



Town of South Bethany Committee Report from March 18, 2024

The Committee discussed the update on the approved Town budget, with all line items approved for the CWQC except for the master plan study and the new water testing instrumentation. It was advised to seek other funding sources, including grants.

With the budget approval, we will contact Envirotech to finalize the contract for the seasonal recurring cleaning of the canals. This year's contract will include additional details on service and performance level agreements, including timing.

Several updates related to dredging were discussed, including highlights from the discussion with the Chair of the Fenwick Dredging efforts, including the importance of getting assistance during the approval process, and a draft proposal from Anchor QAE engineering firm to provide end-to-end assistance with the process.

Given the current budget challenges, the committee was informed that the study and efforts around dredging may need to be included in a comprehensive set of funding requests for the Town, potentially related to resiliency efforts. This could necessitate a bond or other funding options that require a Townwide vote or referendum. Considering the upcoming year-end activities, including elections, this matter may not be addressed for a few months.

A related discussion and recommendation were made regarding gathering all the available data and information from previous and new studies into one Town database that could support a GIS mapping system. This would help support all the project ideas and funding requirements.

The committee was informed that an agreement had been reached with DNREC on the coordination of key activities and roles along with some of the funding for the upcoming Algae Harvesting with the assistance of Solitude. The plan is still to have two weeks of harvesting in May, with some flexibility in the schedule to best time the peak of the Algae blooms.

An update on the efforts of the Volunteer water quality testing group was made, noting that the organic matter seen much earlier than normal last month was a species of Algae. However, the Algae levels were significantly reduced compared to those in the previous few weeks.

A resident spoke during public comment addressing the following items: adding the recipe for the vinegar-based weed control on the Town website, inquired on the status of making rakes and nets available for residents to clean the canals themselves, asked about the status of bulkhead heights, brought to our attention that certain properties' silt fences either weren't in place or weren't effective in preventing materials from entering the canals and asked again about bulkhead inspections.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Vanuga, Chairman