



April 21, 2010
DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: **Jennifer Fais**, STCRPDB; **Diane Fiorentino**, Stormwater Coalition Educator; **Richard Gunderman**, County Legislator; **Dick Kankus**, Town of Southport; **Paul Kingsbury**, Town of Elmira, EMC; **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 9:00 AM in the Big Flats Community Center.
2. Approval of the March 17, 2010 minutes – On a motion by Gene Stow, seconded by Dick Gunderman, the Strategy Committee approved the minutes as written.
3. Stream Sampling program – Diane Fiorentino distributed two handouts to the committee: One showing the Chemung County water quality stream testing locations, water quality data collection form, and 2009 water quality data collection results; and the second is the USGS Water Science for Schools handout on Common Water Measurements.

Diane discussed the water quality sampling program. Chris Yearick, Gene Stow, and Diane Fiorentino are conducting the program. They test for specific conductivity, turbidity, total chlorides, and alkalinity. The program also serves IDDE purposes for the MS4 program.

Dennis Rathbun asked if the Hydrolab test kit is calibrated. Diane said, yes. The committee will not rent out the Hydrolab test kit because it is too sensitive and the calibration is easily thrown off.

She said that the results are a “snapshot in time” at those locations. Testing happens throughout the year because the natural water cycle varies with the seasons.

Diane is asking Mary Rose Martino at the Elmira Water Board for results quickly so that Diane can take any concerns back to the stormwater contact in each town if unusual results are found. Everyone understands that the Hydrolab results will not “hold up in court” but, if something unusual occurs, this could trigger the need for professional sampling.

Paul Kingsbury asked if they needed landowner permission to do the sampling. Diane replied that sampling sites are on bridges or at public fishing access sites. She will be asking Chris Yearick for his previous data to help provide an overview of water quality. It was asked if they looked for visible oil sheens. Diane said yes that is part of the IDDE outfall documentation.

Dennis Rathbone recommended that the volunteers document temperature, barometric pressure and rainfall over the previous 48 hours because this can affect the water quality results. This information is available at the Elmira Water Board as well as from area weather reporters who return their results to the National Weather Service.

The sampling is taken in watersheds that are located mainly in NYS. They discussed adding Seeley Creek whose watershed is 60% in Pennsylvania. Dry Run Creek and Mudlick Creek are mainly in New York, Beckwith-Cornish Creek have their watersheds entirely in New York. On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Bill Winkky, the WQSC authorized Mark to send a thank you to Mr. Laduce for Mary Rose's assistance and to send a \$50 gift card for Pudgies to Mary Rose as a thank-you gift.

4. Member Reports

Mark Watts reported that the county energy commission is through its county approvals and the first meeting is April 29. There are 20 members on the Board. \$15,000 is set aside for Jennifer Trimmer's staff assistance.

Mark also said that a Right-To-Farm Law was passed in each of the municipalities in Chemung County and that 300 signs are posted throughout the county notifying people. He clarified that this means, as long as farms are doing Best Management Practices (BMPs), new neighbors cannot sue a farm for the annoyance of regular farm practices.

Mark said that the Agricultural Protection Plan will be submitted to the legislative commission on April 26. He expects that the protection plan will pass on the second Monday in May. Its purpose is to keep farms in business. He read a summary of eight points (see the full report from Mark). There is Farm Bill money tied to having an agricultural protection plan in place.

Mark said the stream workshop will be held at the end of September. Please let Mark know your stream needs in May and June so that he can tell Mr. Derrick what these issues are, which will help shape the three-day program. It is understood that an actual restoration project will be part of the program. Dennis Rathbone suggested that Catharine Creek could be a project and perhaps Trout Unlimited could help.

Mark finished his report by saying that the annual Tire Day will be held May 15.

Jennifer Trimber said that she is looking at Tioga County's data on impact of Marcellus Shale drilling. She is conducting a lot of research on behalf of the new energy commission.

May 1 is the Chemung County Household Hazardous Waste day. Electronics can be taken in any time; no televisions are accepted.

Bill Winkky said that he is working with a farmer that recently exposed a spring on his property that may interfere with his personal well.

Jennifer Fais handed out two new pages to the "Low Impact Development Sampler" which describe the rain garden at the Conservation Cabin and one at a residential property. She encouraged people to find their original LID Sampler copies and add these pages to it.

She asked about rain barrels and learned that, because the Coca Cola plant has shut down in Rochester, there are now fewer sources of barrels. Chemung County has twelve (12) rain barrels in reserve; instead, they are encouraging people to find used food-grade 55 gallon plastic drums and ask to use them. Diane suggested that you contact car washes because their soaps come in plastic bags and are transported in these plastic barrels. The stormwater program still has a sheet that describes the hardware needed to fit the barrel with a spigot and overflow pipe.

5. Old Business: There was no old business.
6. New Business: There was no new business.
7. Next meeting – **May 19, 2010 Conservation Cabin, Fairgrounds 9:00 a.m.**
8. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fais