

**Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition Meeting**  
**Village of Black River**  
**1:00-2:00 P.M.**  
**September 9, 2015**

**1. Roll Call**

Town of Brownville – Pat Conner  
Town of LeRay –  
Town of Rutland – Mike Gillette  
Town of Watertown –  
Village of Black River – Kristin Burroughs, Kathie Montigelli, Steve Lillie  
Village of Brownville – Brenda McConnell  
Village of Carthage – Sarah Bullock  
Village of Dexter – James Eves  
Village of West Carthage – Scott Burto  
City of Watertown –  
Jefferson County -  
Jefferson County Planning – Andy Nevin  
Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District – Christine Watkins, Pat Crast  
Tug Hill Commission –

NYS DEC – Kate Smith, Stephen Botsford

**2. Call To Order**

Scott Burto called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

**3. Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2015**

***Mike Gillette wanted to correct the minutes that indicated he was not present at the July meeting, he said he was present and wanted them to reflect that. Next, Pat Conner made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2015 with the one attendance correction. Sara Bullock seconded. Motion carried.***

**4. Treasurer's Report**

There was no treasurer's report as Mark Capone no longer works for the Town of LeRay. The Town did not have a representative at the meeting to update the coalition regarding a replacement as of yet.

**5. Correspondence/Report of Secretary**

Chris Watkins notified the coalition that a Stormwater Management Training will be offered on September 29, which has a \$50 fee per attendee.

Scott Burto suggested half of the fee could be covered by Coalition funds, with a local match of 50%. He said for those attending, if the municipality covered the fee up front and provided a copy of the receipt, then the coalition would reimburse the municipality half of the cost of the fee to attend the training session.

***Scott Burto made a motion to cover half the cost of the fee for the upcoming training session for municipal attendees. Pat Conner seconded. Motion carried.***

## **6. Report of Chairman**

No report.

## **7. Report of Committees**

Chris reported that the program coordinators meeting was canceled. They will try to hold it in October.

## **8. New Business**

Steve Botsford and Kim Smith from NYS DEC attended to speak about local enforcement of municipal stormwater management laws for municipalities subject to MS4 requirements. Steve discussed the fact that MS4 communities must implement the stormwater and erosion control regulations as well as regulate illicit discharges with their local regulations. They discussed several examples of the scope of NYS DEC enforcement steps regarding potential neighbor impacts, groundwater impacts vs surface water events flowing into 'waters of the state.'

A private individuals chlorinated pool water, for example, would not be permitted to drain into surface waters unless it was de-chlorinated (removing the chlorine prior to draining, which is rarely done). If a neighbor was impacted by someone draining their pool, however, would be classified as a neighbor dispute, where the municipality would step in, while DEC would step in only if it had the potential to drain into waters of the state.

Pumping out basement water, however, would be ok to pump out into surface waters if it was clean.

Once a municipality is fully implemented with an MS4 program, then construction permits complete with site inspections are handled by the municipality. Violations in such cases would be enforced by the locality, unless a surface water of the state could potentially be affected.

Steve Lillie asked who might regulate unauthorized drainage into storm basins or detention basins that don't drain into surface waters, as part of MS4 compliance. Steve Botsford responded, indicating if a basin drains or filters into groundwater, and not surface water, then that would most likely be a locally enforced situation based on the local regulations.

Steve B. reiterated that local municipalities must enforce their own regulations reflected in local laws, but if there are cases that may result in a surface water flow into 'waters of the state' then NYS DEC typically gets involved as well and can be a resource for communities when contacted. He explained that local enforcement officials typically focus on protecting neighbors of projects or facilities while NYS DEC typically focuses on a broader area such as surface stormwater that may flow into a river, lake, or stream.

Steve also said that until the local erosion and sediment control regulations are in place, then NYS DEC should be consulted for enforcement actions.

Another question was raised by committee member: James Eves asked about the Village Justice system and how one can get courts to follow through with enforcement actions. Steve said it can vary, but as long as the municipality has done everything it can through its regulations and enforcement steps, then if it gets dismissed a court, then that's not on the municipality at that point.

## **9. Old Business**

a. Local Laws

According to those present, Carthage reported requesting the Tug Hill Commission staff to look over their local laws for potential inclusion of the model stormwater regulations and how they may fit into the current regulations without conflicting with them.

b. U.S. Forest Service grant

Chris updated the coalition members regarding the U.S. Forest Service grant. The contract start date will be October 1, and she is hoping to build one of the raingardens this fall.

## **10. Payment of Vouchers**

None submitted

## **11. Comments from the Public**

No comments from the public.

## **12. Adjournment**

*Sarah Bullock made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 pm. Pat Conner seconded. Motion carried.*

**Next meeting date will be in November, however, the day will have to be decided as the second Wednesday is Veterans Day.**