part containing Oakfield, Batavia, Elba, etc, were concentrated on as there were big projects in that area. *Pete will follow up with Felipe a bit more on what they were going to be doing. Pete also saw Peggy Grayson of GLOW at the meeting. He handed out information from her department on this year's Household Hazardous Waste collection.

B. Vice Chair (Maureen):

- **Farmland Trust - Genesee River Watershed Agricultural Forum:** Maureen attended this forum where people from lot of agencies participated. The event was structured to give presenters each five minutes in an informational lightning round. There were presentations from about a dozen agencies. The main focus was to **get agricultural land owners and renters on same page as far as conservation practices.** Another subject that was discussed was the number of farms owned and managed by women. There are now much greater numbers of women in farming than there were in the past. Maureen thought it was a good discussion and well done. She opined that it was well worth going to and recommends attendance at the next forum.
- She had heard this morning that in the Black Creek watershed that **there are recent issues holding up the Black Creek stream project in Churchville.** The project involves work on a meander in the Creek. The project had been approved with all involved parties signing off, but now that there has been a change in local officials, there are now questions involving the appropriateness of work being conducted on private land. Kelly and Josh from Monroe County SWCD are going to a meeting to talk to the Village Board. Maureen thinks the Black Creek Watershed Coalition should be informed.

C. Secretary (Lisa):

- She got comments from Charlie Knauf about the Trout Unlimited Oatka Creek Park fish habitat project. Charlie says summer work would not interfere with fish spawn as that happens in fall. Rick concurred and also said information on the project was advertised and there is a comment period. Pete says he would like to get down to the park for a tree check before the heavy work starts. Rick said that there is no date specified yet for the heavy work to begin, as there are still a lot of steps for County that they have to go through, even though they have DEC permits for the project. *He will let Pete know when he finds out dates.
- Lisa asked if Pete wants the municipal contact list as is? The phone confirmation still needs to be done. Pete says yes.
- Pete had forwarded an email from a person who noticed a couple of broken links on the website. Lisa went and fixed those that were noted as well as a few more she found. The person that wrote asked if we were interested in (posting?) some health awareness related resources on vaping.

VIII. Adjourn:

- A motion was made by Maureen to adjourn the meeting. Jim seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

IX. Action Items:

- Lisa will make the corrections to the March minutes per notes from Pete
 - Pete will communicate OCWC comments to G.I. workshop team
 - Pete will give IMA related documents to Maureen who will give them to Livingston County SWCD
 - Rick will schedule Scottville meeting (and present)
 - Pete will get other municipal WMP booklets (Village of LeRoy, Town & Village of Caledonia) together and will contact Shannon about printing
 - Pete will draft a letter to invite four counties to joint meeting
 - Lisa will find out what is happening with the DePaul development and the Mill St. Park agreement
 - Pete will follow up with Felipe about GGSG projects in eastern part of the County.
 - Someone to contact BCWC regarding situation in Churchville
 - Rick will contact Pete when he finds out the schedule for the Oatka Creek Park work
 - Lisa will send municipal contact list to Pete
- Other
- Pick Up the Parks: The event is Sunday, April 28th from 9:00AM to Noon. To be posted on web, Facebook
 - Arbor Day in Caledonia: May 4th Noon- ? Alan et. al. to look for good route for tree walk

- Pete will look into access of the water withdrawal registry

Next meeting: May 20, 2019. Location Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy. Start time 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Compton