

SB Canal Water Quality Committee
October 18, 2021
2:00 pm
Town Hall

Committee Members: Dave Wilson, Jack Whitney, Brian Moroz, Gary Lessing, Bob Fisher
Town Council: Derek Abbott (by phone)
Guests: Chris Vanuga

Jack called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

1. Jack shared with us that Glenn Dallas resigned from the committee. He is relocating to Florida full time. Jack has started a process to solicit new committee members.
2. The minutes from September 20, 2021, meeting were approved.
3. There were no public comments at the meeting.
4. Statistical Analyses.
 - a. Brian and Jack met with Ed Whereat, of the University of Delaware, and received good feedback on Brian's statistical work. Ed's background and focus is water analysis. Brian agreed to reach out to Ed on an ad hoc basis to draw on his skills and environmental knowledge.
 - b. Ed suggested that we focus on data from 2008 and forward. There was a testing equipment change in 2010 which may have improved the accuracy / consistency of the data.
 - c. Ed suggested that we try to focus on measurements before 10:00 am. After 9:00 am, dissolved oxygen increases due to the photosynthesis cycle and the intent is to find the minimum. The volunteer sampling is between 7:00 and 9:00 am.
 - d. There was a discussion on whether to include the measurements taken for the diffusers in the Petherton Canal. Brian will look at the data both ways. The diffuser data is only for a short time and was not specifically for either a dead end or a mid-canal location.
 - e. The data is different for each canal / location because all the canals are different. We may not have a "one size fits all" solution for the whole system of canals. Brian will be looking at the trends.
 - f. Brian asked the question about whether or not anything we've done has made a difference. There may be a shift in 2012 - 2014 with the bioretention installed in the median of Route 1. The bioretention areas do not seem to be well designed and there seems to be significant run off from the right of ways entering the canals. We should be checking with DelDOT to insure they are doing proper maintenance for the SB 01 forebay on Anchorage. Note: The last forebay cleaning was in March 2019.
 - g. Gary asked whether or not we want to study the dissolved oxygen gradient on the canals. Dave has done some kayak observations and feels that the "end of canal effects" are observed approximately 150 ft from the end.

5. Additional sampling
 - a. Dave suggested that we should look at collecting total nitrogen and total phosphate from six sites and sending it to the Solomon Island lab in Maryland. This will cost approximately \$2500 a year. We need to decide how to package and ship. The collection would be twice a month in the summer season and once a month in the winter.
 - b. We'll need to freeze the samples and ship once a month. We'll target this to start in early 2022. Ed Whereat can provide a detail test plan.
 - c. The Committee voted to approve this additional testing.
6. Jack shared the updates priority list and asked all members to review and send him comments before the next meeting.
 - a. Bob agreed to review the town regulation and highlight all regulation that impact water quality.
 - b. Jack said he will send the old studies to the Committee.
 - c. Education is deemed to be important. Bob noted that Cape Coral FL has water quality regulations, and we may want to review these.
 - d. Jack asked if somebody had something in writing related to the recommendation about changing out the floating wetland plants annually. This is contrary to normal practice. It was suggested that CIB may have something, and they should know the background on the floating wetland project.
7. Jack asked for Committee members to submit any comments for the Planning Commission water quality section of the Comp Plan update.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next meeting is November 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm.