

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION**

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

Draft Minutes by Gabriel Yerdon  
Thursday, December 21, 2023, 1 pm  
Village of Black River Office

1. Roll Call
  - Village of Brownville – Mike Walrath, Pat Connor**
  - Village of Black River – Matt Leary, Les Williams**
  - Town of Rutland – Jenn Bossuot**
  - Town of LeRay – Jessica Jenack, Lee Carpenter**
  - Town of Watertown – Randy Vaas**
  - Village of Carthage - None**
  - Village of West Carthage – Pete Crump, Brandon Chaffee**
  - City of Watertown – Seth Bailey**
  - Jefferson County – Michael Montigelli**
  - Jefferson County Planning – Samuel Wilson, Andy Nevin**
  - Jefferson County SWCD – George Birth, Sarah Trick**
  - NYSDEC Great Lakes Program – Emily Fell**
  - NYS Tug Hill Commission – Gabriel Yerdon**
  
2. Call to Order by Patrick
  - a. 1:00 pm
  
3. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2023.
  - a. Motion by Mike W.
  - b. Second by Lee C.
  - c. No opposition, motion carried.
  
4. Treasurer’s Report – Provided by Jessica
  - a. Balance of \$155,181.57
  - b. Town and county dues are due in January.
  - c. Village and city dues are due in February and August (based on when last year’s dues were paid.
  - d. Lee raised the idea of the coalition hiring a designated stormwater coordinator to assist with paperwork, reporting, training, and grant applications. JCSWCD has been able to assist with coordination and can continue, but the cost is likely to go up with

changes to permitting. Can discuss further based on additional costs at future meeting.

- e. Andy Nevin reported that he believed the vacuum truck had been received by the county, but he would report back on that.
  - f. George confirmed that the JCSWCD will continue to help coalition members meet MS4 permit requirements, and encouraged members to reach out when they require additional assistance. Sarah and George are now jointly handling the district's stormwater programs. They will assist coalitions with the new NOI and host training sessions on new permit requirements over the next 6 months. Towns outside of the coalition need to make an MOU to get help with stormwater.
  - g. Champion, Wilna, and some other municipalities applied for and received waivers for their MS4 requirements.
  - h. Dexter, an MS4 community, is not a part of the stormwater coalition and does not plan to be under current leadership.
  - i. Lee C suggested the coalition apply for more grant funding when the need arises.
  - j. George reminded members that the new permit starts on January 3.
    - i. The coalition has not received any letters of noncompliance lately.
    - ii. The coalition's contract with the JCSWCD is for \$25,000. That may be exceeded in 2024 due to the work needed with the new contract and under new permitting requirements.
    - iii. Coalition can also apply to grants to help support, such as DEC's non-ag non-point source planning grants: [https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/non-agricultural-nonpoint-source-planning-ms4-mapping-grant#:~:text=Funding%20Amount\(2022\),is%20no%20minimum%20award%20amount](https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/non-agricultural-nonpoint-source-planning-ms4-mapping-grant#:~:text=Funding%20Amount(2022),is%20no%20minimum%20award%20amount)
  - k. Nate gave an invoice from the Village of Brownville for \$140 for the Black River Watershed Conference dues.
    - i. Motion to approve by Andy.
    - ii. Second by Lee.
    - iii. No opposition, motion carried.
  - l. Motion by Randy to approve the treasurer's report.
    - i. Second by Lee.
    - ii. No opposition, motion carried.
5. Correspondence/Report of Secretary
- a. Nothing to report.
6. Report of Chairman
- a. Nothing to report.
7. Report of Committees - Education/Outreach Committee
- a. George reported that around 10 people attended the rain barrel workshop. He plans to run the program again in 2024.

- b. Gabriel reported that he is putting together the Black River Initiative Newsletter. He will distribute it to the coalition members, and they are welcome to contribute articles for future editions.
    - i. The Black River Trash Bash successfully incorporated the water quality coordinating committees from both counties, along with community groups to clean up local waterways and adjacent lands.
    - ii. The Black River Watershed Conference will be held in June 2024, date TBD.
  - c. Emily reported that Tree Watertown recently held a volunteer tree planting event. The group holds two events per year and would like to do outreach with students. It is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for Watertown as a Tree City USA.
  - d. Emily shared some of the new requirements from the fact sheet on the new MS4 permit that apply to education and outreach, including E/O minimum control measures and a list of possible outreach activities. The new permit calls for E/O programmatic approach including a target audience, etc.
    - i. Emily will set up a meeting with the E/O committee to include Gabriel, Sarah, Andy, Jess, and Randy Vass to discuss E/O program and meeting the new permit requirements in early 2024 and before next meeting.
8. New Business
- a. Sarah gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the new MS4 permit. The presentation included differences in the new program including more stringent reporting, mapping, and monitoring requirements.
    - i. The presentation was accompanied by a handout for attendees with a timeline for new requirements.
  - b. The JCSWCD gave an estimate of \$19,000 in work to be billed to the coalition for 2023.
9. Old Business
- a. 2022 Jefferson County SWCD proposal – outstanding municipal approvals
    - i. Carthage is the only outstanding municipality.
  - b. Gabriel will disseminate the Intermunicipal Agreement for signatures from the coalition members.
10. Adjournment
- a. Mike W made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - b. Second by Randy V.
  - c. No opposition, motion carried.

**Next meeting will be held in June, following the Black River watershed conference, date TBD.**