



Town of South Bethany

Canal Water Quality Meeting minutes 6/23/2017

- Attendance Frank Weisgerber, chair; George Junkin; Dave Wilson; Kent Stephan; Frank McNeice; Joe Mormando
- Dave Wilson discussed a comparison of the canal water quality measurements taken in the spring of 2017 with the measurements taken over the same period in 2014-2016
 - Summary Canal Water findings
 - Measurements of low DO and Algae >10ft increased in spring of 2017 relative to same period in 2014-2016
 - Low Do measurements started in April probably due to higher air temperatures
 - Harvester on site June 23rd
- Kent Stephan gave short update on York Oysters and Floating Gardens.
 - York Oysters and Floating Gardens have been redistribute within SB Canal system
 - There is a waiting list of property owners for oysters and floating gardens
 - CIB has informed SB that new disease free oysters will soon be deployed in the redistributed York oysters
 - Informational Signs have been posted at street ends along South Anchorage canal where York oysters have been deployed
- Frank Weisgerber reported on information gotten from John Schneider(DNREC Watershed Steward), Robin Tyler(DNREC Ecologists/Environmental Scientist), Jonathan Cohen (Professor Marine Biosciences UofD), Larry Trout (DNREC), Chuck Williams(DNREC), Quay Dortch, Ph.D (NOAA), Andrew McGowan (CIB)
 - South Bethany canal issues arise because the muck/sediment on bottom is put into the water column (storms, boat engines and such) which releases phosphates and provide nutrients to fuel Algae blooms.
 - Furthermore as Algae blooms die they sink and decomposed by sulfate reducing bacteria which produces hydrogen sulfide that mixes into top layer of water and kills fish

- All recommend a Core sampling be done to determine canal sediment composition and depth to sand
- Belief is that suction dredging will need to be deeper than 6 inches possibly 1-2 feet due to 50 years of decomposition accumulation
- Currently there is no answer to halt proliferation of Algae blooms other than removal of sediment that supports the environment that they need to exist
- Expectations should be set to minimize possibly eliminate Algae blooms to the point where spring filamentous algae blooms could be reduced to the point that the harvester no longer comes to people's minds
- We will meet with John Schneider, Robin Tyler, Chuck Williams, Larry Trout after Core sampling results are back to discuss best path forward to address sediment removal
- All agreed that once SB canals are back to base that we need to address prevention
- All agreed our Oyster and Floating wetlands deployments are a step in the right direction
- George Junkin gave an update on Sea Colony Wetpond status. It's on schedule to be started in Fall 2018 since DelDOT will not do disruptive road work in that area till summer activity is over.
- A meeting with Duffield Associates who did SB canal dredging last in 2007 is scheduled for Thursday June 29th 10am at Town Hall. George Junkin sent to their rep the questions and concerns we have involving the 'suction dredging' of our canals that has been learnt from our research and SME responses. We plan to ask who they recommend for Core sampling (John Schneider(DNREC) has recommendation if needed) so cost estimate can be requested.
- Adjournment

Frank Weisgerber

Chair CWQC