



DRAFT March 17, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Roger Burlew, Town of Erin; Jennifer Fais, STCRPDB; Diane Fiorentino, Stormwater Coalition; Richard Gunderman, County Legislator; R. B. Howland, CCEMC; Alvin Janowski, Town of Catlin; Paul Kingsbury, Town of Elmira, EMC; Jim Pfiffer, River Friends; Dennis Rathbun, Jr., County Health Department; Gene Stow, Farm Bureau; Jennifer Trimber, CC EMC; Mark Watts, SWCD; Bill Winkky, Town of Veteran.

1. Call to order and Communications – Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM in the Big Flats Community Center.
2. Approval of the February 17, 2010 minutes – On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Roger Burlew, the committee adopted the minutes as written.
3. Member Reports

Jennifer Fais noted that an intergovernmental review came in to STC which discussed the New York State DEC Freshwater Fisheries Aquatic Education and Information program. It pointed out that there would be fishing pier installed as an educational effort in each DEC region each year. On a motion by Jennifer Trimber, seconded by Jennifer Fais, the committee supported the nomination of the Mills Street Pond in Chemung County as a appropriate place for a DEC fishing pier. Jennifer Fais would forward the information supplied by Mark Watts.

Jim Pfiffer said that the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed are constructing a community garden in Elmira in cooperation with Park Church and others. They are also building two pavilions - one at Bottcher's Landing and one at Grove Street – as well as putting in a real-time water monitoring kiosk at Grove Street.

Jim asked about the TMDL requirements and how they would affect our region. Who is going to pay for the improvements that need to be made? Mark Watts explained that the Upper Susquehanna Coalition is writing the strategy to meet the agricultural requirements while DEC is dealing with point sources, such as sewage treatment plants. The USC has been providing accurate information to the Chesapeake Bay model and it appears that NYS will be able to meet the agricultural input limits. There is a concern that NY receives water from Pennsylvania which may not meet the water quality standards. There is no money to install another monitoring site besides the one at Towanda.

Jennifer Trimber said that the proposed County Energy Commission would be reviewed by the Chemung County Legislature in March with action expected in April. The County would pay \$15,000 to the EMC to fund her half-time to support the Commission.

She also said that the EMC is teaming up with Elmira College students to sample groundwater quality. Dennis Rathbun pointed out that the CCDOH water sampling program for public water supplies (which includes mobile home parks) gives a good cross-section of water quality in the county's groundwater. Everyone agreed, however, that any additional water quality monitoring is always welcome. If any anomalies show up, then additional professional water sampling could be undertaken to confirm those reports.

Jim Pfliffer asked if any of the SRBC stream monitoring wells would be located in New York. Diane said that the money is only sufficient for placing monitoring wells in Pennsylvania, at this time. It was asked whether water samples could pick up the presence of methane and radiological material. Dennis Rathbun said that those would be very expensive tests.

Paul Kingsbury, Town of Elmira, reported that they are undertaking streambank erosion control with the help of BOCES as they have done in the past.

Roger Burlew reported that Chemung County Tire Day would be held Saturday, May 15 and that the tires would be taken to Seneca Falls now that the Fennels Recycling Center in Elmira Heights is closed. 30,000 tires have been recycled to date.

Dick Gunderman reported that he was the one who saw the email from the Citizens for a Healthy Environment who had concerns that the stormwater commercial was "too slick" and was providing misleading information. He felt that they did not listen to the whole commercial. Dick also noted that he was not running for public office again.

Mark Watts said that on March 19 the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce was holding a forum on Marcellus Shale. On March 30 there would be a meeting of landowner coalitions sponsored by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Dennis Rathbun confirmed that road damage has already begun in portions of New York and Pennsylvania.

Diane Fiorentino said that she and Gene Stow have been doing water quality sampling at the outfalls for the IDDE program. She would like to present this work at the next meeting.

Jennifer Fais briefly described the Susquehanna Action Plan and provided a three page summary. She said that the first official meeting was at the end of January with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and that the next meeting would happen in early April.

4. Old Business - There was no old business.
5. New Business –
Appointment of new Alternate member to the USC. Mark Watts noted that Lee Younge had been the alternate member representing the Chemung County WQS Committee to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. She is now retired and he recommended that Jimmie Joe Carl be considered the alternate member. On a motion by Gene Stow, seconded by Dick Gunderman, Jimmie Joe Carl was appointed as the alternate member to the USC.
6. Next meeting – April 21, 2010 Big Flats Community Center 9:00 AM.
7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Fais