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## **July 15, 2009**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:** **Jay Boudreau**, Town of Big Flats DPW; **Jennifer Fais**, STCRPDB; **Diane Fiorentino**, Stormwater Coalition; **Toni Gardner**, CCE; **Paul Kingsbury**, Town of Elmira; **Joe Leonardi**, T. Baldwin/V. Wellsburg; **Dennis Rathbun, Jr.**, CCHD; **Scott Rodabaugh**, NYSDEC; **Gene Stow** CC Farm Bureau; **Jennifer Trimber**, CC EMC; **Mark Watts**, Chemung County SWCD.

1. Call to order and Communications – Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 9:05 am in the Conservation Cabin at the County Fairgrounds.
2. Approval of the June 17, 2009 minutes – On a motion by Diane Fiorentino, seconded by Gene Stow, the Committee approved the minutes as written.
3. 2009 Water Quality Improvement Projects Program, Round 10 – Mark said that the Round 10 funding is available and did everyone get the notice. There were a number of projects eligible and he suggested that we go to the website for the application forms and directions. Since not everyone received the notice, Jennifer will forward it to the Water Quality Committee. October 16 is the deadline for applications. Municipalities, schools and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible applicants. 75-85 % of a project is grant funds; 15 – 25 % is local match. Mark described the variety of projects that could be funded including flood attenuation wetlands, road ditch stabilization, MS4 local law review to add green infrastructure/LID language, and projects that go beyond MS4 permit requirements. Mark asked if work by the stormwater team that went above and beyond permit requirements could be funded. Scott will investigate. Diane suggests that the Stormwater Coalition could make an application to create a video for the annual report / public meeting use.
4. Review of ARRA grant submitted by STC – Jennifer described the grant to the group. This money is to be used to make stormwater implementation projects happen. She said that the following elements are part of the project – 1.) Develop a Susquehanna Action Plan. She said that since DEC had asked the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to create the Susquehanna Action Plan, we know that DEC staff supports that overall project. 2.) Create an advisory committee made up of each of the involved counties to select priority watersheds and oversee the project. 3.) Undertake data analysis. This element will compile existing data as well as collect new data on impervious surfaces, stream corridors and other GIS layers that are needed for subwatershed modeling. 4.)

Undertake watershed modeling. The modeling will review how to slow down and stagger flood peaks with constructed wetlands and other practices as well as make recommendations on green infrastructure projects in more urban places. 5.) Local Implementation Plans. Any of the recommendations from this work would be incorporated into existing local implementation plans where possible. 6.) Public outreach. The remaining element is to hold workshops conducted by key decision makers. NOTE: Jennifer forgot to say that some of the funding in the project would go to participating counties that host these public education meetings or help on selected watershed modeling.

## 5. Member Reports

Gene Stow said that the Convenience Store on Wygant Road was being built taking stormwater rules into consideration.

Diane Fiorentino said that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on August 5 at the Elmira Riverside Holiday Inn on increased fees for consumptive water withdrawal for gas drilling projects. Mark Watts noted that the Water Quality Committee has never received a response from SRBC to a letter recommending that monies collected from fees be put back into the watersheds where they were generated. He suggested for instance, that funding could go to golf courses to help them put in drought-resistant grass so that they would reduce their water use. He also suggested constructing fire ponds for fire departments which could serve several purposes as water supply for fire departments, flood control and recharge to the aquifer. The fees to be returned to the area could also fund flood attenuation wetlands. He will talk with the SRBC people at the August 5 meeting. Diane pointed out that drilling in Pennsylvania has been permitted to use water from the Chemung Basin in New York. The fees for drilling water use will rise from \$.14 to \$.28 per thousand gallons. We understood that the Chesapeake Company is approaching the Town of Athens for permits to build housing for migrant workers. The Tioga County Concerned Citizens Group has also filed three pages of concerns on the effects of drilling.

Diane also said that the letter from the Committee had been sent to the county supporting the prohibition of open burning only if a program were established to recycle agricultural plastics. She said that there would be a meeting in Steuben County held by Cornell University on Marcellus Drilling on July 16. A meeting will be held in Waverly on July 28. She understands there will be a drilling summit in the fall held at the Owego Treadway Inn. Details will be forthcoming.

