



Town of South Bethany Committee Report from April 15, 2024

The Committee continued the discussions regarding Dredging, addressing concerns about the delay in conducting necessary preliminary studies and project estimating. This delay is primarily due to the lack of specific funding in the finalized FY 2025 Town Budget. As there was general agreement that this is a matter of significant importance for our community to address numerous canal water quality issues, the Committee voted unanimously to state that the CWQC recommends that the Town Council move forward with the Dredging process by approving funding for the initial study.

The next steps include the initial data collection, analysis, field investigations, and sediment sampling. This sampling is necessary as the fieldwork performed as part of the Woods Hole Group Canals Sediment Evaluation was in 2018/19 and will likely be viewed as outdated by DNREC and other reviewing groups as part of the approval process. The Committee has identified Anchor QAE engineering firm to perform this work, with costs for the initial tasks estimated at \$54,000.

The output of this initial study would provide a preliminary estimate of the amount of spoils to be removed and their suitability for disposal in approved locations TBD. This will also enable the determination of the preliminary estimates of the overall project costs for additional budgeting, which is essential to submitting the required overall project cost estimates for large projects that the Town Council now requires.

We are asking the Town Council to consider this immediate funding request, which would likely be followed up during FY 2025 with additional funding requests for the other required Tasks for the engineering and bid package, permitting support, and viability study for using the dredged spoils in different locations in the Town for its ongoing resiliency efforts (e.g., Cat Hill, York Road).

Regarding the upcoming Algae Harvesting scheduled for the weeks of May 6th and 13th, the Committee would like the Town to send reminder notifications and updates regarding the timing and any changes to all residents via email blasts and the Town Newsletter so that residents can consider delaying launching their boats until after the removal process is completed.

We await receipt of the renewal contract with Envirotech for the seasonal recurring cleaning of the canals from June through September. The updated contract will be forwarded to the Town Manager for final processing as soon as it is finalized. This is already included in the approved FY 2025 budget.

The Committee was informed of the request by the Center for Inland Bays (CIB) to look for any widgeon grass for possible seed harvesting. They will complete this on-water review in the next couple of weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Vanuga, Chairman