

❖ CHEMUNG BASIN RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP ❖

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MINUTES WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Fais, STCRPDB; Jake Trimmer, Sportsman Conservancy, Linda Couchon, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Sally Goliber, Kinsella Park, Tim Elston, CCESD; Rebecca Smith, Chemung County Historical Society; Elaine Spacher, Tanglewood; Rocci Aquirre, Finger Lakes Land Trust

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, Jennifer Fais and Linda Couchon, co-chairs welcomed the group at 1:30 PM in the Town of Big Flats Community Center Room A.
2. **Minutes of the October 11, 2006 meeting.** The minutes were accepted on consensus.
3. **Adopt-A-Site and Members' Reports** - After a long discussion, the group updated the status of the kiosks and the indoor display locations and stands. (See attached)
4. **Update on funding applications**

Report on new Quality Communities River Council Project, - Linda noted that the three grants, the Local Waterfront Revitalization (05-06) w/ Big Flats \$10,000, the Local Waterfront Revitalization (06-07) w/City of Elmira \$52,000 and the Quality Community's Grant (06-07) for \$41,000 were all approved. She is working with the City of Elmira on the \$52,000 and the \$41,000 grants to develop a work program in process. She will be working with Big Flats on the \$10,000 grant. The overall goal is to organize a River Council which is an association of all communities in Chemung County that contain the Chemung River. Cooperative Extension hopes to organize this with the first meeting in January. Have them undertake a confirmation of the earlier visioning process and use the funding for architectural and engineering feasibility studies. Another aspect of the program is to develop a greenway compact similar to the Hudson Valley Greenway. The group was very excited about the availability of these funds and encouraged the Partnership meetings to be incorporated into the new River Council meetings since we are all working on the same goal.

She also noted that Chemung County got \$50,000 for Agricultural Protection Plan and that the Village of Horseheads received a Quality Communities Grant for a comprehensive plan with open space planning. Jim Goodling received a grant for the Centerway Bridge and the walkway, would there be a tie-in?

5. **Report on Community Foundation Vignettes Publication Project** - Rebecca Smith reported that they have recently developed a driving guide with the Horseheads High School which identified revolutionary war sites. She felt a driving guide based on the Vignettes would be an appropriate project

for the \$2,000. She will run this idea past the Community Foundation. This driving guide idea was suggested to her by her Indiana Professor Dr. Phil Scarpino.

6. **Report on Route 427 Launch Site** - Bill Abraham was not in attendance, but had called ahead to say that he was tracking down the check from Casella which apparently had been issued but had not been received by the Chemung Valley Conservancy. When these funds are received, he will begin work on acquiring State Historic Preservation officer clearance and DEC permits.
7. **American Heritage Rivers Designation Support Letter** - Jennifer described the benefits of being part of the American Heritage River system. On a motion by Elaine Spacher, seconded by Linda Couchon, the Partnership voted to send the attached letter.
8. **Status of local Canoe/Kayak Club** - Linda reported that a small group met and noted that the Awagha Canoe Club, Endless Mountain Outfitters, and others hosted classes and conducted river paddles. The group did not want to require periodic meetings, but were interested in conducting specific events such as leadership training and helping with river floats. Gene Knowland who attended the meeting was concerned about the liability incurred by a canoe club who would sponsor an event.

Rocci Aguirre noted that he has his Fly Fisher Guide Certification and that he was a license guide and took the River Guide Test by DEC. This requires you to understand CPR and first aide. Often liability is covered by an agencies group policy, but this was still a concern.
9. **Follow up on Recreation Safety Issues on Our Rivers** - Linda reported that the River Trail was represented at the Southport Fire Safety Days which was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Franz Emery was there from noon until 1 with a rescue dog, Jennifer Fais and Noel Sylvester covered the event from 1 - 2, and Linda Couchon was there from 2 - 4. We handed out information on safety in and around the river and it was well received.
10. **River Clean Up status** - Linda noted that the clean-up projects were done for 2006. However, they were beginning to plan for 2008. The River Watch meeting would be held November 9, 2006 to talk about stream clean-up codes. It was pointed out the Dave Rockwell at CCC was starting an associates degree in recreational management which involved river safety.
11. **Update on the Headwaters Water Trail**, Kevin Millar was not available at the meeting.
12. **Other** - Linda reminded the group that June 9, 2007 was the River Fest.

The Golibers are moving from the area and need another river keeper for the Kinsella Park. Rita McCarthy with the Town of Erwin was taking that over.

13. **Adjourn** - the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fais

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 10, 2007