

❖ CHEMUNG BASIN RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP ❖

Jennifer Fais, Co-Chair
Southern Tier Central Regional
Planning and Development Board
8 Denison Parkway East
Corning, New York 14830
607-962-5092 Fax 607-962-3400
jfais@stny.rr.com

www.chemungrivertrail.com



Linda Couchon, Co-Chair
Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Chemung County
425 Pennsylvania Avenue
Elmira, New York 14904
607-734-4453 Fax 607-734-7740
lwc4@cornell.edu

Minutes Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Attendance:

Bill Abraham	River Trail Coordinator
Rocci Aguirre	Finger Lakes Land Trust
Dan Cleveland	NY Forest Owners Association
Linda Couchon	Cornell Extension
Tim Elston	Chemung County Elmira Sewer District
Jennifer Fais	STCRPDB
Dave Grier	River Watch
Mike Hastrich	Cornell Extension
Skip Mills	Lake Street Bridge Project
Brock Morey	3 Rivers Outing Club
Jim Pfiffer	Clean Riverbanks
Scott Rodabaugh	NYSDEC
Rebecca Smith	CC Historical Society

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, Jennifer Fais and Linda Couchon, welcomed the group and opened that meeting at 2:00 in the Room 206 at the Human Resources Building in Elmira.
2. **Minutes of the January 10, 2007 meeting**. - The minutes were approved upon consensus.
3. **Plans for the June 2, 2007 Eighth Annual River Float** - Jennifer handed out a draft registration form and noted that she was pursuing a donation of lunch and breakfast snacks from Wegman's. When that is resolved the registration material can be released. She had a to-do list. See updated list for current status.
4. **Plans for June 9 River Fest** - Linda Couchon is getting that flyer ready soon. She intends for it to be a "green event" meaning that all displays and presenters use environmental friendly materials and recycle as much as possible.

5. ***Adopt-A-Site and Members' Reports*** –

Tim Elston said that he has the kiosk put together for Route 427 and Tioga. He needs to be in touch with Cameron Fabricating to get back the kiosk frame work for the White Wagon kiosk. He had given damaged displays to Noel Sylvester to repair.

Rocci Aguirre, Finger Lakes Land Trust said that they have done a mailing to local landowners in the Chemung River Valley telling them of the 50% federal income tax break and the 25% local property tax break for conservation easements donated on important properties. He also noted that farmers could get 100% of a tax break on their federal taxes.

6. ***Report on Route 427 Launch Site*** - Bill Abraham reported that he made the deadline for a George Winner line item request. He requested \$8,000 for the construction of the White Wagon site in 2007 with \$8,000 additional funds for 2008. He is waiting for the drafter's sketch of the 427 design to go to the NYS Historic Preservation Officer for sign-offs.
7. ***Report on American Heritage Rivers Designation*** - Maurice Hinchey has put a navigator position in his budget as a line item for approximately \$80,000. The official nomination form is still being processed for the Upper Susquehanna as an American Heritage River.
8. ***Chemung Valley Conservancy Meeting with state legislators on March 16.*** Bill Abraham and the other Conservancy members will meet with Jim Bacalles, George Winner and Tom O'Mara to thank them for the current EPF funding for the river council grants and to ask for construction funding for projects that come out of the River Council priority list. Also for a natural resources plan to fund the Finger Lakes Land Trust and Cornell University as the basis for a land management and stewardship plan. There was concern that this might duplicate the master plan being developed by the River Council. It is hoped to be able to make the differences clear to the legislators.
9. ***Clean Rivers Schedule- status,*** no information provided at the meeting because time was short.
10. ***Update on the Headwaters Water Trail,*** Kevin Millar was not at the meeting. No new information.
11. ***Tasks for Next Meeting*** - continue with plans for the June 2nd float and other items as they arise.
12. ***Adjourn*** - the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. The committee was invited to stay for the River Council meeting which followed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Fais