

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES: JANUARY 1,2005 TO DECEMBER 31,2005

Oatka Creek Watershed Committee

I. Outreach Activities:

- a. OCWC newsletter was “revived” and issued in December 2005. It was sent to Town and Village clerks for distribution to Board members. It was also E-Mailed to individuals on the updated newsletter E-Mail list. It is anticipated that 2 newsletters a year would suffice.
- b. Follow-up regarding Phase II Outreach: Welcomed several new members to the OCWC. Representation from municipalities was a goal of the 2004 Phase II outreach program, of which the “Call for Cooperation” resolution was the centerpiece. In May sent reminder letters to those municipalities that have not assigned a representative to serve on the committee.
- c. Oatka Guide: Continued distribution of Oatka Guides. Sent out dozens of Guides via mail to individuals who read about the OCWC in the Buffalo newspaper.
- d. Gave presentation to LeRoy Rotary on March 30,2005. (Rick V., Lisa C. Don H.)
- e. Over the course of two months, the Committee discussed the GTC “Buttermilk Falls Greenway Feasibility study”. Members of the Committee gave input regarding water quality issues and are awaiting further action.
- f. Website update is a work in process.

II. Funding Initiatives:

- a. Building a coalition of State representatives to garner support for the OCWC and Black Creek Watershed initiatives. Dave Zorn, Rick VenVertloh and Bob Wilkens (as well as Dave Reckahn and George Squires) have met with Assembly woman Susan John (May 2005), Senator Mary Lou Rath (August 2005) , Senator Maziarz (September 2005) and Senator Volker (November 2005) . The goal is to have state funding earmarked for watershed planning (approximately \$150,000) in the 2006 state budget. This money ,if obtained, would allow Dave Zorn and staff to partner with the OCWC toward the actual development of the Watershed Plan.

III. OCWC Coordination with Other Watershed Initiatives and/or Groups:

- a. Over the course of several months, there was much discussion regarding the possible inclusion of the Buttermilk Falls area on the States Open Space Plan. Ultimately the Genesee Soil and Water Conservation District made a formal recommendation to local “Open Space” Committee that Buttermilk Falls be included on the plan. The OCWC sent letter of support and provided other materials for use in the process.

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- b. Grant submissions by others: G/FLRPC resubmitted the EPF grant application entitled, “Watershed Revitalization – Watershed Management Plan Development” OCWC provides letter of support and Town of Wheatland agrees to be the sponsor again.

IV. Steward Activities (Dave Zorn, G/FLRPC):

- a. Dave Zorn attended five (5) OCWC meetings (3/28,4/25,5/23,7/25, 10/24)
- b. OCWC provides input to G/FLRPC regarding “Controlling Sediment in the Oatka Creek and Black Creek Watersheds” project. G/FLRPC completed a majority of the work in 2005 which includes the following elements: Municipal Board meetings; Identification and Analysis of Riparian Corridor; Analysis of laws, regulations, ordinances and practices in municipalities; Water quality issues and identification & prioritization, and assistance to municipalities revising local laws.
- c. Executed contract (\$5000) for G/FRPC services to help the Committee organize the content and format of the Watershed Protection plan. The Watershed Management Plan Outline was submitted in April and updated in May. The document dated 1/30/06 is the latest version.