



May 19, 2010
DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Roger Burlew, Town of Erin; Jennifer Fais, STCRPDB; Diane Fiorentino, Stormwater Coalition Educator; Richard Gunderman, County Legislator; Reeve Howland, CC EMC; Al Janowski, Town of Catlin; Paul Kingsbury, Town of Elmira, EMC; Jim Pfiffer, Friends of the Chemung River; Gene Stow, Farm Bureau; Jabe Warren, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Mark Watts, SWCD

1. Call to order and Communications – Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at the SWCD office in Horseheads. There were no communications.
2. Approval of the April 21, 2010 minutes – On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Gene Stow, the committee approved the minutes as written.
3. Member Reports

Paul Kingsbury reported that the Town of Elmira is working with BOCES again this year beginning the first Monday after the 4th of July.

Jim Pfiffer said that the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed have built a pavilion and have installed a 20-foot solar-powered weather station kiosk at Grove Street, are conducting a river clean up on May 22, took part in the May 15, Eleventh Annual River Float and hope to install a pavilion by the end of July at Bottcher's Landing. The Friends are also working with Park Church in Elmira to create a thirty raised-bed community garden at the Katy Leary Park.

Jennifer Fais asked the group to go to www.susquehanna-chemung.org to find out the latest on the Susquehanna Chemung Action Plan.

She also said that she and Jabe Warren will be demonstrating the flood model at Conservation Field days at the end of May. Janet Thigpen will also demonstrate.

She explained the Marcellus Shale discussion at the PRAC meeting in May and noted that STC has made an offer to help the Coalitions apply for ARC funding for work that they cannot accomplish themselves.

Jabe Warren said that the Farm City day is scheduled for September 25. He would like a Chemung County Water Quality Committee display. He has also been working on the Katy Leary Park and thanked the Soil and Water Conservation

District for the wood. He will be helping to organize the Huck Finn Raft Race as part of the September 25 event. The Friends of the Chemung Watershed will also help with that project.

Diane Fiorentino distributed the thank you note to Mr. LeDuce thanking him for Rose Martino's assistance on water quality testing. She heard from Rose who was very pleased and grateful for the recognition. The gift certificate is in process.

Diane also said that the stormwater team has resurrected the twenty year old Enviroscape and has repaired and refurbished it for Conservation Field Days.

Diane is also working with the Green Team, an after school environmental program at the Riverside school. They are a strong supporter of recycling programs. She is working on a watershed planning project with them. Diane explained the Service Learning Grant at Riverside School where they decided that water was their theme. The students got food-quality barrels, painted them, and raffled them off to raise money for their program. This is a program for 4th and 5th graders. Diane and the group did an assessment of the school watershed which led to the students asking for more recycling and trash bins and more storm drain markers to be placed in the area. Third grade classes are also asking for Diane to work with them. They are keeping a journal of water use in the class. Diane felt that working with the green team was well worth it because it trains the younger generation. Jim Pfiffer is going to speak with the district superintendent to see if the projects undertaken at Riverside could be done district-wide. He felt that the Katy Leary Park could use the compost generated by the schools.

Diane is also trying to get the EmRiver demonstration display into schools a week at a time. She is working on a curriculum to meet state standards for middle school and BOCES. Diane would also like to pilot an environmental program in the Ernie Davis School.

Diane reported that she received a call from a Town of Chemung resident about dumping. Jim Pfiffer and Diane will meet with the resident and town supervisor in June to do a clean up if necessary. She is also conducting the county water quality sampling program.

Jim Pfiffer asked whether the SRBC is positioning a water quality station in New York. Diane said that SRBC is putting monitoring stations in Pennsylvania where there is active drilling in Marcellus Shale. She expected that they will come to New York when drilling begins in New York. SRBC is opening an office in Sayre, PA to be closer to drilling activities.

Mark Watts commented that he thought that SRBC is only concerned with water quantity and that DEC manages water quality. He was concerned that the fees levied on anyone taking water for consumptive use purposes were not being used to construct water saving measures in the appropriate upstream watershed. Instead, he understood that the fees were going to pay for space in federal dams which had already been paid for by federal tax dollars.

Roger Burlew said that the Chemung County Tire Day took place May 15. Twenty municipal trucks hauled 28 tons of tires to Seneca Meadows. The total of tires was 1620. Since Tire Days began, more than 30,000 tires have been collected. It went very well. Seneca Meadows has a grinder that grinds the tires, combines that with dirt and uses it as a cover for their landfill. The Chemung County Landfill does not take tires. There is strong public support for this project. The municipal trucks also hauled stone back to the Town of Elmira after they delivered the tires to Seneca Meadows.

Dick Gunderman reported that the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan was on hold again. It has been returned to committee. They are working with the county executive and deputy county executive to understand their concerns. They thought that they had previous issues resolved.

Dick noted that Jimmie Joe Carl, Mark Watts, and he will be conducting dam inspections on Thursday.

Mark Watts reported that the County Commission on Energy has been formed and has eight subcommittees. They meet on the fourth Thursday of each month and the meetings are well attended. The road subcommittee will meet on May 23 with Delta Engineering about documenting road conditions so that changes due to drilling rigs can be identified when heavy truck traffic begins.

Roger Burlew remarked that there are 28 wells scheduled for the Town of Erin with six wells at each site. They are drilling into the Oriskany formation but may access the Marcellus Shale layer when permitted. He noted that any wells that remain that were driven into the Trenton / Black River formation could be turned into Marcellus Shale wells.

4. Old Business: There was no old business.

5. New Business:

Jim Pfiffer asked the group for advice on a fish-eye mirror which he would like to place at the Grove Street levee road because it is so steep and difficult to see oncoming traffic. The group suggested looking for lexan or stainless steel and placing it on a post so that it can be adjusted for conditions.

6. Next meeting – June 16, 2010 Conservation Cabin, Fairgrounds 9:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Fais