A compost workshop will be held on July 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Conservation Cabin. Sarita is working very hard and finishing up her work on countywide composting programs. She will be done August 13. She is creating a door hanger for the Town of Elmira encouraging people to do their own home composting. She will create a web page on composting which will link to the stormwater site. She will staff a composting demo at the County Fair. Diane said that Shawn Crater, City of Elmira DPW, is the composting system manager in the City and is doing an excellent job. She noted that the Environment Excellence Award will allow the SWCD a second year summer intern, also.

Diane has met with Carla Canjar at the Chemung County Landfill who has offered to lead a tour for the WQC committee. Jen Trimber and Toni Gardner have offered to help organize the tour. It was asked how the landfill handles runoff. Diane replied that stormwater runoff is handled so that no stormwater runoff leaves the site.

Diane said that the Steuben Sheriff's Department held a drug disposal day on July 11 and collected quite a number of drugs that now will not be disposed of in the sewer system creating water quality problems. Toni Gardner will talk with Sheriff Moss in Chemung County to see if we can have a similar program in Chemung County.

Diane also noted that the CleanSweep New York pesticide collection event is open to schools, farms, and municipalities the week of November 2, 2009. Even though this is a Region 7 event, neighboring counties are invited to attend. More details to follow.

Paul Kingsbury said that BOCES is working hard on stream restoration projects.

Dennis Rathbun asked about the Jackson Hollow stormwater basin. Mark replied that \$300,000 - \$400,000 was being spent on the creation of 27 acres of floodplain in the Sing Sing Creek Watershed. This basin will be created on Chambers Road between Upson and Brown Roads. It will connect to existing wetlands in the area. There were a variety of pre-engineering studies and archeological studies which should be due soon.

Joe Leonardi was concerned about street clean-up in the Wellsburg area. He noted that street sweeping is backing up the grates. He felt that there was nothing legally a code enforcement officer could do to keep people from sweeping their grass clippings into the road. Diane said that this is where the education system on composting systems should come in. She hopes that a Round 10 grant could continue Sarita's work on composting. The purpose would be to have a composting system in each community. Tim Saunders, a local farmer, would like to host a composting site. Perhaps we can work with him to make that happen. It was recommended to hold workshops for landscapers so they know where to dispose of their brush and grass clippings.

Toni Gardner told the group about the September 12 Chemung County Household Hazardous Waste Day. Fliers will be going out soon.

Jennifer Trimber said that the New York State Association of EMC's (NYSAEMC) state conference is coming up this fall. She distributed "save the date" postcards. Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben EMC's are co-sponsoring the event. This has taken a lot of her time planning.

Jennifer also hosted the tour of the MURF recycling center in Geneva and she said that an education program is needed to inform people that the recyclables in Chemung County are being separated and recycled.

She said the RESP program participants are meeting on July 16 at 9 a.m. to discuss their battery recycling project

Mark Watts said that the White Hollow Run project is to complete 1800 feet of natural stream design and that the money may come this year to get that project underway.

He said that the Water Quality Committee could have space in the conservation cabin during the fair from August 4-9.

He noted that a number of people asked about disposal of tractor tires at the Tire Day. The Farm Bureau will conduct a survey at the County Fair to see how many farmers would be willing to pay \$25 per tractor tire to dispose of it at the next Tire Day. Mark said that disposal costs the SWCD \$15 – 20 per tire. Lockport High Tread Company takes them.

Mark said that they are finishing a 40 x 80 foot Quonset hut to house the tub grinder and store agricultural plastics. Diane noted that a plant in northern New Jersey is investigating whether there are enough agricultural plastics in New York to make a washing and drying plant feasible. Skip Star from REACT is estimating the volume of available ag. plastics.

6. New Business

Next meeting August 19<sup>th</sup> will be a joint meeting with Stormwater Coalition and a picnic. Diane Fiorentino explained that Jimmie Joe Carl and Jessica Verrigni are invited to introduce themselves and update the committee on their work. We will also view a nine minute video by EPA on Low Impact Development projects. The meeting will run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. The group is encouraged to invite supervisors, mayors, and highway personnel.

7. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Fais