

❖ CHEMUNG BASIN RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP ❖

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, Jennifer Fais and Linda Couchon, co-chairs opened the meeting in Room A, Town of Big Flats Community Center at 1:10 PM.

2. **Minutes of the July 17, 2006 meeting**. The minutes were accepted as written.

3.

4. **Update on funding applications** -

Current Gateways Grant (03-06) ends Sept 29. Seven instead of five launch sites built. - Jennifer felt confident that this project would wrap up on time.

Quality Communities (05-06) \$41,000 engineering - Linda Couchon reported that this application was approved. It includes working with the City of Elmira to create a ripple river council of neighboring communities and would conduct feasibility engineering on some of the projects suggested in the earlier river visioning process.

Local Waterfront Revitalization (05-06) w/ Big Flats \$10,000 alliance building - Linda Couchon expects this approval to be announced any day.

Local Waterfront Revitalization (06-07) w/City of Elmira \$55,000 architectural plan - Linda Couchon expects to hear on this project any day. It however, includes some overlapping elements with the \$41,000 grant. They would work out the details on this scope if approved.

Gateways (06-07) Was Not Funded. What is Plan B? - Jennifer explained that there were a number of good Gateways applications this year and the overall selection committee did not recommend our project for approval. There are several elements in the project. One is the development of a land management/conservation plan. After much discussion the group recommended that the Finger Lakes Land Trust discuss the potential of receiving Environmental Protection Fund monies through the state with Randy Nemecek, DEC staff. The Land Trust and the River Trail Partnership could also approach Senator George Winner for support of that project. Launch construction was also an element of the Gateways project. Bill Abraham will move forward with Casella. Casella Waste Management has offered \$13,000 for the completion of the Route 427 site.

Jennifer to write a letter to Casella requesting that they authorize \$6,500 to the Chemung Valley Conservancy to undertake historic preservation review, site design and permit acquisition.

Jennifer, Bill Abraham, and Linda Couchon had all spoken with George Richter, the Town Supervisor who is a staunch supporter of the Route 427 project and is willing to take this on as a town project. He will make town crews and equipment available for construction.

White Wagon is also in the Town of Chemung. We understand that the transfer of property from John Johnson to the county is still with the attorney. Bill Abraham is willing to make that paperwork go more smoothly. He felt the launch would be a concrete ramp. The group discussed potential sources of funding and suggested perhaps the Vulcraft Steel Company and George Winner for a state line items.

Community Foundation Grant (04-05) \$2000 education – no additional match - Rebecca Smith, the Chemung Valley Historic Museum Education Coordinator will move forward as quickly as possible to complete this education project. It involves publishing the vinette information from the Gateways kiosks in a historical society publication for education material.

Community Foundation Grant (06-07) \$575 – What to do with this? - the \$575 has been accepted by the Chemung Valley Conservancy. They will work with the Community Foundation on the use of those funds.

5. ***Is there a local Canoe/Kayak Club in the works??*** No new information provided at this meeting
6. ***Follow up on Recreation Safety Issues on Our Rivers.*** No new progress.
7. ***River Clean Up - status*** - Linda Couchon announced that the next river clean-up would be October 7th and everyone was invited to take part.
8. ***Update on the Headwaters Water Trail,*** Kevin Millar was not available. Jennifer reported that she, Erin Hurd, Jim Curatolo and Lee Younge would be meeting with Dan Lamb of Congressman Maurice Hinchey tomorrow to discuss the American Heritage Rivers Navigator program. It was understood that the Upper Susquehanna including the Chemung could be in line for a navigator. This person would help marshal federal funds to assist local river protection efforts and water trails. Jennifer would try to incorporate the River Trail Partnerships in both the Chemung and the headwaters as important elements for the navigator to look at.
9. ***Partnership Members' Reports***

Linda Couchon reviewed the Chemung River Access list and updates were made.

Rocky Aguirre encouraged Jennifer to take the message that conservation of landscapes was also an important piece that the navigator could focus on. Rocky stated that the Finger Lakes Land Trust needs tax parcel information from each of Schuyler, Steuben and Chemung counties. However, the counties are charging money. Rocky asked for assistance to obtain this parcel information free of charge to assist their land conservation efforts.

Linda reported that the Awaga Canoe Club was raising the alarm about the contamination of the Susquehanna River due to the recent flooding. The Susquehanna water trail trip has been cancelled due to these contamination concerns.

Linda Couchon noted that the River Fest has been moved to June 9, 2007.

Dick LaValle confirmed that work was proceeding on the Canisteo Rotary site.

10. *Adjourn* - the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fais