



---

---

## **Chemung County Water Quality Strategy Committee**

### **June 17, 2009**

## **MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE **Alice Britenbaker**; **Roger Burlaw**, T. Erin; **Jennifer Fais**, STCRPDB; **Diane Fiorentino**, Stormwater Coalition; **Richard Gunderman**, Chemung Co. Legislature; **Alvin Janowski**, Town of Catlin Highway Dept.; **Dick Kankus**, Citizen; **Paul Kingsbury**, Town of Elmira; **Joe Leonardi**, T. Baldwin/V. Wellsburg; **Jim Pfiffer**, River Friends; **Dennis Rathbun, Jr.**, CCHD; **Scott Rodabaugh**, NYSDEC; **Scott Shaw**, CCPD; **Gene Stow** CC Farm Bureau; **Jennifer Trimber**, CC EMC; **Mark Watts**, Chemung County SWCD; **Dick Winnett**, NRCS, Finger Lakes RC&D Council.

1. Call to order and Communications – Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 9 AM in the Conservation Cabin at the Fairgrounds.
2. Approval of the May 27, 2009 minutes – On a motion by Diane Fiorentino, seconded by Dick Gunderman, the minutes were approved as written.
3. Presentation – Friends of the Chemung River Watershed – Jim Pfiffer provided a Power Point and explained the work of the Friends as a newly established not-for-profit group that would be furthering the efforts of the Chemung River Council which developed the Chemung River Master Plan. It also takes on the public information and participation work from the Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership, letting the Partnership return to being an agency and municipal group focused on river launch construction. Jim encouraged everyone to join the Friends and described a number of upcoming activities.
4. Member Reports

Al Janowski said that he had seen an eagle on Post Creek Road so they are around.

Dick Kankus brought in a sample of the Marcellus Shale which is an outcropping on Route 174 near the town park, near Otsego Lake.

Diane Fiorentino talked about the stormwater demonstration area that was begun by Cody Voorhees with Boy Scout Troop 43 out of Pine City. She thanked Chemung Building Supply for donating the pervious pavement known as “turf stone.” She is hoping to have a brochure done by the fair which describes the demonstration area.

Scott Rodabaugh says there are new dam regulations and there is a meeting this afternoon with staff. He expects that they will be finalized by the end of 2009. He was very pleased with the number of inspections that Jessica Verrigni was undertaking.

Paul Kingsbury said that BOCES is working again in the Town of Elmira on creek stabilization for the 15<sup>th</sup> year.

Roger Burlew said that about 900 tires were collected at the May Tire Day, and another 800 were collected during the Ashland town spring cleanup. He noted that Jim Pfiffer talked about trash thrown in the river. He echoed that sentiment since rural areas also receive dumping when the fees go up. He thanked Jim Pfiffer for his enthusiasm for river projects.

Dick Gunderman said that the Nelson farm had been bought near the landfill without taxpayer money. Casella was purchasing this property for cover to add to landfill cells. This purchase was part of the OML.

Joe Leonardi is pleased to take part. He takes the information he learns back to his boards.

Dick Winnett, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes RC&D, described to the group, the Natural Stream Grant which the Finger Lakes RC&D has received. He said that they had received a natural stream design grant for about \$400,000. They will use this money in the Bentley Creek watershed (\$90,000), in Meads Creek (\$125,000), and Bennett's Creek watershed (\$185,000). (see handout)

Jennifer Trimber said that the Woolly Algeid was attacking hemlock trees and that when they die the water quality will be affected because the ravines will no longer be protected by the hemlocks. She feels that this will be a grave impact on water quality. Scott Rodabaugh also noted that the Emerald Ash Borer is attacking the ash trees and Diane Fiorentino noted that maple die back is also happening.

Jennifer Trimber continued her report by saying that the EMC visited the recycling plant in Geneva. Dick Gunderman asked to be notified of the fall trip. The EMC had invited Schuyler and Steuben also on that tour. She said there will be a meeting on sustainability in Watkins Glen in the fall and that she will be visiting Marcellus drilling operations near Troy and will take photographs. It was also noted that the Chesapeake Company opens their drilling sites for the public in the Springfield / West Burlington area every day.

Jim Pfiffer asked what you could do along streambanks especially Seeley Creek. Members replied that willows are good, but you need to look at the individual site because the force of the water may need more intensive repairs, such as rip rap and other measures.

Jennifer Fais explained that STC is making an application to the ARRA Stimulus funding.. This money is to be used to make implementation projects happen. Current thoughts - do the background modeling / planning needed to design constructed wetlands / infiltration areas, etc. that solve flooding problems, document stream corridors and propose areas for replanting, develop a Susquehanna River Action Plan which uses an ecosystem-based management approach. The deadline is July 10 with startup required by February 17, 2010. Projects must be completed by February 17, 2012.

On a motion by Diane Fiorentino, seconded by Roger Burlew, the Chemung County Water Quality Committee approved a letter of support if it was necessary.

Mark Watts said that the Cold Springs Company in the Village of Horseheads has an application for gravel mining directly above the village wells. He is asking for comments on the application which are due Friday. Lindsey is looking at the application from the Health Department perspective.

Mark said that he received an email concerning the proposed open burning ban excluding agricultural waste but including agricultural plastics. Mark says that farm organizations support this if money will be put toward an agricultural plastics recycling program. On a motion by Dick Kankus, seconded by Gene Stow, the Chemung County Water Quality Committee voted to send a letter consistent with the Soil and Water District letter.

Scott Rodabaugh reminded people that the dam safety regulation comments were due June 19. Diane Fiorentino thanked all the highway department people who have talked to Sarita, the composting intern.

Mark remarked that they have received \$400,000 to construct a stormwater basin on the 27 acres of the Jackson Farm.

5. Old Business – There was no old business.
6. New Business – No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Fais