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June 16, 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; Dick Kankus; Jim Pfiffer, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed; Dennis Rathbun, Jr., Chemung County Environmental Health; Gene Stow, Farm Bureau; Bill Winkky, Town of Veteran.

1. Call to order and Communications – Diane Fiorentino called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the Conservation Cabin at the Chemung County Fairgrounds.
2. Approval of the May 19, 2010 minutes – On a motion by Gene Stow, seconded by Roger Burlew, the committee approved the minutes as amended. Amendments are as follows: 1) M-River is spelled EmRiver; 2) Jim Pfiffer asked the group for advice on a fish-eye mirror. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Member Reports

Diane Fiorentino reported that the airport office of New York State DEC has been moved to the Strathmont building in Elmira. The address is: 100 North Main Street, Elmira, NY; phone number 607-732-2214. Diane will forward all the details from Joy to Jennifer to email out to the committee.

Diane said that the next meeting of the Water Quality Committee would be July 21 and would be a tour of the Elmira Water Board office. Please bring an ID card to get into the gate.

She also announced that an open house at the Stormwater Office would be held from 11:00 – 2:00 on July 28. A hot dog/hamburger picnic lunch would be served. She stressed that this informal gathering to meet staff does not replace the October meeting at which the Coalition reviews their activities over the past year with local legislators. It was suggested to send this invitation to George Richter to distribute to the RAMS.

She also noted that the fourth Thursday is the Chemung County Energy Commission meeting.

Jennifer Trimmer said that she attended a workshop sponsored by the Finger Lakes Institute on Thursday, June 10 on the Marcellus Shale issue. It was held in

Geneva, NY sponsored by the LOWV and ShaleShock among other groups. Tony Ingraffea feels that the disruption and damage to the environment would not be worth the gas. DEC staff has many departments looking at the GEIS and expects a decision this fall. It was asked why not wait until the EPA review of hydrofracking is done? It was replied that EPA often looks to NYS for input. Jennifer noted that, what is seen as a punishment in PA to a drilling company, is a regular NYS requirement.

Jim Pfiffer said that the fish-eye mirror is purchased and the City of Elmira will install it at the Grove Street levee access road.

He reported that school is out and the river is being used, which is a good thing. However, it is sometimes used for under-age drinking and partying. He has met with the police who will be stepping up enforcement. DEC will also help patrol the levees.

Jim said that it is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mark Twain's death and, as part of those observances, the River Friends are helping sponsor the Huck Finn model raft race September 25 to get youth groups involved. He distributed a flyer.

Dennis Rathbun noted that on a recent senior skip day, his son went on the river for the first time and to help him do that safely, Dennis went to the Chemung River Friends web page and found some very information on river depth. He wondered if we could also add how long a trip would be, but he was told this depends on the speed of the river.

Dick Gunderman said that he and Mark Watts had finished dam inspections. They found just a small amount of debris behind many of the dams but nothing of real concern. The official report is due out soon. Mowing will again start because the Soil and Water Conservation District is able to provide liability coverage for community workers mowing these dams and stormwater facilities.

Gene Stow was concerned about the application of herbicides by DOT along every roadway guide rail no matter how close it is to a creek when farmers are limited to only one quart of herbicide to every five gallons of water. This did not seem fair. Why can DOT do it and not the farmers? Jennifer Fais pointed out that DOT has a "green initiative" program and Gene could check with DOT to see if they are using more environmentally-friendly chemicals.

Roger Burlew also wondered why DOT is permitted to kill all vegetation to the ground near the guide rails which creates exposed soil, when the highway departments are mandated to reseed ditches that were just cleaned out. This seems contradictory. Dave Bachman may have a good contact at DOT. Dennis Rathbun will follow up with Dave Bachman to convey those concerns.

4. Old Business: There was no old business.

5. New Business:

Workshop on Marcellus Shale Impacts on Water Quality - There was a workshop on Marcellus Shale Impacts on Water Quality in Bradford County on June 8. The discussion was about surface water impacts only. The presentation was by the Environmental Studies Department at Dickinson College. Dickinson College has a program called ALLARM (Alliance for Resource Monitoring). Dickinson College has helped with water quality monitoring for years and now they are targeting Marcellus Shale. They have determined the target chemicals by analyzing DEC's analysis of flowback water in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Upon that review they felt that there are two signature elements that indicate input from Marcellus Shale flowback water. These elements are barium and strontium. These elements are usually in deep geologic rock formations, not in surface waters, so their presence in streams may indicate Marcellus Shale drilling fluids. The college will pilot a volunteer monitoring program in the Northern Tier. Water sampling will test for conductivity and total dissolved solids. They will work with watershed organizations to prioritize locations for the monitoring. They hope to conduct weekly monitoring to catch any "spikes" of flowback water which might appear. If a watershed group gets a spike reading, they will send it to Dickinson who will test for barium and strontium. If they are high, Dickinson College will get in touch with the Department of Environmental Protection in Pennsylvania. This type of surface monitoring program will involve many volunteers. Diane has forwarded all the information to the County Energy Commission. Jimmie Joe Carl suggested that the Water Resources Institute (WRI) at Cornell might be the right contact for Chemung County. It was noted that Susan Riha, WRI Director, said that they do not have a citizen water quality monitoring program now, but are interested in the Dickinson program. She is meeting with Diane and Jimmie Joe to explore ways to work together. Diane will be attending the second part of the Dickinson workshop where the attendees will be out at a stream.

Jennifer Fais noted that SRBC is looking at invasive species invasion into clean waters throughout the Susquehanna River Basin. One possible source is the water trucks that haul clean water from a source across a large landscape to get to a drilling site. During transportation, invasive species could spill into local waterways.

Mike Lovegreen is doing a workshop on how to take a good water sample.

Jim Pfiffer asked why we are not looking for more chemicals that are in the drilling muds and chemicals that will be needed in the fracking. It was replied that that may be why Mike Lovegreen is suggesting that we should look at sedimentation

that is appearing in unusual locations because this may indicate dumping of drilling muds and other materials in out-of-the-way places.

Recently the Town of Southport cut trees out of nearby creek and accidentally stirred up PCBs in the sediment. This confirms that sediment can be a pollutant carrier.

Stream Restoration Workshop - A three-day stream restoration workshop will be held September 28, 29, 30. It will be located at the Southport Fire Hall, which is at the corner of Cedar Street, Carl Street, and Route 328 in Southport. The Tuesday workshop is focused for highway staff.

Total Maximum Daily Load Issue - Jennifer Fais described a letter that was prepared by George Winner's office to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer describing concerns with the unfair Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations made to New York. In April Jimmie Joe Carl and Mike Harris from the City of Corning called a meeting with all 28 affected wastewater treatment plant operators in the Susquehanna and Chemung Basins to meet with Gillibrand's and Schumer's staff. Jimmie Joe is preparing a letter to be signed by all of those involved communities. On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Dick Kankus, the Water Quality Committee voted to send a letter if recommended by the Stormwater Coalition.

Jim Pfiffer asked that we make sure that the letter emphasizes that New York strongly supports clean water and the group agreed that should be in the letter. With no further comment the committee voted unanimously.

6. Next meeting – July 21, 2010. The group confirmed that they would meet at the Elmira Water Board at 9 a.m. for a tour. There would be no official meeting in July.

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

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Fais