

JEFFERSON COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION

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

Draft Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 1 p.m.

Village of Black River Office

1. Roll Call
 - Village of Brownville – Pat O Conner, Mike Walrath, Steve Mott**
 - Village of Black River –Les Williams, Dan Daily**
 - Town of Rutland – None**
 - Town of LeRay – Lee Carpenter**
 - Town of Watertown – Randy Vaas**
 - Village of Carthage - None**
 - Village of West Carthage – None**
 - City of Watertown –Meredith Griffin**
 - Jefferson County – Andy Nevin**
 - Jefferson County SWCD – George Birth**
 - NYSDEC Great Lakes Program – Emily Fell**
 - NYS Tug Hill Commission –Gabriel Yerdon, Jillian Lee**
2. Call to Order at 1:05pm by Chair Patrick O Conner.
3. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2024
 - a. Motion by Lee Carpenter.
 - b. Seconded by Randy Vaas.
 - c. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. The stormwater coalition fund balance is \$137,135.96.
 - b. Town and county dues are due in January.
 - c. Village and city dues are due in August.
 - i. The City of Watertown still owes dues.
5. Correspondence/Report of Secretary
 - a. JCSWCD letter to Village of Black River
 - i. The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (district) submitted a letter to the Village of Black River outlining concerns over the village’s lack of correspondence with the district, and failure to comply with any of the requirements of the new MS4 permit.
 - ii. Black River village trustee, David Daily, was in attendance to discuss the situation. He requested that a meeting be organized with a district representative and representatives from the village to discuss and help find a path forward for the village.
 - iii. Former mayor Frank Dishaw had been handing stormwater requirements previously.

- iv. Some other coalition members are missing requirements, but all members except for Black River are working towards full compliance.
 - v. Goerge explained that there will be DEC or EPA enforcement at some point in the future.
 - vi. Les Williams noted that along with eventual enforcement, coalition membership ensures access to up-to-date information through the district and other members.
 - 6. Report of Chairman
 - a. None.
 - 7. Report of Committees
 - a. Education/Outreach Committee
 - i. Education and Outreach Committee meeting updates
 - 1. Rain Barrel Workshop
 - 2. Other E/O Outreach planned for 2024
 - a. BRI newsletter will be published at the start of the new year. A tree Watertown article will be included.
8. New Business
 - a. Funding Opportunities
 - i. None noted.
 - b. JCSWCD work agreement updates
 - i. Have reached \$25,000 yearly threshold
 - ii. Agreement extension in case of December meeting cancelation
 - 1. The district's bill to the coalition, \$28,461.23, surpassed the \$25,000 initially agreed upon by the coalition.
 - 2. Les made a motion to pay the \$28,461.23 invoice and increase the funding cap to allow the district to continue to support the coalition through the end of the year.
 - a. Seconded by Andy Nevin.
 - b. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Draft coalition SWMP feedback and approval
 - i. Individual SWMPs will be posted to the coalition website.
 - ii. Approval of the coalition Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).
 - 1. Motion by Les Williams
 - 2. Seconded by Mike Walrath.
 - 3. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. d. First interim report due Oct 1st
9. Old Business
 - a. Black River Initiative
 - i. Gabriel Yerdon will be putting together the BRI newsletter if any members have water quality or environmental topics that they would like to submit an article on.
 - b. State Stormwater General Permit requirements
 - i. Outstanding reporting requirements
 - 1. Handout was given outlining the status of each coalition member's submissions.
 - 2. 6-month report was submitted individually, not as a coalition.
 - c. Vacuum Truck
 - i. Shared services agreement
 - 1. There was extensive conversation among attendees concerning the WQIP funded vacuum truck and how to best arrange its services.

2. Concerns that were voiced included:
 - a. Burdensome cost of paying county operators instead of allowing a town/village employee to be trained to operate.
 - b. Lack of opportunities for some municipalities to fulfill their portion of the shared services, leading them to directly pay the county.
 - c. The vacuum truck may not be available for enough time to fulfill the needs of municipalities.
 - d. Concern that non-coalition municipalities may be granted use of the Vacuum truck before the needs of the coalition members are satisfied
 - e. Coalition members are not permitted to apply for a WQIP vacuum truck grant due to their joint coalition application being awarded.
 - f. If towns and villages were granted independent use, how could wear and tear, damages, and upkeep be recorded and managed.
 - g. No written agreement is currently in place.
 - h. Some coalition members were satisfied with the tentative agreement in place.
 - i. Coalition members agreed to address the shared services agreement at the next coalition meeting, when a representative for the county highway department is in attendance.
- ii. County reimbursement
 1. It is unclear why the county has not yet received their WQIP reimbursement from the state.
- iii. Pat Connor voiced concern that Brownville's street sweeping plan was not being accepted despite the village's access to the shared vacuum truck.

10. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Randy Vaas.
- b. Seconded by Les Williams.
- c. All in favor, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, December 12th, 1PM