

JEFFERSON COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION

*Towns of LeRay, Rutland, Watertown
Villages of Black River, Brownville, Carthage, West Carthage
City of Watertown
Jefferson County*

Minutes

June 17, 2021, 1 pm

Village of Black River Offices

1. Roll Call

Town of LeRay – Jessica Jenack
Town of Rutland –
Town of Watertown –
Village of Black River – Frank Dishaw
Village of Brownville – Pat Connor, Mike Walrath, Steve Mott
Village of Carthage –
Village of West Carthage –
City of Watertown – Vicki Murphy
Jefferson County Legislature –
Jefferson County Planning – Andy Nevin, Erin Ermine
Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District – Christine Watkins
Tug Hill Commission – Katie Malinowski
DEC – Great Lakes – Emily Sheridan

2. Call to Order – 1:03pm

3. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2021: Motion to accept by Jessica, seconded by Steve, and carried.

4. Treasurer’s Report: Balance of \$94,307.64. Dues will be mailed on 8/1. Reimbursement requests for trainings up to \$250 can be made using cancelled check/invoice. There was a question about using a credit card receipt/statement. Jessica will look into this.

5. Correspondence/Report of Secretary –

Katie shared that the Virtual Black River Watershed Conference Watershed Wednesday Webinars wrapped up this week and all of the presentations are available: tughill.org/black-river-watershed-wednesdays-2021/. Emily asked if any of the presentations were related to stormwater management in Jefferson County that could count towards outreach and education. None of the projects were based in Jefferson County, but there were some good presentations on green infrastructure in Hamilton County, and on best practices for road salt use in snow removal in Lewis County.

Katie also mentioned that the [consolidated funding application](#) is open and project proposals are due 7/30.

6. Report of Chairman – no announcements

7. Report of Committees

- a. Education/Outreach Committee – Posters were given to the City of Watertown and to State Parks to put in kiosks at trails and downtown parks. Emily will follow up to see if they have been put up. Water bottles are still available that can be given out at outreach events, and can be requested from Chris. We have given them out to JCC students engaged in Black River trash bash and presentations in the past. The Stormwater Coalition could collaborate with the Tug Hill Commission annual Black River Trash Bash to hold cleanup events in the fall. Emily mentioned that a group called Holdown Upstate had done a cleanup of the shoreline at Factory Square park this spring.

8. New Business

- a. 2021 Jefferson County SWCD proposal – Planning to make updates to the website and provide trainings for municipalities. Proposed cost is \$3500. There was a motion to approve the proposal by Jessica that was seconded by Andy and carried.

9. Old Business

- a. CFA Application – Vacuum Truck – Jeff Co Highway had submitted a DEC WQIP application (2019) for a vacuum truck/street sweeper to be used by stormwater coalition to clean streets, catch basins, and maintain green infrastructure projects, but it was not funded. Plan to add some language and get project support to enhance the application and reapply this year. Would like letters of support from coalition members by July 23. Jefferson Community College is working on a green infrastructure project (NYSEFC funded) that could be maintained with the equipment, and Bruce Alexander may have other uses where the project would benefit from a letter of support from JCC. Chris will reach out to him to request.
- b. WQIP grant – In-kind documentation – The Coalition had \$24,000 from in kind match that was submitted and a reimbursement request was made for \$64,000. The grant will be closed out once DEC approves.

10. Payment of Vouchers- A \$150 voucher was submitted for 2 members that attended the online sediment and erosion control training offered by Warren County. There was a motion to approve the voucher by Vicki that was seconded by Pat and carried.

11. Comments from the Public- Emily shared that the US Environmental Protection Agency has funding available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for riparian restoration and addressing agricultural phosphorus runoff. There is no match required and projects can request up to \$600,000. Applications are due 8/20 and more information is available at: www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects#1c The program prioritizes environmental justice areas such as Watertown and Carthage. The green infrastructure category for shoreline communities only included Great Lakes shorelines and connecting channels and Black River wouldn't be considered a connecting channel. Eligible locations for GLRI are waterways that drain to the US portion of a Great Lakes (Erie and Ontario) or connecting channel (Niagara, St. Lawrence). St. Lawrence County is eligible, but Franklin isn't. Chris mentioned that the Black River 9 Element Watershed Plan helps the watershed be competitive for this funding, and that she can help advance shovel ready projects under GLRI funding. Encouraged communities to think outside the box, and reminded them that training is available for culvert assessments, ditch management, and emergency stream intervention under the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets funding that the district can assist with.

Emily also mentioned that if there are project ideas that need further design/feasibility studies, or planning before they can be implemented or leverage state and federal funding, that the DEC Non Agricultural non-point source planning grant that is available under the CFA can award up to \$30,000 for project planning and assessments, and projects awarded in the past have included culvert assessments and riparian restoration feasibility studies. More information is available at: www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html#2019. Sewer shed mapping can also be awarded. Andy mentioned ditch drainage mapping could help determine runoff going into waterways from ditches. Information on ditch management best practices is available: www.clrp.cornell.edu/nuggets_and_nibbles/articles/2019/Ditching%20Maintenance%20Decisions.html Chris brought up that the district can do hydroseeding to help revegetate ditches and reduce runoff.

Emily mentioned next week's Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium which will have presenters addressing invasive species issues that the coalitions may be dealing with such as hemlock wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer. Emily will be giving a presentation on Protecting Regional Water Resources from Invasive Species Impacts on 6/23. More information is available at: www.sleloinvasives.org/event/2021-eastern-lake-ontario-invasive-species-symposium/

DEC's Great Lakes Program is working on developing the next [Great Lakes Action Agenda](#) to cover collaborative actions needed in NY's Great Lakes basin to achieve water quality, natural resource, sustainability and resiliency goals through 2030, and any feedback or ideas from communities is appreciated. Email greatlakes@dec.ny.gov to share ideas/needs.

Chris also encouraged coalition members to think about projects they would like to take on in the future, so we can start to strategize about funding options. We will set aside time at a meeting this winter to brainstorm.

12. Adjournment – motion to adjourn at 1:50pm by Pat, seconded by Andy, and carried.

NEXT MEETING September 16, 2021, 1 pm, Black River